

# Animal and Environment Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Annual Review 2024



**Arwain DGC**  
Defnydd Gwrthficrobaidd Cyfrifol  
Responsible Antimicrobial Use



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

The Wales Animal and Environment Antimicrobial Resistance Delivery Group was established in 2019 for a five-year term. The group help to advise Welsh Government and aid delivery of AMR work. The work is supported by Arwain DGC (Defnydd Gwrthfioleg Cyfrifol) Cymru whose work contributes to the Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals and the Environment: Implementation Plan (2019 – 2024).

## Progress of Wales Network of Veterinary Prescribing Champions

The Wales network of Veterinary Prescribing Champions (VPC) met in May with **30 VPC practices** being represented. The VPC network has produced authoritative guidelines for the prevention and safe treatment of six common diseases of cattle and sheep which drive antibiotic use. These are now being used by veterinary practices across Wales. More are being developed.



## International Interest in AMR Projects delivered in Wales

**AMR control in Wales** continues to receive widespread international interest. This year our work has been presented at the European Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship conference in Vienna and to colleagues from the New Zealand Government, Massey University and the Veterinary Council of New Zealand.

## Wales Animal AMR Delivery Groups

The **Animal and Environment AMR Delivery Group** supported the development of the new UK AMR National Action Plan (2024-2029) and contributed their ideas to make the plan relevant in Wales. The group has now completed their five-year term, and the Welsh Government is thankful for their help and support in shaping the approach for Wales. The group's successor, the **Wales AMR Animal Health Group**, met for the first time in December with many members continuing from the original group.

## AMR at the Royal Welsh Show

**Welsh Government hosted Arwain DGC** at the Royal Welsh Show where a successful day was had educating the public about AMR and our work. The stand was visited by the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, who expressed their gratitude for the successful approach being delivered in Wales.



## CVO Attends Arwain DGC Annual Conference

Richard Irvine, CVO Wales attended the **Arwain DGC conference** in June, celebrating the progress made in finding innovative ways to tackle AMR. The conference was attended by vets, farmers and government representatives. Key speakers included Ben Davidson, CEO Dairysmart Veterinarian (New Zealand), Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers and Public Health Wales.



## AMU Data Collection for Cattle and Sheep

Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers have generated more than **6,000 new antimicrobial usage (AMU)** calculations in 2024. They have also enhanced the AMU reporting platform allowing vets to create reports of AMU in their practices.

## Farm Environment Sampling (monitoring AMR patterns)

Over **2,900 faecal samples** have been collected from Welsh cattle and sheep farms to check for the presence of resistant *E.coli*. Samples are also being collected from waterways near to dairy farms and tested for the presence of resistant *E.coli*.