National statutory surveillance scheme for veterinary residues in animals and animal products: 2025

Residues detected above the reference point to date: 31 March 2025

Sample	Analysed for	No. of analyses	No. of non-compliant samples	Reference Point µg/kg/l	Concentrations above the Reference Point $\mu g/kg/I$
Calf liver	Coccidiostats	20	1	30	95 halofuginone
Cattle liver	Anthelmintics	191	1	1000	3000 closantel
Cattle kidney	Metals	37	3	200	400, 560, 570 lead
Cattle milk	Antimicrobials screen 1	71	1	50	260 tylosin
Cattle urine	Steroid screen 1	179	3-2 substances in one	2	2.6, 3.3, 3.8 alpha-boldenone
			sample	Presence	20 alpha-nortestosterone
Fattening cattle	Steroid screen 1	164	4-2 substances in	Presence	5.3, 13, 20 alpha-nortestosterone
urine			two samples	Presence	1.3, 31, 40 beta-estradiol
	Zeranol	24	1-2 substances in one	Presence	0.93 taleranol
			sample	Presence	0.6 zeranol
Horse kidney	Metals	1	1	1000	40000 cadmium
Partridge muscle	Metals	2	1	100	640 lead
Sheep kidney	Metals	37	2	200	400, 680 lead
	NSAIDs	7	1	Presence	98 ibuprofen
Sheep liver	Anthelmintics	392	1	1500	5200 closantel
Sheep urine	Steroid screen 1	63	2	2	2.2 alpha-boldenone
				Presence	1 beta-nortestosterone

Results of follow-up investigations: 31 March 2025

Medicinal products can be found on the <u>Product Information Database</u>.

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)	Region	Cause of residue
Cattle kidney	Lead 400 µg/kg 2509034	Great Britain	It should be noted that the GB Maximum Residue Level (MRL) for lead in cattle offal is 500 µg/kg. The respective EU MRL is 200 µg/kg, and so the GB laboratory tests to 200 µg/kg as the more conservative value. Whilst this sample is technically compliant against the GB MRL, the farm of origin has still been subject to an investigation to satisfy EU export obligations.
Cattle milk	Tylosin 260 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	The milk sample was from a dairy herd with 1223 animals. Movement and medicine records are kept in accordance with legislation. Records show Pharmasin 200 injectable (active ingredient tylosin) was administered one day prior to sampling, withdrawal period for milk is 108 hours. The milk sample was taken from a bulk tank from a robot milking herd of approximately 220 cows. The herd keeper stated that the treated animal was marked for separation, but an employee made a mistake with the numbers and allowed milk into the tank. The cause of the residue was human error.
Fattening cattle urine	Alpha-nortestosterone 13 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	Pregnant female. No further investigation required.
Fattening cattle urine	Alpha-nortestosterone 5.3 µg/kg Beta-estradiol 1.3 µg	Northern Ireland	Pregnant female. β -Estradiol can be present when very high levels of α -Estradiol are present. No further investigation required.
Fattening cattle urine	Alpha-nortestosterone 20 μg/kg Beta-estradiol 40 μg	Northern Ireland	Pregnant female. β-Estradiol can be present when very high levels of α-Estradiol are present. No further investigation required.
Fattening cattle urine	Beta-estradiol 31 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	Beta-estradiol can be present when very high levels of alpha-estradiol are present. No further investigation required
Fattening cattle urine	Taleranol 0.93 μg/kg Zeranol 0.6 μg/kg 2500639	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.
Sheep kidney	Lead 400 µg/kg 2506622	Great Britain	It should be noted that the GB Maximum Residue Level (MRL) for lead in sheep offal is 500 µg/kg. The respective EU MRL is 200 µg/kg, and so the GB laboratory tests to 200 µg/kg as the more conservative value. Whilst this sample is technically compliant against the GB MRL, the farm of origin has still been subject to an investigation to satisfy EU export obligations.
Sheep liver	Closantel 5200 µg/kg 2505938	Great Britain	This is a medium-sized, FAWL accredited farm, with 808 sheep and 80 beef cattle. They have 400 ewes, 400 lambs and 8 rams of various breeds. Medicine and movement records were satisfactory. Medicines are bought from their vet and a retail supplier. There was no record of a closantel product being bought or stored in the medicine cabinet. Procedures are in place to prevent overdosing. There is a traceability concern, raising the possibility the positive animal could have been treated elsewhere. The female sheep was sold at market in January 2025 and sent to the abattoir on the same day. It was slaughtered the next day when the sample was taken. The most likely cause of this residue is an unrecorded treatment and subsequent slaughter whilst within a withdrawal period.

