

[Collection: Countryside Stewardship](#)

Updated: Link to guidance for those finding it difficult to meet scheme requirements due to hot and dry weather conditions.

Hot and dry weather conditions

See the [guidance](#) for farmers finding it difficult to meet scheme requirements.

See the 4 new [Countryside Stewardship Offers for Wildlife](#) for the 2018 application round.

Information for agreement holders is available on the [agreement holders](#) page.

About the scheme

Countryside Stewardship (CS) provides financial incentives for farmers and land managers to look after their environment by:

- conserving and restoring wildlife habitats
- flood risk management
- woodland creation and management
- reducing widespread water pollution from agriculture
- keeping the character of the countryside
- preserving historical features in the landscape
- encouraging educational access

The scheme is:

- open to all eligible farmers, woodland owners, foresters and other land managers
- suitable for many types of land use, for example conventional and organic farmland, coastal areas, uplands and woodlands
- competitive
- scored against local priority targets to maximise environmental benefit

There are 4 main elements to the scheme:

- [Mid Tier](#)
- [Wildlife Offers](#)
- [Higher Tier](#)
- [Capital grants](#)

Contact

Contact Natural England if you have any queries, including woodland options

and grants:

Enquiries

Natural England
County Hall, Spetchley Road

Worcester

WR5 2NP

Email

enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

Telephone

0300 060 3900

Opening times: 8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)

Find out about call charges at www.gov.uk/call-charges.

Applications

Send paper-based applications and supporting information for online applications to the office for your county.

For woodland grants (woodland creation, woodland tree health and woodland management plan), send all supporting information to Crewe.

County	Office	Address, email, telephone
Avon, Cheshire, Cleveland, Cornwall, Cumbria, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Hereford and Worcester, Isles of Scilly, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumberland, Shropshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Tyne and Wear, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Wiltshire, Worcestershire	Crewe	Countryside Stewardship Delivery Services, Natural England, PO Box 380, Crewe CW1 6YH – Email ts.crewe@naturalengland.org.uk – Telephone 020 8026 1806

County	Office	Address, email, telephone
Derbyshire, Humberside, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire	Nottingham	Countryside Stewardship Delivery Services, Natural England, PO Box 10276, Nottingham NG2 9PD – Email ts.nottingham@naturalengland.org.uk – Telephone 020 8026 2018
Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, East Sussex, Essex, Greater London, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, West Sussex	Reading	Countryside Stewardship Delivery Services, Natural England, PO Box 2423, Reading RG1 6WY – Email ts.reading@naturalengland.org.uk – Telephone 020 8026 7254

[Transparency data: Climate change regimes: civil penalties imposed](#)

Updated: The Environment Agency has removed penalties 16 to 18 for EU ETS installations and penalties 21 to 54 for EU ETS aviation. This is because these penalties have been published for 1 year.

Participants or operators who have not complied with their legal requirements and received a penalty.

Climate change regimes include all the regulatory regimes that aim to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Civil penalties imposed by the Environment Agency, in accordance with [annex 2 of the enforcement and sanctions policy](#) are now published on data.gov.uk.

[Official Statistics: UK farm animal genetic resources \(FAnGR\): breed](#)

inventory results

Updated: Minor revisions to UK FAnGR Breed Inventory dataset.

This release presents results from a pilot annual inventory for monitoring livestock breed populations and breeding structures. It provides data on the status and trends in the domestic pig, goat and horse farm animal genetic resources (FAnGR) with continuous data from 2000 to 2017 for around 100 breeds of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and horses which are present in the UK.

In 2018 an interactive data explorer was added to increase the usefulness of the data to the stakeholders and to give more insights into historic data for individual breeds.

Next update: see the [statistics release calendar](#)

For further information please contact:

fangr@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Twitter: [@DefraStats](#)

Defra Helpline: 03459 33 55 77 (Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 5.30pm)

Detailed guide: Exemption from authorisation for medicines for small pet animals

Updated: Approved active ingredients table updated

Certain medicines for small pet animals are exempt from the marketing authorisation requirements of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMR) under Schedule 6.

Exempt species

Medicines for the following species are exempt provided the animals are kept exclusively as pets and are not intended to produce food for human consumption:

- aquarium animals, (including only fish kept in closed water systems)
- cage birds (e.g birds kept in cages or aviaries)
- homing pigeons (pigeons kept for racing or exhibition)

- terrarium animals (reptiles, amphibians and arthropods kept in tanks and cages – including animals free-living in domestic gardens)
- small rodents (domestic mammals of the order rodentia)
- ferrets
- rabbits

Active substances and ingredients

Exempted medicines can only contain active substances which have been approved for the purposes of this exemption by the Secretary of State. The list of

[approved active ingredients for small animals](#)

(PDF, 896KB, 38 pages)

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If you wish to market a product under the exemption which does not contain ingredients on this list you should complete the

[application for active approval form](#)

(MS Word Document, 59.9KB)

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Do not submit any studies or reports unless specifically requested. A short paragraph will usually be sufficient.

