

National statutory surveillance scheme for veterinary residues in animals and animal products: 2024

Residues detected above the reference point to date: 31 March 2024

Sample	Analysed for	No. of analyses	No. of non-compliant samples	Reference Point µg/kg/l	Concentrations above the Reference Point µg/kg/l
Calves kidney	Antimicrobials screen 4	16	1	1500	9400 paromomycin
	Florfenicol	16	1	300	4100 florfenicol
Cattle kidney	Metals	45	5-2 substances in three samples	1000 200	4700, 7000, 8100, 1200 cadmium 230, 410, 430, 1100 lead
	NSAIDs	79	1	Presence	280 ibuprofen
Cattle milk	Florfenicol	38	1	Presence - prohibited for use in milk producing animals	0.985 florfenicol
Cattle urine	Steroid screen 1	211	3-2 substances in one sample	0.7 male, 5 female	1.8, 5.7 alpha-nortestosterone
				Presence	3.4 beta-boldenone 2400 beta-nortestosterone
	Zeranol	86	2-2 substances in each sample	Presence	1.8, 2.4 taleranol 0.52, 0.82 zeranol
Fattening cattle urine	Steroids screen 1	226	4	0.7 male, 5 female	11,11,19 alpha-nortestosterone
				12 Male	26 testosterone
	Zeranol	83	1-2 substances in each sample	Presence Presence	1.9 taleranol 0.88 zeranol
Pig kidney	Antimicrobials screen 1	173	1	100	210 sulfadiazine
Sheep kidney	Metals	39	6	1000 200	1200 cadmium 250, 430, 650, 1200, 1400 lead
				1500	1700 closantel
Sheep liver	Anthelmintics	442	4-3 substances in one sample	500	1200 oxyclozanide
				150	1917 radoxanide
				250	7.2 triclabendazole sulfoxide
					95 triclabendazole sulfone
					230 triclabendazole
Sheep urine	Steroid screen 1	84	1	Presence	0.47 beta-nortestosterone

Results of follow-up investigations: 31 March 2024

Medicinal products can be found on the [Product Information Database](#).

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)	Region	Cause of residue
Cattle kidney	Cadmium 4700 µg/kg Lead 410 µg/kg 2409257	Great Britain	This is a medium-sized organic farmers and growers accredited farm, with 118 Belted Galloway cattle and around 250 sheep. The positive animal was born in March 2017 and arrived on this farm in October 2018. It stayed on this farm until it was slaughtered in January 2024. The farm is organic and hardly any medicines are given to the animals. There is no medicine kept on the farm either. The high levels of cadmium and lead in livestock coming from this farm can be explained by the soil conditions of this area; this is a historic mining area with high levels of both cadmium and lead in the soil. Therefore, the most probable cause is natural residue from a farm in an old mining area.
Cattle urine	Alpha-nortestosterone 1.8 µg/kg 2407955	Great Britain	This is a medium-sized Red Tractor accredited farm which rears sheep with 520 adult sheep on the farm, cattle stores with 58 Beef breeds are also kept for fattening. The positive animal was a Limousin steer sheep born in September 2022 and then sold to market in October 2023. It was purchased by the farm in January 2024 and slaughtered three days later. They are usually purchased from markets, coming from more than one farm, kept for about 6 months for finishing then sold to markets for slaughter. They are fed home grown hay, oats and beans. Concentrate food is purchased on occasion and purchased mineral supplement also added to feed. The animals are kept in good clean conditions and showed normal calm behaviour during the inspection. Most recent medicine records were complete, with IDs of animals treated; however older records lacked details such as the ear tag number. Medicine usage on the farm is limited to antibiotics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories for bovine respiratory disease. There was no evidence on farm of the use of anabolic steroids, the probable cause of this residue is from natural levels, triggered by stress during transport/at the market.
Cattle urine	Alpha-nortestosterone 5.7 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	Pregnant female. No further investigation required.
Cattle urine	Taleranol 1.8 µg/kg Zeranol 0.82 µg/kg 2408330	Great Britain	Low levels of zeranol and fungal metabolites may be present in the urine of animals that have ingested feeding-stuffs contaminated with the fusarium fungus. At this level of residue, a statistical model based on research has confirmed this to be the case. No further investigation was required.
Cattle urine	Taleranol 2.4 µg/kg Zeranol 0.52 µg/kg 2408315	Great Britain	Low levels of zeranol and fungal metabolites may be present in the urine of animals that have ingested feeding-stuffs contaminated with the fusarium fungus. At this level of residue, a statistical model based on research has confirmed this to be the case. No further investigation was required.
Fattening cattle urine	Alpha-nortestosterone 11 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	Pregnant female. No further investigation required.
Fattening cattle urine	Alpha-nortestosterone 11 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	Pregnant female. No further investigation required.
Fattening cattle urine	Alpha-nortestosterone 19 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	Pregnant female. No further investigation required.
Fattening cattle urine	Testosterone 26 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	Bull status confirmed. No further investigation required.
Fattening cattle urine	Taleranol 1.9 µg/kg Zeranol 0.88 µg/kg 2401136	Great Britain	Low levels of zeranol and fungal metabolites may be present in the urine of animals that have ingested feeding-stuffs contaminated with the fusarium fungus. At this level of residue, a statistical model based on research has confirmed this to be the case. No further investigation was required.

