# National statutory surveillance scheme for veterinary residues in animals and animal products: 2026

## Residues detected above the reference point to date: 31 March 2026

| Sample | Analysed for | No. of analyses | No. of non-compliant samples | Reference Point µg/kg/l | Concentrations above the Reference Point µg/kg/l |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Broiler liver | Coccidiostats | 235 | 2 | 8 | 18, 23 monensin |
| Calf liver | Coccidiostats | 28 | 1 | 30 | 56 halofuginone |
| Cattle kidney | Metals | 46 | 4 | 1000 | 1600 cadmium |
| | | | | presence | 16, 44 inorganic arsenic |
| | | | | 200 | 390 lead |
| Cattle liver | Anthelmintics | 222 | 1 | 1000 | 1500 closantel |
| Cattle urine | Steroid screen 1 | 204 | 1 | 0.7 male, 5 female | 8.9 alpha-nortestosterone |
| Fattening cattle urine | Steroid screen 1 | 179 | 5-2 substances in one sample | 0.7 male, 5 female | 5.6, 8.5, 9.2, 10 alpha-nortestosterone |
| | | | | Presence | 2, 37 beta-estradiol |
| | Zeranol | 38 | 1-2 substances in each sample | Presence | 1.4 taleranol |
| | | | | Presence | 0.45 zeranol |
| Horse kidney | Metals | 1 | 1 | 1000 | 14000 cadmium |
| Sheep kidney | Metals | 36 | 3 | Presence | 15 inorganic arsenic |
| | | | | 200 | 500, 500 lead |
| Sheep liver | Anthelmintics | 325 | 1 | 1500 | 1700 closantel |
| Sheep urine | Steroid screen 1 | 83 | 3 | 2 | 6.3, 8.0 alpha-boldenone |
| | | | | Presence | 0.77 beta- nortestosterone |

## Results of follow-up investigations: 31 March 2026

Medicinal products can be found on the Product Information Database.

| Species & Matrix | Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref) | Region | Cause of residue |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calf liver | Halofuginone 56 µg/kg 2608164 | Great Britain | This is a large-sized, Co-op accredited, dairy cattle and sheep farm. They have a dairy herd of 800, plus 620 youngstock. Dairy heifer calves are reared on farm for replacements; beef calves are reared until approximately 14 days old and then sent to market. Movement records were satisfactory, but medicine records were lacking in detail. Medicines are stored in a lockable cabinet. Halocur (active ingredient halofuginone) is in use on farm due to an issue with cryptosporidium. The positive Aberdeen Angus cross calf was born in January 2026, sold at market 2 weeks later and slaughtered the next day. The most likely cause of the residue detected is an unintentional overdose due to poor record keeping. |
| Cattle kidney | Lead 390 µg/kg 2607996 | 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 liver | Closantel 1500 µg/kg 2607612 | Great Britain | This is a medium-sized farm with around 39 cattle and 1800 growing pigs. The cattle are sold for slaughter when they reach between one to two years of age. A mix of feed is used including barley, silage, protein supplement and urea. Movement records were satisfactory, but medicine records were lacking in detail. Medicines are provided by their PVS and kept locked in an office. Closamectin Pour-on is used on farm (active ingredient closantel). Animals appeared in a good condition. The positive male calf was born in May 2024, moved to this farm in September 2025 and sent to the abattoir in January 2026. It was housed with recently treated animals before its slaughter. Closamectin Pour-on is applied to the skin, but because cattle are social animals they lick the pour-on formulation off the hide of treated animals or themselves, and it is absorbed more rapidly through ingestion. This can lead to overdosage. The probable cause of this residue is an unrecorded treatment and ingestion through grooming treated animals, and subsequent slaughter whilst within a withdrawal period. |
| Cattle urine | Alpha-nortestosterone 8.9 µg/kg 2604825 | Great Britain | This is a large-sized, QMS accredited, cattle and sheep farm. They have up to 1200 cattle, with a mix of grazing and housed animals. Their primary enterprise is beef cattle production. Medicine and movement records were satisfactory. Medicines are stored in a lockable shed. There was no evidence of steroid usage and animals appeared in a good condition. The positive cow was born in December 2021, calved once in October 2024 and sold on in October 2025. It was sent direct to the abattoir by the new owner in January 2026. The journey took 48 minutes, and the animal was slaughtered the following day. The residue is most likely of natural origin due to stress caused by the cow spending 24 hours in lairage before slaughter. |
| Fattening cattle urine | Alpha-nortestosterone 5.6 µg/kg | Northern Ireland | Pregnant female. No further investigation required. |
| Fattening cattle urine | Alpha-nortestosterone 8.5 µg/kg | Northern Ireland | Pregnant female. No further investigation required. |
| Fattening cattle urine | Alpha-nortestosterone 9.2 µg/kg | Northern Ireland | Pregnant female. No further investigation required. |
| Fattening cattle urine | Alpha-nortestosterone 10 µg/kg Beta-estradiol 2 µg/kg | Northern Ireland | Pregnant female. Beta-estradiol can be present when very high levels of alpha-estradiol are present. No further investigation required. |

