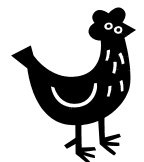


Livestock Matters

A series of newsletters/bulletins to the farming community

In this edition.....

**Meat Traceability, Veterinary Medicines, and
Withdrawal Periods, and Pre-slaughter feeding**



Incinerator Closure – 4th March to 30th March

The incinerator will be closing for essential work to complete the relining of the chimney. There will be no incineration after Tuesday 4th March 2014. Once the incinerator is closed any cull animals or animal remains will need to be frozen and as space is very limited this will be reserved for emergency casualties / welfare cases. You will therefore need to **plan ahead** for any cullings and contact Alan as soon as possible to book in any animals in advance of the closure.

During the closure of the Incinerator there will also be limited slaughterhouse facilities as all animal waste from the slaughterhouse cannot be incinerated and will have to be frozen and stored. The slaughterhouse will be closed on 17th March 2014.

The States Veterinary Officer has stressed the importance of planning to ensure you have sufficient suitable housing for bull calves or other livestock waiting to be dispatched during this period. These animals which have to remain on farm must be provided with the level of care and welfare as specified in the Dairy Farm Assurance Scheme for Farmers and the “Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock” for other keepers of livestock.

The GSPCA incinerator, which cremates small animal cadavers, is not scheduled for any maintenance during this period and will provide an alternative means of disposal for appropriate waste. Please contact the GSPCA for further details and costs of disposal. **CONTACT ALAN COX ON 07781 101383 TO BOOK IN YOUR ANIMALS ASAP.**

Meat Traceability, Veterinary Medicines, and Withdrawal Periods, and Pre-slaughter feeding

Introduction

Livestock keepers have many responsibilities, not only to their stock, but also to consumers.

- They must provide for the welfare (which includes health) needs of their stock.
- They must prevent or minimise any risk of hazards in food causing illness to consumers.

Livestock keepers can prevent or minimise any risk of hazards in food by:

- Ensuring animals are identified in compliance with the new regulations.
- Recording illness and veterinary treatments.
- Avoiding the build-up of pathogenic bacteria in the farm environment.
- Managing animal feeding prior to slaughter.
- Using appropriate bedding to transport animals on to slaughter.
- Not stressing animals during transport.
- Ensuring hides and fleeces are not contaminated with faeces (visible cleanliness score).

In the case of meat, there has to be a system of traceability so any incidents can be traced back to the producer responsible.

The livestock keepers' responsibility for meat traceability includes the:

- Requirements for animal identification information (e.g. movement documents, ear tags).
- Supply of food chain information ("FCI").

If the animal is booked in for slaughter, identified according to the regulations, clean and healthy and accompanied by FCI then it will be accepted by the lairage operator at the slaughterhouse. Once accepted, the responsibility for traceability passes to the slaughterhouse food business operator (FBO) which is A D Cox Ltd. The FBO has to correlate animal identification with its carcasses and offal, producer declarations, veterinary certificates and identification marks on products.

- In this Bulletin we are focusing on 'Food Chain Information' - .

'Food Chain Information' (FCI)

All animals presented for slaughter must be accompanied with a 'Food Chain Information' (FCI) certificate, the declaration on which MUST be signed by the producer, keeper or consignor. This includes a declaring that all medicine withdrawal periods required for animal products to enter the human food chain have been observed.

All animals which are individually identified, known as 'fully identified', must be accompanied with individual FCI certificates. Batches of animals presented for slaughter with 'slaughter tags' or 'slaughter tattoos', may be accompanied with FCI which includes a declaration for all animals within the batch.

The European Community regulation 853/2004 lays down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and states that:

'slaughterhouse operators must not accept animals onto the ... premises unless they have requested and been provided with relevant food chain information contained in the records kept at the holding of provenance'.

853/2004 goes on to say that:

'In the event of failure to comply with any of the requirements listed under point 2, the food business operator must notify the Official Veterinarian (OV) and take appropriate measures.'