Certain sedatives may be permitted. You should confirm this with the VMD

Medicines not included in the exemption

The following medicines are not covered by this exemption:

- antibiotics
- narcotic or psychotropic substances
- medicines intended to be injected or infused into the body (eg. intravenously) or ophthalmic use, or for insertion into the ear canal

Purpose of use and route of administration

Exempted medicines must not be intended for treatments or pathological processes that require a precise diagnosis by a vet or the use of which may cause effects that impede or interfere with subsequent diagnostic or therapeutic measures.

Fish medicines administered via the water and not intended for direct ophthalmic use are acceptable.

Labelling requirements

Exempted products must be clearly labelled to show that they are exempt from having a Marketing Authorisation, using the following statement meets this requirement:

This veterinary medicine is marketed in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations – Exemptions for small pet animals

The labelling must contain the following either on the label or, if there is insufficient space, on a package leaflet:

- name of the product
- the authorisation number of the manufacturer*
- name and strength of each active substance
- route of administration
- batch number
- expiry date
- the words, For animal treatment only
- contents by weight, volume, or the number of unit doses
- name and address of the manufacturer or distributor
- target species
- the words, Keep out of reach of children
- storage instructions
- the shelf life after the immediate packaging has been opened for the first time
- disposal advice
- full indications, including:
 - therapeutic indications
 - contra-indications
 - interaction with other medicines and other forms of interaction
- dosage instructions

*If no suitable authorisation number is issued by the relevant National Authority, the VMD can issue a manufacturing authorisation number.

When applying for this authorisation number you should provide evidence to demonstrate manufacture in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).

The label on the product itself must contain at least the following:

- name of the product
- name and strength of each active substance
- route of administration
- batch number
- expiry date
- the words, For animal treatment only
- any additional warning that may be stipulated for the particular active substance.

Pack sizes

Exempted products must only be sold in pack sizes suitable for a single course of treatment. The VMD considers this condition should be met by ensuring that packs contain only sufficient product to treat the following numbers of animals until symptoms are alleviated or, for preventative treatments, up to six months:

Species	Pack size
aquarium animals	a single course of treatment should be no more than 7 administrations to an aquarium of up to 25,000 litres. The course of treatment should be clearly defined, eg. Administer to aquarium for 7 consecutive days.
cage birds	to treat no more than 50 birds
homing pigeons	to treat no more than 50 birds
terrarium animals	to treat no more than 5 animals
small rodents	to treat no more than 5 animals
ferrets	to treat no more than 5 animals
rabbits	to treat no more than 5 animals

Manufacturing and supply

Exempted medicines must meet the requirements of the VMR relating to the manufacture (GMP) and wholesale dealing of veterinary medicines.

However, wholesale dealers supplying products under the exemption are not required to keep wholesale records that duplicate manufacturer's records.

For further information refer to [Manufacturing Authorisations for veterinary medicines](#) and [Apply for manufacturer or wholesaler of medicines licences](#) pages.

Veterinary medicines marketed under this exemption must be manufactured by the holder of a manufacturing authorisation issued under:

- Directive EC No 2001/82 as amended (sites in UK and EU)
- a certificate issued by the competent authority (sites in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland)
- a certificate issued by the Secretary of State (sites in all other countries)

There are no restrictions on the retail supply within the UK of exempted products.

There are no restrictions on the importation of products which fully comply with this exemption.

Pharmacovigilance

Any serious adverse events should be reported to the VMD within 15 days. Manufacturers, importers and retailers must keep records of all adverse events for 3 years to be shown to the VMD on request. For further information see the [Veterinary pharmacovigilance](#) page.

Preventing illegal use

When marketing an exempt medicine you must take reasonable measures to prevent its illegal use in animal species not covered by the exemption. For

example, you must ensure that any advertising does not falsely describe the product or mislead as to its nature, quality, uses or effect.

Exempted products and the prescribing cascade

As exempted products are not authorised medicines they do not fall under the prescribing cascade. However, if a vet chooses to use an exempted product not in accordance with its product literature then they may do so in line with the principles of the prescribing cascade. By doing so, however, the medicine will no longer be deemed to be an exempted product.

For more information on exempt product please see the [The Cascade: Prescribing unauthorised medicines](#) page.

[Guidance: Plant imports: 'additional declarations' for phytosanitary certificates](#)

Updated: Documents updated

A list of the declarations you need to make on the phytosanitary certificate you issue for consignments of plants, seeds or produce to be imported into the UK. The declarations required depend on the species of plant in the consignment.