| Species & Matrix | Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref) | Region | Cause of residue |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fattening cattle urine | Beta-estradiol 37 µg/kg | Northern Ireland | Pregnant female. Beta-estradiol can be present when very high levels of alpha-estradiol are present. No further investigation required. |
| Fattening cattle urine | Taleranol 1.4 µg/kg<br>Zeranol 0.45 µg/kg<br>2600596 | 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 500 µg/kg<br>2606604 | 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 kidney | Lead 500 µg/kg<br>2606634 | 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. |

## Pending investigation reports Great Britain:

| Species & Matrix | Residue detected & concentration | RIM reference |
|---|---|---|
| Broiler liver | Monensin 18 µg/kg | 2603971 |
| | Monensin 23 µg/kg | 2603916 |
| Cattle kidney | Inorganic arsenic 16 µg/kg | 2608011 |
| | Inorganic arsenic 44 µg/kg | 2607982 |
| Horse kidney | Cadmium 14000 µg/kg | 2608215 |
| Sheep kidney | Inorganic arsenic 15 µg/kg | 2606599 |
| Sheep liver | Closantel 1700 µg/kg | 2606206 |
| Sheep urine | Alpha-boldenone 6.3 µg/kg | 2605228 |
| | Alpha-boldenone 8.0 µg/kg | 2605206 |
| | Beta- nortestosterone 0.77 µg/kg | 2605258 |

## Pending investigation reports Northern Ireland:

| Species & Matrix | Residue detected & concentration |
|---|---|
| Cattle kidney | Cadmium 1600 µg/kg |
| Cattle liver | Closantel 3043 µg/kg |

# Sampling of animals suspected of containing a residue at the time of slaughter: 31 March 2026

## Residues detected above the reference point to date: 31 March 2026

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 | 366 | 3-2 substances in one sample | 1000 | 11600 dihydrostreptomycin |
| | | | | 600 | 944, 6180 oxytetracycline |
| | | | | 300 | 3800 florfenicol |
| | NSAIDS | 4 | 1 | 65 | 380 meloxicam |

## Results of suspect follow-up investigations: 31 March 2026

| Species & Matrix | Residue detected & concentration (RIM Ref) | Region | Cause of residue |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

## Pending suspect reports Great Britain:

| Species & Matrix | Residue detected & concentration | RIM reference |
|---|---|---|
| Cattle kidney | Meloxicam 380 µg/kg | 2697003 |

## Pending suspect investigation reports Northern Ireland:

| Species & Matrix | Residue detected & concentration |
|---|---|
| Cattle kidney | Dihydrostreptomycin 11600 µg/kg |
| | Florfenicol 3800 µg/kg |
| | Oxytetracycline 944 µg/kg |
| | Oxytetracycline 6180 µg/kg |