This means that if an animal arrives at the slaughterhouse without FCI it will not be accepted for slaughter.

FCI will be retained by the FBO for a period related to the shelf life of the meat or meat products, in case of queries.

FCI Declaration

Producers, keepers or consignors must complete their name and contact details and identification of individual animals or batches.

The FCI certificate for the Guernsey Slaughterhouse requires compliance with four statements before an individual animal or batch of animals will be accepted for slaughter. It is the producer, keeper or consignor that will have to make the declaration.

The four statements are:

1. Animals on the holding are not under movement restrictions for other animal disease or public health reasons.
2. Withdrawal periods have been observed for all veterinary medicines and other treatments administered to the animals while on this holding and previous holdings.
3. To the best of my knowledge the animals are not showing signs of any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat derived from them.
4. No analysis of samples taken from animals on the holding or other samples has shown that the animals in this consignment may have been exposed to any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat or to substances likely to result in residues in meat.

If the animals are non-compliant with any of the four statements the signatory must not submit the animals for slaughter.

If you have any doubts about making affirmative declarations to any of the four points then you should ask the veterinary surgeon whose care your animals are under. If you have obtained VMPs for your livestock from a pharmacist or 'suitably qualified person' (SQP) and have a query about 'withdrawal' periods then you should contact them for assistance.

FCI certificates can be accessed from the States of Guernsey website at www.gov.gg and 'click' on:

- **Business & Industry**
- **Agriculture**
- **Guernsey Slaughterhouse**
- **Then look in 'Download Documents' for 'Food Chain Information'**

Or



Visit: www.gov.gg/FCI and access the FCI certificate directly.

You can either print the FCI at home, then complete it or you can complete the document on-line by typing into the required fields.

Next, you can either bring the completed document along with your animals to the slaughterhouse or send the completed document as an e-mail attachment to alan.cox@commerce.gov.gg

Livestock Matters

Below is a copy of the current FCI:

121122_010		 COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT <small>A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT</small>	
FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION (FCI) FOR LIVESTOCK consigned for slaughter for human consumption			
PRODUCER DETAILS			
Producer Number			
Producer Name (Print)			
Producer Address			
	Postcode		
Producer Telephone N°			
E-mail address			
ANIMAL DETAILS			
Individual animal 'full identification' – or – animal batch 'slaughter identification'			
1)	2)		
3)	4)		
5)	6)		
7)	8)		
9)	10)		
11)	12)		
13)	14)		
DECLARATION			
<p>A. To the best of my knowledge the animals are not showing signs of any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat derived from them.</p> <p>B. Withdrawal periods have been observed for all veterinary medicines and other treatments administered to the animals while under my care and the care of other keepers.</p> <p>C. Animals on the holding are not under movement restrictions for other animal disease or public health reasons.</p> <p>D. No analysis of samples taken from animals on the holding or other samples has shown that the animals in this consignment may have been exposed to any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat or to substances likely to result in residues in meat.</p>			
Producer / Keepers / Consignors signature			
Date DD/MM/YY			
SPENT DAIRY COWS (ONLY): REASONS FOR SLAUGHTER			
Lameness <input type="checkbox"/>	Mastitis <input type="checkbox"/>	Infertility <input type="checkbox"/>	Injury <input type="checkbox"/>
Other			
<p><i>In addition acceptance of animals for slaughter is dependent upon them being:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booked in with the FBO, A D Cox Ltd, and; • Identified according to the regulations, and; • Starved for a minimum of 24hr adult ruminants, 12hr calves / pigs, and; • Clean and dry, with a visible cleanliness score of 1 or 2, and; • Transported on appropriate bedding, <u>not</u> saw dust. 			
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Commerce and Employment Department PO Box 459, Longue Rue, St Martin's, Guernsey, GY1 6AP. Tel: 444 (0)1481 234567 Fax: 444 (0)1481 235013 Email: alan.cox@commerce.gov.gy</p>			
			

Veterinary Medicines

The use of veterinary medicines on livestock is controlled under European Union (EU) law. This includes:

- the initial authorisation of a veterinary medicine
- whether it can be used on livestock
- how long after a treatment an animal may be used for human consumption

The 'withdrawal period' is the time after a treatment with a Veterinary Medicinal Product (VMP) that must pass before an animal can be used for human consumption.

