

Farming Standards

The Newsletter of the Animal Health Service of the
Housing and Public Protection Department



Welcome to the winter 2011 edition of the newsletter. If you require further information or clarification of any articles in this publication, please contact the Animal Health section or your local union representative.

Sheep Movements – The Five Mile Rule

The five mile rule only affects sheep movements. Any land which is under five miles (as the crow flies) of the boundary of the main holding and under your sole control and management can be considered to be part of your main holding.

All land where sheep are kept must be registered with the Rural Payments Divisional Office and your local Animal Health office. This means your land is given a county, parish, holding (CPH) number, and you will be given a flock mark to identify the animals born or kept on your holding.

You can register land by getting:

- A full CPH number
- You must apply for a full CPH number for the main place where you keep sheep
- Or a temporary CPH number

You can apply for a temporary CPH number if you move animals to another piece of land where, they do not mix with other livestock and no animals are born on this land.

If you rent land you should ask to use the full CPH number for the land. If the landlord is unwilling to let you use the full CPH number, then you will have to apply for a temporary CPH number. You must use this temporary number, when reporting movements to and from this land. Temporary CPH numbers do not have a flock mark. Any animals born on this land must be identified with the flock mark of your main holding.

Any land within 5 miles of the boundary of the main holding and under your sole control and management can be considered to be part of your main holding. In this case one flock record for all land is sufficient. Movements between parcels of land within this holding do not need to be recorded in the flock record or reported to the relevant local authority via a movement document.

Any land within 5 miles of the boundary of the main holding which is not under your sole control and management cannot be considered to be part of your main holding. A flock record for each separate CPH number must be kept. This includes any temporary CPH numbers acquired for the rented land. Movements between these holdings need to be recorded in the flock record and reported to the relevant Local Authority.

Any land outside 5 miles of the boundary of the main holding regardless of it being under your sole control and management or being under the CPH number for your main holding cannot be considered to be part of your main holding, even if included in a sole occupancy authority issued by Animal Health. Movements between these holdings must be recorded in the flock records and reported to the relevant Local Authority via a movement document.

A Sole Occupancy Authority (SOA) is a group of holdings within the same management and control, which is linked solely for the purposes of disease control and the 6 day standstill rule.

Any movements on to a holding that is part of your SOA, triggers a 6 day standstill on all holdings.

Any animal movements between holdings that are part of your SOA, will not trigger a 6 day standstill.

No animal movements can take place off a holding that is part of your SOA, if it is under a 6 day standstill.



Movement reporting for sheep is required between holdings as defined by the 5 mile rule, irrespective of an SOA. This means that a movement document will need to be submitted to Local Authorities for:

- All movements within 5 miles where you do not have sole control and management of the land
- All movements within 5 miles where you do have sole control and management but holdings have a different CPH number
- All movements outside 5 miles

Animal Welfare

As 2011 draws to a close we look at the work undertaken by Animal Health and Welfare officers. The statistics yet again show a rise in welfare complaints covering a broad spectrum of animal species from cattle to cats, but the largest number of complaints relate to equines.

However during the last twelve months there have been a number of high profile investigations and prosecutions concerning welfare issues with cattle, not just equines

The public's perception of the agricultural and equines industries is lowered after the publicity with each prosecution. This results in less support from the general public which could and does affect trade

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 is the main legislation that applies to all species within Wales. It allows government to make secondary legislation, such as the "Welfare of Farmed Animal (Wales) Regulations". It also permits the minister to make and issue Welfare Codes of Practice.

The "jewel in the crown" of this legislation is Section 9 which lays down "The duty of a person responsible for an animal to ensure its welfare needs are met to the extent required by good practice"

- In addition it also lists five animal needs
- Its need for a suitable environment
- Its need for a suitable diet
- Its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- Any need it has to be housed with or apart from other animals
- Its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

Section 10 allows a local authority inspector to serve an improvement notice if he/she is of the opinion that a person is failing to provide the needs of an animal. This allows an officer to react to a situation before animals begin to suffer, assuming the person responsible for the animal follows the advice given in the notice.

The use of these notices since the introduction of the act has saved many animals from unnecessary suffering.



The Codes of Practice can be obtained on the Welsh Government web site

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalwelfare/pets/codesofpractice>

Farmed Animal Codes of Practice can be found at

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalwelfare/livestockwelfare>

Changes in Reporting Pig Movements

Since October 2011, all movements of pigs in England and Wales have been reported onto the 'eAML2' electronic movement reporting system. The principle change is the requirement to notify this central, computerised database, prior to the movement taking place.

