

**Welcome to our June 2025 edition.  
Halfway through the year!!**

## **Animal Health and Welfare Pathway in England Update and Summary**

Farmers in England are facing significant changes due to policy shifts under the Agricultural Transition Plan, including the removal of Direct Payments. The focus is shifting toward funding "public goods," such as animal health, welfare, and environmental sustainability.

A key initiative is the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway, a long-term, government-industry project supporting cattle, sheep, pig, and poultry sectors through four main steps, which has recently opened up to multispecies:

### Step 1: Annual Health and Welfare Review (Launched Feb 2023)

Fully funded annual vet visits available to farms with 51+ pigs.

Includes disease testing and enables the Vet Attestation Number (VAN) for EU exports. Funding for Pigs: £557 (reduced from £684 after switching to oral sampling for PRRS testing)

### Step 2: Capital Grants (Since Mar 2023)

Co-funded grants for equipment and housing with Investments chosen in consultation with your Vet

### Step 3: Disease Control Programmes (From Jun 2024)

Additional funding for farmers who completed Step 1. Supports disease testing and tailored treatment advice, funding of £923 (30 Bloods)

You can complete and claim for up to three Annual Reviews and three follow-ups.

To be eligible, you must:

- Do the follow-up within 10 months of the Annual Review
- Wait at least 10 months between your follow-ups
- Wait for your Annual Review claim to be approved before you claim for the follow-up

### Step 4: Payment-by-Results (Trials in 2024, rollout in 2025)

Rewards for achieving high welfare standards and health outcomes. The Pathway is part of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), aiming to improve animal welfare, disease prevention, antimicrobial resistance, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Further Clear information at [www.ahdb.org.uk/news/farmers-to-access-new-funds-through-the-animal-health-and-welfare-pathway](http://www.ahdb.org.uk/news/farmers-to-access-new-funds-through-the-animal-health-and-welfare-pathway)

## **Disinfectants**

Defra periodically reviews the list of approved disinfectants. Occasionally you may find your favourite has been removed! This does not generally mean any loss of efficacy, rather that the company marketing has not paid the required testing fees. The site can be reviewed here [Defra-approved disinfectants | Disinfectants approved for statutory notifiable animal disease control in GB](#)

It's a requirement to use an approved disinfectant for the external foot dips and if directed in case of notifiable disease.

On 2 June 2025, Virkon S was suspended from the approved disinfectant list: Virkon S currently cannot be used under the General Orders in England, Scotland and Wales, (information correct at time of writing!).

## BVA Live: “A Toolkit of the Pig Visit”

Our Gemma Thwaites took part in the BVA Live presentations and provided an overview of the husbandry, management and veterinary care of small-scale pig herds.

Discussions included Herd Health Plans, preventative care, raised awareness of ASF and the risk of feeding household scraps to pigs.



## Drifffield Show 2025

After 10 years of exhibiting at the Drifffield Show we are taking a break!

With some regret we will not be exhibiting this year. Footfall has reduced and we took the decision to engage with you all in other ways.

However, we will be at the show on foot, so if you want to meet up and have a chat just get in touch with your vet.

Thanks to all of you who have supported our stand over the years. We will miss you.

## Hello, to a New Member of the Veterinary Team



Ruel Pagoto  
MRCVS

Ruel is new to the business – but certainly not to the pig industry – he has a career spanning two decades (nationally and internationally), with farm, scientific and pharmaceutical experience.

He is particularly keen to pass his

knowledge on to the younger generation and to continue applying the intensive animal farming skills and expertise he has accumulated, whilst promoting animal welfare, disease prevention, food safety and ecological sustainability.

## ... and finally, goodbye to Guy

As most of you will know, Guy Wade West is hanging up his overalls and retiring.

Guy joined Garth in 1998 and is one of Garth's Directors.

His hard work, care and dedication for both the business and the pig industry is unrivalled and we will all miss him a great deal.



Enjoy your retirement Guy and have fun – **you deserve it.**