Useful information

Farm registration and movement of farm livestock

Registration of land as a farm holding and guidance on the keeping of farm livestock

Prior to keeping cattle, pigs, sheep and goats (not poultry) in school, the premises need to be registered as an agricultural holding (CPH). No cost is involved.

Please note that if animals are kept as pets there is no requirement to register the land as a County Parish Holding (CPH)

Registering your land as an agricultural holding

- Before moving livestock to your school land (holding) you need a County Parish Holding (CPH) number for the land where the livestock will be kept. The CPH is a nine digit number; the first 2 digits relate to the county, the next 3 relate to the parish and the last 4 digits are a unique number to the keeper, e.g. 12/345/6789. To apply for a CPH you need to contact the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on 0845 6037777. Once you have your CPH you can move livestock to your holding under a general licence.

Registering pigs, sheep and goats

- Whether you keep a single animal (not usually recommended) or a commercial herd/flock you will need to be registered with the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). If you already keep sheep, goats or pigs and have not registered you must do so immediately.

- With your CPH number approved, contact your local Defra Animal Health Divisional Office (AHDO). You will be asked for your CPH as a reference and will be able to register your livestock over the phone. If your correspondence address is different from the herd/flock location, inform the AHDO and confirm that they have the correct details.
Useful information

When your livestock are registered, a flock/herd mark will automatically be created. Herd marks for pigs are one or two letters followed by four digits, e.g. AB1234 or A1234. Flock/herd marks for sheep and goats are six digits, e.g. 123456. The Defra herd mark provides a quick and effective means of identifying premises from which livestock have moved. It is unique, kept on a single database and available to inspectors for rapid tracing. The AHDO will send you a registration document which will contain your personal details, CPH and flock/herd mark.

If any of your details change, you must tell your AHDO within one month of the change.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

DEFRA has a user friendly website for all livestock related issues which can be accessed through the main Defra website (www.defra.gov.uk), or directly as a sub-section of Business Link (www.businesslink.gov.uk/livestock).

Below are listed the basic relevant guides (welfare codes) for those animals which are most likely to be kept in schools – these can all be accessed through the Business Link site. Our advice would be to visit this website as part of your planning process. All guides are downloadable as PDF files (some can be requested as booklets) and should legally be kept for reference in the farm/school office for all types of animal you rear.

Each code covers the key issues surrounding the health and welfare, identification and movement of farm animals. Of particular interest to schools are:

- Cattle and dairy
- Pigs
- Poultry
- Sheep and goats
- and guidance on key notifiable and zoonotic diseases (those that can be transferred from animals to people). 

School Farms Network: Get Your Hands Dirty
Welfare codes do not lay down statutory requirements. However, livestock farmers and employers are required by law to ensure that all those attending to their livestock are familiar with, and have access to, the relevant codes.

**Poultry**

Many Schools now keep poultry even if no other farm animal is reared; below is an example of the information and guidance provided by Defra. This includes the legal requirements for poultry keeping. Please note that you are NOT required to register your flock of poultry if you have fewer than 50 birds in total (e.g. total number of chickens and ducks). However, the advantage of registering is that if any further legislation or disease prevention measures (e.g. because of Bird Flu) are introduced they will be communicated direct to you.

**Business Link livestock website headings include:**

**Poultry: an overview**
Understanding and complying with rules and regulations for poultry farming.

**Poultry health**
How to maintain poultry health, deal with notifiable, endemic and zoonotic diseases and implement key bio-security measures.

**Poultry welfare on the farm** (and a guide for off the farm)
Guidance on how to maintain poultry welfare in the farm environment.

**Poultry registration**

Species of poultry that must be registered under the Great Britain Poultry Register include:

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**School Farms Network:** Get Your Hands Dirty
Useful information

- Chickens - including bantams; Ducks; Geese; Partridges; Quail; Turkeys; plus some less frequently kept species.

Who has to register?
You must register if you own - or are responsible for - a poultry premises with 50 or more birds. This applies even if your premises are only stocked for part of the year. Premises with fewer than 50 birds do not need to register, but Defra and the School Farms Network (SFN) encourages keepers to do so voluntarily.

You must register if you have 50 or more birds in total. They do not have to all be of the same species.

To keep the register up to date, you must notify Defra of any significant changes to information you have already supplied. You should do this within one month of the changes happening. You should call the GB Poultry Register Helpline on 0800 634 1112.

Subjects covered in the poultry guide include:
- Poultry welfare on the farm
- Poultry welfare off the farm
- Disease
- Disease prevention
- Disease notification and restrictions
- Environmental protection and pollution control
- Withdrawal periods for poultry medicines, marketing rules, and regulations for eggs and poultry.