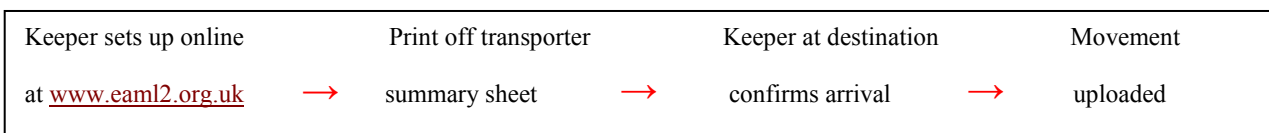
Keepers must notify all movements from their holding before the movement takes place and can set up their movements online by registering at www.eaml2.org.uk

The system also combines the Food Chain Information (FCI) requirement. Keepers wishing to move pigs to market need not notify the movement in advance, where the market is set up to provide that information electronically on the day of arrival of the pigs at the market. You must ensure that the market is set up to do this. If not, you will need to set up a movement prior to taking the pigs to market.

When registering a movement electronically, a copy of this summary sheet must be printed off, given to the transporter and must accompany the pigs during their journey, thus allowing the transporter to fulfil their requirements. On arrival at the destination premise, the new keeper must confirm the arrival of the pigs electronically, by telephone or in writing.



Access to the electronic eAML2 system must be made available for inspection, when required.



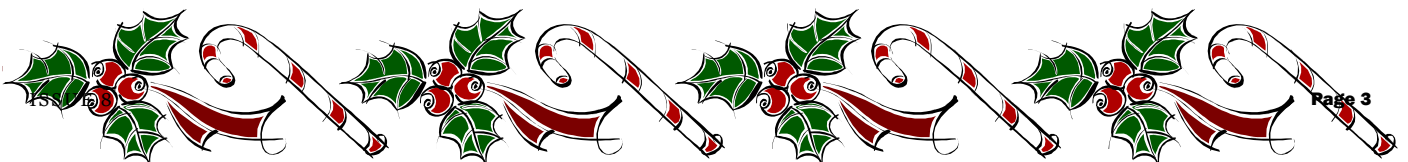
If keepers do not have computer / internet access, they can set up their movements via telephone, fax or in writing. When using this method, keepers must ensure that the pigs do not move off the holding until they have received the relevant documentation, including the transporter summary. This documentation will be sent within one working day of receipt of the information (excluding weekends and bank holidays). These documents must be kept within the farm records, a copy given to the transporter and a copy to the keeper at the destination premise.

Paper AML2 documents can still be used up until April 2012. However, the white copy should no longer be sent to your Local Authority and should now be sent to **MLCSL, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2TL.**

Benefits

- Up to date information in the event of a disease outbreak
- Reduction in paper
- eAML combines both the movement and Food Chain Information (FCI) in one
- No need to post AML2 documents to the Local Authority
- Free to use

For assistance with the eAML2 electronic system, telephone 0844 355 8400 or email eaml2@bpex.org.uk



And Finally.....

I'm an Animal Health Officer....."GET ME OUT OF HERE!"

Spring had finally arrived, the rain was no longer falling in torrents and for once the sky was clear blue with a bright sun. The thought of no longer having to wear a heavy waterproof coat and thermals was a good one. It had been a long, cold wet winter. I had just started to go through my list of visits for the day when the phone rang and I get a complaint concerning the conditions a herd of cattle were being kept in. Plans change quickly in this job and welfare complaints take precedence.

On arrival at the farm I introduced myself to the farmer and explained that a complaint had been made concerning his cattle. The main issue being that areas where he fed the cattle were in an extremely muddy condition and the cattle were standing up to their knees in mud. The farmer said I was free to go around the land by myself. Looking into the field I could see that the whole area around the feed ring was in a terrible state. The silage in the ring feeder appeared to be old and mouldy and the field itself had a mass of surface water and looked poached.

I needed to get to the bottom of the field to check on the cattle, so I tried to make my way around the worst of the mud. This wasn't my best decision of the day. I started walking carefully, 'light and quick' being my usual method for the mud, but each step became more difficult than the last. The mud was so deep it was like quicksand and I started to sink. Before I knew it my wellies overflowed and were full of mud. I was stuck fast.

So, there I am, well and truly stuck in the middle of a field covered in mud. With no-one in sight, I wonder how I am going to get out with my dignity intact. I reach for my mobile phone and ring the office in the hope that someone is available to help.

The phone rang out and was picked up. "Now don't laugh, but....." was all I managed to say before I could hear the call being broadcast to the office.

"Get me out of here and bring a shovel" I shouted down the phone to the sound of laughter from my caring colleagues. "I'm knee deep in mud and sinking fast".

Fifteen minutes later, colleagues arrived and delayed my rescue to take a photograph.

I was dug and pulled out, landing face down and much to the delight of my colleagues, my wellies remained behind. My appearance could have been compared to that of a child who had spent the afternoon rolling around in mud, so I was wrapped in a plastic sheet and was made to sit in the back of the truck for the drive back to the office.

The dress code for the drive home that night was a boiler suit and only a boiler suit.....I was dreading the thought of having to stop the car and get out for any reason.

The things you have to do in this job...it makes those jungle bush-tucker trials look like a walk in the park!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

We've Moved.....our new contact details are

Animal Health

By Telephone:

01978 292045

Public Protection Service

By Email:

trading.standards@wrexham.gov.uk

Ruthin Road

By Fax:

01978 315701

Wrexham

LL13 7TU

Or visit our website: www.wrexham.gov.uk