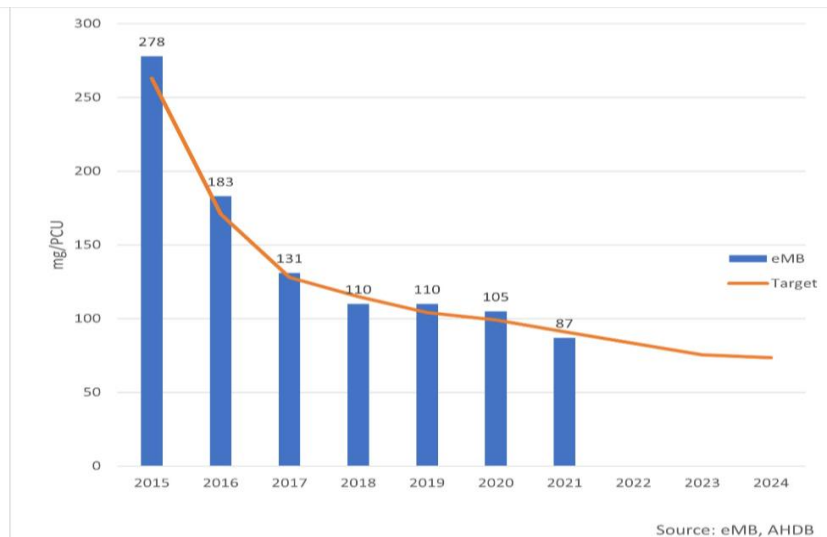


July 2022

## MEDICINES UPDATE

The 2021 antibiotic usage figures have just been published by AHDB Pork and further strong progress towards our 2024 target of 73mg/kg PCU has been achieved.



I have to admit there was significant trepidation in some quarters at just how the 2021 figures might look based on the pig flow and stocking issues we saw last year associated with kill shortfalls. Despite this and some health challenges associated with 'Flu and other respiratory challenges, the pig sector has banked some really great results. The 87mg/kg PCU recorded for last year has actually got us more than halfway towards the 2024 target in just the first year of RUMA's TTF2 (Targets Task Force). For sure there are challenges yet to come with the likely cessation of zinc oxide medication some time in 2023 foremost in our minds.

However, this is still welcome news as VMD is just about to launch a much-delayed consultation on the Vet Med Regulations 2013 which will include a review of our Med Feed Regulations. The EU introduced new legislation in these areas this January but obviously since we have Brexit'd our current legislation remains in place. The changes in Meds legislation across the EU have been substantive and if mirrored here could have significant impacts on how we are able to manage both health and disease in your pigs:

- a ban on prophylactic treatment using antibiotics
- further restrictions on prescribing antibiotics in-feed (duration of treatments and validity of prescriptions)
- tighter scrutiny and carry-over testing regarding feed medication
- feed medication limited to a single antimicrobial

Having 'banked' some good results for 2021 it hopefully leaves the pig sector in a stronger position as we approach what looks like a major shake up of Meds legislation and hence better able to defend our right to continue using these vital medicines to protect pig health and welfare.

## PIG HEALTH SCHEME

Many of you are aware that AHDB's Pig Health Scheme has been non-functional across the South, and covering virtually our whole client base, for well over 2 years. This has been a great frustration for many levy payers at a time

when the health surveillance provided would have been more important than ever. Clearly in the early stages of the pandemic the priority was just keeping the abattoirs functioning rather than allowing additional personnel on the line to conduct health assessments. However, after this, AHDB's delivery partner for PHS experienced significant staffing problems due to a variety of issues including Brexit and Covid. All of this created further long delays in re-introducing PHS inspections for our pigs in the South and West. I am therefore pleased that AHDB are re-starting the scheme across our region in the near future, only Westerleigh dates available at present:

[^ Pilgrims \(Westerleigh\)](#)

Day	Date
Wednesday	06/07/2022
Tuesday	12/07/2022
Monday	25/07/2022
Friday	05/08/2022
Tuesday	09/08/2022
Monday	22/08/2022

We look forward to again receiving these vital health surveillance reports for your pigs and will be looking at them very carefully bearing in mind the changes to personnel. All assessors have been through a rigorous training programme so hopefully all will be well!

Lastly, back by popular demand.... heads-up ref. dates for our GVG Pig Fairs this year:

-Exeter Racecourse 17<sup>th</sup> October

-Wincanton Racecourse 18<sup>th</sup> October

Further details to follow, it'll be great to see many of you face-to-face once more.

All the best

Richard