

Use it or Lose it

All good things come to an end and that also applies to the funding for the Annual Vet Review which is a cornerstone of the Defra's flagship Animal Health and Welfare Pathway in England.

It is nearly 2 years since we featured Guy and Melany Kiddy's experience with the Vet Review

[The Animal Health and Welfare Review is a win / win for Gloucestershire Old Spots breeders Guy and Melany Kiddy. - British Pig Association](#)

In that time the bugs have all been ironed out and the programme is now running smoothly with a lot more options as Multiple site and Multiple species are now included.

What is it? In short its up £1500 of funding for at least two vet visits where you can discuss all aspects of Health and Welfare on your farm and in the case of pigs get free blood testing for PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome). One of the most serious disease challenges facing pig production world-wide.

This funding only has a limited time to run and it is possible that these Annual Vet Reviews may become mandatory in the future.

This is your chance to get on board with the scheme now whilst funding is still available.

We all know about the threats of exotic diseases such as African Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth. We are just one flying sandwich away from a repeat of the Classical Swine Fever outbreak of 2000.

The first step in keeping your pigs safe is to review your biosecurity as part of a Health Plan. Why not get this done by your vet for free during the Pathway Review visit.

If we do get one of those awful diseases there might be culling or vaccination to kill programmes. Your pigs might be listed on the Breeds at Risk Register but to be spared from culling you will have to pass a Veterinary Risk Assessment. The first question is likely to be "are you on the Pathway". Why not get on board whilst it is free.

Remember Veterinary Attestation Numbers, VAN's? Maybe your abattoir is not asking for one now but will that change with the EU Reset and a new SPS agreement with Europe? If so you may need a VAN in the future to get your pigs killed. Why not get one for free with your Pathway Review visit.

New prescribing rules for some drugs mean that your vet must have visited your farm on a regular basis. The Pathway Review visit can help with this.

Do you know if your pigs have PRRS. Plans are taking shape to control PRRS as an endemic disease. As part of this programme you can establish the status of your herd. If your pigs are free you can put in place a plan to keep them free.

All livestock producers should have a good working relationship with their vet. All pigs going for slaughter must be accompanied by a Food Chain Information form which requires the name of your vet.

So many reasons why you should get on board with this programme whilst it is still being fully funded but the most important is this:

You want the best health and welfare for your pigs so why not get independent professional advice for free from your vet to be sure that everything is as good as it can be.

To be eligible for this funding you must have a minimum number of at least one of the following species of livestock

- 11 or more beef cattle
- 11 or more dairy cattle

- 21 or more sheep
- 51 or more pigs

If your July litters are on the ground now you could well be eligible for the scheme.

For more information have a look at this link

[Animal Health and Welfare Pathway: multiple herds and flocks now eligible for vet visit funding – Farming](#)

This includes the latest Defra pig webinar for the Pathway as well as links to the sign up pages.