

DEFRA Recognises RSPCA Assured as Approved Scheme for Vet Attestation

RSPCA Assured has become the latest farm assurance scheme to be approved for vet attestation requirements.

Friday 5 January 2024

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has officially approved RSPCA Assured as a recognised scheme for the vet attestation requirement and it will now be added to their qualifying list.

As of 13 December 2023, legislation mandates that non-assured farmers must provide evidence of annual vet visits if their animal products are entering the food chain and being exported to the EU*. This aligns with EU Animal Health Regulations which requires farms to have regular vet visits if they are producing any form of animal product for export to Europe.

The vet attestation will verify the absence of notifiable diseases and improve food biosecurity.

Emilie Wix, Head of Farming Engagement at RSPCA Assured, said: "We are thrilled to announce that RSPCA Assured has now been added to DEFRA's list of qualifying farm assurance schemes. This means that our members will not have to acquire an additional vet visit or Vet Attestation Number which will save them both money and time. Being a member of our scheme is now evidence that your farm meets the requirements for annual health visits from a vet.



"Live exports are not permitted on the RSPCA Assured scheme, but the EU regulations will be applicable to our member farms who export animal produce to the EU.

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“RSPCA Assured has long been a leading advocate for farmed animal welfare, and our inclusion in this qualifying list reaffirms our position as a trusted partner for farmers and consumers alike.”

DEFRA is currently in the process of updating their online list of qualifying schemes but, in the interim, member farms can be reassured that RSPCA Assured has been approved and their name will be appearing on the list soon.

Further information about vet attestation and qualifying assurance schemes can be found on the [DEFRA website](#).

Ends

Notes to Editors

*RSPCA Assured has long been campaigning alongside the RSPCA to end live exports, and as such does not permit any of its member farms to export live animals. The RSPCA has strict regulations around the maximum time and distance an animal can be transported. Full details can be found [here](#).

About RSPCA Assured:

RSPCA Assured is a leading farm assurance scheme dedicated to promoting and ensuring high standards of animal welfare in farming practices. Through detailed standards and regular thorough assessments, RSPCA Assured works with farmers to create a responsible and ethical approach to the treatment of animals.

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