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)	Region	Cause of residue
Sheep kidney	Lead 250 µg/kg 2406626	Great Britain	This is a small-sized, city farm with multiple species. The positive animal was a homebred male lamb and was intended for slaughter. The animal was sent from this CPH to an abattoir in January 2024. The sheep are fed with grazing, hay, and energy feed that can be used all year round to provide supplementation for ewes, rams, and lambs. No medicated feed is given to the animals. A full check was conducted on the veterinary medicine record – all was seen as satisfactory, and the withdrawal periods for the vet meds always observed. The cause of this residue is due to environmental pollution, with the farm in an area of old mining fields.
Sheep liver	Closantel 1700 µg/kg 2406128	Great Britain	This is a medium sized, SAI Global affiliated, sheep farm. They have 430 ewes, 370 hogs, 16 tups and 120 replacements/lambs, and they buy in around 500 sheep per year. The positive animal was a homebred hog, from a batch of 34 with the same herd mark, that was sent with others as a group of 71 to slaughter in January 2024. The 71 came from a field of 222 animals that were treated with Flukiver and Noromectin, at the same time in December 2023. Flukiver's active substance is closantel and the animal was given a larger dosage than the recommend 1ml per 5kg weight of animal. The farmer confirmed he always used 10ml per animal for both drugs, not taking into consideration the different recommendations of dosage from each box. The treatment, at the same time as the additional wormer, may also have had a bearing as the liver would be unable to clear the drug metabolically at the same rate. Therefore, the likely cause of the residue is an unintended drug overdose.
Sheep liver	Rafoxanide 1917 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	A remote investigation was completed in March 2024. This animal was purchased at market in February 2024 less than 24 hours before sampling, herd keeper submitted a statement that they did not administer any medications during this time. Herd keeper has a high turnover of sheep purchased at mart then taken to slaughter within a day or two. The seller has not adhered to withdrawal period (72 days) and did not declare treatment at sale. Follow up to go ahead with seller. Five follow up samples from current owner all compliant.

Pending investigation reports Great Britain:

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)	RIM reference
Calves kidney	Florfenicol 4100 µg/kg	2409417
	Paromomycin 9400 µg/kg	2409369
Cattle kidney	Cadmium 7000 µg/kg	2409269
	Cadmium 1200 µg/kg	2409267
	Lead 430 µg/kg	
	Cadmium 8100 µg/kg	2409275
	Lead 230 µg/kg	
	Ibuprofen 280 µg/kg	2409071
Cattle urine	Lead 1100 µg/kg	2409288
	Beta-boldenone 3.4 µg/kg Beta-nortestosterone 2400 µg/kg	2408076
Pig kidney	Sulfadiazine 210 µg/kg	2407325
Sheep kidney	Cadmium 1200 µg/kg	2406656
	Lead 420 µg/kg	2406645
	Lead 650 µg/kg	2406649
	Lead 1200 µg/kg	2406618
	Lead 1400 µg/kg	2406615

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)	RIM reference
Sheep liver	Oxyclozanide 1200 µg/kg	2406258
	Triclabendazole sulfoxide 7.2 µg/kg	2404412
	Triclabendazole sulfone 95 µg/kg	
	Triclabendazole 230 µg/kg	
Sheep urine	Beta-nortestosterone 0.47 µg/kg	2404325

Pending investigation reports Northern Ireland:

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration
Cattle milk	Florfenicol 0.985 µg/kg

Sampling of animals suspected of containing a residue at the time of slaughter: 31 March 2024

Residues detected above the reference point to date: 31 March 2024

Medicinal products can be found on the [Product Information Database](#).

Sample	Analysed for	No. of Analyses	No. of non-compliant samples	Reference Point µg/kg/l	Concentrations above the Reference Point µg/kg/l
Cattle kidney	Antimicrobials screen 1	44	2	50	76.5 amoxicillin
				1000	3060 dihydrostreptomycin

Results of suspect follow-up investigations: 31 March 2024

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)	Region	Cause of residue
Cattle kidney	Amoxicillin 76.5 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	An investigation was undertaken in March 2024. The animal was 13 years old and was born on farm into a dairy and beef finishing herd with 158 animals, sheep also kept onsite. Movement and medicine records were kept in accordance with legislation. The animal was treated by vet for retained foetal membranes post calving in February 2024. Animal was last administered Synulox (active ingredients Amoxicillin trihydrate & Clavulanic acid) in February 2024. Animal was not recovering well so herd keeper sent to slaughter 18 days after last treatment. Herd keeper admitted that he forgot the withdrawal period was longer for meat (42days) than milk (60 hrs). Cause of residue was human error.
Cattle kidney	Dihydrostreptomycin 3060 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	An investigation was undertaken in February 2024. The animal was 3 years old, purchased into a high turnover beef finishing unit in January 2024 2 days prior to slaughter. Movement and medicine records were kept up to date. The herd keeper confirmed they did not administer any medication to the animal. Previous owner provided a letter from their vet to confirm the animal was examined November 2023 and surgical enucleation of the eye was performed. Anaesthesia and pain-relieving medication were administered and 45ml Ultrapen LA (procaine benzylpenicillin) was also given. No record of dihydrostreptomycin administration.

Pending suspect investigation reports Northern Ireland:

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)
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