The legislation aims to protect consumers by stopping unacceptable levels or concentrations of residues from VMPs getting into the food chain. Samples of meat from the Guernsey Slaughterhouse will be randomly taken and monitored for drug residues as part of the UK's surveillance.

In general terms, VMPs used to treat animals in Guernsey must have marketing authorisation for use in the United Kingdom (UK) (The Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2008). These are VMPs whose active ingredients have been evaluated for residue safety and withdrawal periods.

Guernsey regulations also allow your vet to give other products under a 'prescribing cascade'. This is allowed when no medicines are available for an illness and the animal's suffering must be prevented.

The cascade has three levels:

- level 1 - use of a UK-authorized veterinary medicine indicated for the same species but for another condition or indicated for use in another species
- level 2 - use of a UK-authorized human medicine or veterinary medicine authorised in the EU but not the UK. This requires a Special Import Certificate
- level 3 - specially prepared medicine made by a veterinary surgeon, pharmacist or suitably authorised manufacturer

If a VMP is used outside its authorised uses under the cascade, a vet must specify an appropriate withdrawal period. The statutory withdrawal period for VMPs must not be less than:

- seven days for eggs
- seven days for milk
- 28 days for meat, fat and offal

Livestock keepers presenting animals for slaughter before a withdrawal period has been observed may be guilty of an offence.

Reminder to starve livestock prior to slaughter

We have encountered difficulties with evisceration (gutting) of some animals recently and suspect that they have not been starved out as previously advised. I would like to reiterate the 'feed management prior to slaughter advice' that was provided in the third Livestock Bulletin (See on www.gov.gg for back issues).

- *Reducing faecal output and ensuring faeces is firm helps avoid contamination of the environment and the hide/fleece*
- *To avoid diarrhoea in animals, alterations in feed must be made gradually*
- *Grass, silage, vegetables and cereal feeds tend to result in soft faeces and quantities must be gradually reduced prior to slaughter*
- *Hay and straw feeds tend to result in firm faeces and quantities must be increased gradually prior to slaughter*
- *Cattle and sheep, young-stock and adults, have established a rumen so are able to manage without food for reasonable periods. Therefore they should be starved for approximately 24hr immediately before slaughter*
- *For lambs, kids and calves less than 12 weeks of age, without a well-developed rumen, and all pigs it is only necessary to withdraw feed for approximately 12 hours immediately prior to slaughter*
- *Feed withdrawal 12hr to 24hr prior to slaughter reduces:*
 - *gut fill at slaughter and reduce the risk of gut rupture during disembowelling*
 - *the quantity of faecal material carried in case of gut rupture*
 - *the amount of faeces on the carcass*

If a carcass is contaminated with faeces or gut contents during dressing and/or evisceration depending upon the extent the carcass may be fully or partly condemned or may have to be trimmed. Carcass contamination is unacceptable and the required hygiene standards will be met and, if necessary, meat will be lost.

I would also like to remind livestock keepers and transporters not to use saw dust or wood chip to provide grip or bedding for animals prior to slaughter. It tends to collect in the hide/fleece and can contaminate the carcass which will result in meat loss.

David Chamberlain
7th January 2014

Previous editions are available online

<http://www.gov.gg/article/5140/Guernsey-Slaughterhouse>

Contacts

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Farm Services.	Caroline Creed	234567	farmservices@commerce.gov.gg
New Slaughterhouse, Longue Hougue.	Alan Cox/David Chamberlain	213090	alan.cox@commerce.gov.gg
Animal By-Product (ABP) Incinerator, Longue Hougue.	Alan Cox	243413	alan.cox@commerce.gov.gg