Pending investigation reports Great Britain:

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)	RIM reference
Calf liver	Halofuginone 95 µg/kg	2509214
Cattle liver	Closantel 3000 µg/kg	2508798
Cattle kidney	Lead 570 µg/kg	2509019
	Lead 560 µg/kg	2509041
Cattle urine	Alpha-boldenone 2.6 µg/kg	2507844
	Alpha-boldenone 3.3 µg/kg	2507927
	Alpha-boldenone 3.8 µg/kg	2507841
	Alpha-nortestosterone 20 µg/kg	
Horse kidney	Cadmium 40000 μg/kg	2505092
Partridge muscle	Lead 640 µg/kg	2509302
Sheep kidney	Ibuprofen 98 µg/kg	2506382
	Lead 680 µg/kg	2506590
Sheep urine	Alpha-boldenone 2.2 µg/kg	2505173
	Beta-nortestosterone 1 µg/kg	2505114

Pending investigation reports Northern Ireland:

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration

Sampling of animals suspected of containing a residue at the time of slaughter: 31 March 2025

Residues detected above the reference point to date: 31 March 2025

Medicinal products can be found on the <u>Product Information Database</u>.

Sample	Analysed for	No. of Analyses	No. of non-compliant samples	Reference Point µg/kg/l	Concentrations above the Reference Point μ g/kg/l
Cattle kidney	Antimicrobials screen 1		3	50	65.8 amoxicillin
				1000	5900 dihydrostreptomycin
				150	276 marbofloxacin
	Florfenicol		2	300	452, 1288 florfenicol

Results of suspect follow-up investigations: 31 March 2025

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)	Region	Cause of residue
Cattle kidney	Amoxicillin 65.8 μg/kg	Northern Ireland	The positive animal was born on site into a dairy herd, it was just over 7 years old at the time of sampling and transported to the abattoir in the herd keeper's own transport. Movement and medicine records are kept in accordance with legislation. The herd keeper denied treating the animal with any injectable medications. There were no medicines containing amoxicillin found on farm. The cause of the residue was not determined. All follow up samples were compliant.
Cattle kidney	Florfenicol 452 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	The positive animal was born on site into a beef suckler herd and was 8 months old at the time of sampling. The animal was an on-farm emergency slaughter due to a broken leg. The carcase was transported to the abattoir in the keeper's own transport with agreement that it was to be for the herd keeper's own consumption. Movement and medicine records are kept in accordance with legislation, although some batch numbers were missing when a vet has treated an animal. The herd keeper stated that only himself and his son could have treated the animal, and both are adamant that the animal was not treated with any medicine not recorded in the medicine book. Medicines are kept in locked cabinet, medicines containing florfenicol were not found on farm and no there were no records of recent use of florfenicol. The cause of the residue was not determined.
Cattle kidney	Marbofloxacin 276 µg/kg	Northern Ireland	The positive animal was born on site into a dairy and arable unit. The animal was transported to slaughter by a haulier, kept separately in its own pen. Movement and medicine records are kept in accordance with legislation. The animal was treated with Marbosyva 100mg/ml (active ingredient marbofloxacin) seven days prior to sampling. The medication was administered by a singular inter-muscular injection of 15ml by PVP, the animal was under-dosed as based on estimated bodyweight of this animal, the recommended singular dose should have been 40ml. The withdrawal period for this medication is 3 days. As withdrawal period was adhered with, the PVP has suggested that clearance of the antibiotic may have been impaired by poor kidney function. One milk and two kidney follow up samples were all compliant.

Pending suspect investigation reports Northern Ireland:

Species & Matrix	Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref)
Cattle kidney	Dihydrostreptomycin 5900 µg/kg
	Florfenicol 1288 µg/kg