



AHVLA News Release

Release date: 10 October 2011

New View of Livestock Holdings Improves Responsiveness in a Disease Outbreak

AHVLA has recently developed a new IT application, known as the 'CPH Viewer', which allows the Agency to better understand the spread of land making up livestock holdings within England. The application, funded by Defra, draws on information already collected by AHVLA on livestock keeping activities and plots this together with land holding data held by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). The development has been supported by key industry representatives.

The launch of the CPH Viewer represents a real step forward in terms of these two organisations being able to more effectively share a spatial view of livestock premises. It will benefit the industry as well as government by:

- improving AHVLA's interactions with customers by being able to quickly access relevant information about their livestock holdings
- minimising the need for AHVLA staff to ask livestock keepers for information they have already provided to RPA about where they keep their animals
- providing a more immediate and comprehensive view of where animals may be being kept as a better starting point in an exotic disease outbreak
- informing policy decisions, as the CPH Viewer can be used to understand the size and spread of holdings across England.

Agreement has been reached with Welsh Government to add Welsh holdings to the CPH Viewer. Similar discussions are underway with Scottish Government.

All data is held securely and at present access is limited to staff in AHVLA, RPA and Defra. It is hoped that access can be granted to Welsh Government and Scottish Government in the near future.

John Mercer, formerly Chief Livestock Adviser from the NFU comments, 'The fact that these government agencies will now have the same shared view of a livestock holding is a significant improvement on what has gone before. By bringing information together in such a visual way is bound to bring greater efficiency both in daily activity and in the initial response during a disease outbreak, thereby benefitting both industry and government.'

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Notes:

1. The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, working across Great Britain on behalf of Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government.
2. The CPH Viewer is a geospatial application which draws on data already available across Government. Its purpose is to assist AHVLA in going about its day-to-day activities, as well as supporting activity during a disease outbreak.
3. All data which is shared is done so under agreed data sharing protocol and is carefully protected.
4. 'CPH' is an abbreviation for a County/Parish/Holding number. This is a unique number allocated to each agricultural holding. It is used as the main reference for a holding against which other data, such as livestock movement reports and land parcels, is attributed.

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