Livestock movements: pigs
Pig movements must be accompanied by a completed animal movement licence (AML) document. The movement must be reported by the recipient of the animals to their local authority within three days of the movement taking place using the appropriate AML form.
Useful information

- One or more pigs moving onto a premises will be subject to a 20 day standstill (they cannot be moved away from the farm) and will also trigger a 20 day standstill on other pigs on the premises. Cattle, sheep and goats moving onto premises will impose a six day standstill on any pig on that premises.

- Pet pigs may not be moved under the general licence for the movement of pigs, unless they are moving from one holding to another holding. Pet pigs that are returned immediately to the holding they were moved from should be moved under a PRIMO (Pig records, identification and movement order) walking licence issued by the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM).

Documents are available online at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/pigs

Livestock movements: sheep and goats

Prior to any movement the owner/keeper must inspect sheep and goats to be moved for signs of foot and mouth disease. If any evidence of such disease is found it must be notified without delay to the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) of the local Defra Animal Health Divisional Office.

All sheep and goat movements must be accompanied by a completed animal movement licence (AML) movement document. Sheep and goat movements must be reported by the recipient of the animals to the local authority within three days of the movement taking place, using the appropriate AML form.

Documents are available online at www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/movements/sheep

Livestock movements: cattle

- Prior to any movement the owner/keeper must inspect the cattle to be moved for signs of foot and mouth disease. If any evidence of such disease is found it must be notified
without delay to the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) of the local Defra Animal Health Divisional Office. If any evidence of disease is found the licence shall be invalidated and no animals kept on the premises of departure may be moved.

All cattle movements must be notified to the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS), electronically (see www.bcms.gov.uk) or by post, within three days of the movement.

All cattle born in or imported into Great Britain must have a valid cattle passport. This applies whether the cattle are male, female, dairy or beef. All cattle must be accompanied by their passport when moved.

- All applications for cattle passports must be made to the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) within seven days of tagging. This gives all keepers a maximum of 27 days in which to tag, register the birth and apply for a passport. It is very important that keepers of cattle ensure that passport applications are made within the time limits allowed. Late applications for passports will be refused unless there are exceptional circumstances to consider. Documents are available at www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/movements/cattle.

**Livestock movements: horses**

All horses must be accompanied by a valid passport if they are:

- Sold or exported
- Used for the purpose of competitions
- Moved to the premises of a new keeper
- Presented for slaughter for human consumption
- Used for breeding purposes.

Horse owners who have not yet applied for a horse passport should do so immediately by contacting a relevant passport issuing organisation (see horse passports).
Other animals

If you choose to keep animals other than common farm livestock you may require extra licences under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act (e.g. ostriches, birds of prey). If you keep non-farm animals you may need to obtain a zoo licence from your local Animal Health Office. If you intend to breed pets for sale you will also need a pet shop licence. However, if surplus pets (young or old) are sold privately (without advertising) or given to new owners in exchange for a donation then a licence is not required - but you should have a procedure in place to ensure they will receive good care (see Animal welfare and health records information sheet).

At present no licence is required to keep Alpaca but Trading Standards may visit any school with animals. It is always good practice to notify all the authorities of your plans in advance; staff are usually very helpful and willing to offer advice that will either reassure you or at least prevent potential difficulties if you make a mistake.

Vehicles and drivers

Any vehicle used to transport livestock must be fit for the purpose and suitably insured; check your personal or school insurance policy to ensure that the vehicle is covered. In addition, the Animal Welfare Transport Regulation 2006 applies to all those involved with the transport of live vertebrate animals in connection with an economic activity, including:

- livestock and equine hauliers
- farmers
- commercial pet breeders.

However, the Regulation does not apply to the transport of animals where:

- The transport is not in connection with an economic activity
- Transport is to or from veterinary practices or clinics under veterinary advice
Useful information

- The animal is an individual animal accompanied by its owner (or other responsible person) and is fit for the journey
- Animals are pet animals accompanied by their owner on a private journey.

The regulation requires that:

- Vehicles have appropriate authorisation
- No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey or is accompanied by a vet (pregnant and very young animals are not normally considered fit for transport)
- All animals are be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.

Further information and relevant documents are available online at
www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/transport

Other considerations

Movement of livestock to agricultural shows or to other schools will be subject to special conditions. Check these with Defra or speak with other school farmers or local farmers. Regulations change from time to time, in particular if there is any danger of specific disease outbreaks, so regularly check with Defra for updates.
See www.defra.gov.uk or phone the Defra Helpline on 08459 335577.

Once again the advice of the School Farms Network is to visit the Defra/Business Link website where there is both advice and the legislation that underlies the guidance. If you really have a query that cannot be resolved by the guidance we suggest you call the helpline 08459 335577, or one of your peers in the School Farms Network.

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