

Farm Vet Champions frequently asked questions

1. What is the Farm Vet Champions project?

Farm Vet Champions (FVC) is a major collaborative project led by RCVS Knowledge to help tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR). It will help meet commitments in the government's five-year action plan on AMR and provide leadership towards the One Health agenda.

Individuals who become Farm Vet Champions can access free, evidence-based CPD. This online learning is tailored for vets who prescribe medicines and treat a range of food-producing species.

The training provides farm vets in the UK with a consistent and practical approach to applying good antibiotic stewardship in partnership with farmers and farming communities.

2. Who can become a Farm Vet Champion?

Only RCVS registered veterinary professionals who work in contact with farms, farmers, livestock and the food-producing sector, can become Farm Vet Champions.

There is no limit to the number of Farm Vet Champions who can sign up from the same veterinary practice.

3. What do I need to do, to be a Farm Vet Champion?

Farm Vet Champions must:

- Be an RCVS registered veterinary professional.
- Have completed or be actively undertaking the training.
- Be committed to the Farm Vet Champion **principles**.
- Be actively promoting the responsible use of antibiotics in their professional capacity.
- Register as a Farm Vet Champion.

The course can be accessed via the Farm Vet Champion section on <https://learn.rcvsknowledge.org/>.

Farm Vet Champions principles are to:

- Actively promote the 'Plan Prevent Protect' concept and the responsible stewardship of medicines.
- Be committed to monitoring, measuring and managing antibiotic use within the practice and on farm.
- Apply evidence-based principles of good communication with colleagues, farmers and livestock owner clients.
- Encourage others to sign up to become a Farm Vet Champions or to support the Farm Vet Champion project. (See **How can I help promote the project**)

4. I'm not eligible to be a Farm Vet Champion, how else can I get involved?

If you work for a veterinary practice or organisation, or are currently undertaking studies to become a veterinary professional, you can access the training.

For those who do not meet these criteria, or are not eligible to be Farm Vet Champions, there may be other training that is more relevant to your area of work. For example, Animal Medicines Best Practice (AMBP) training programme – [accessed via the Lantra eLearning platform](#). Species specific modules can be accessed with dairy interchangeable with cattle, sheep or pigs.

Everyone can support the Farm Vet Champions project and be supportive of good antimicrobial stewardship. AMR is a global threat, and a One Health approach can help us tackle the issue together.

Please help us to encourage your eligible colleagues to take part. (See **How can I help promote the project**).

As phase 2 of the FVC project progresses (target completion in Spring 2022) there will be the capability for practice teams to set, measure, and track SMART goals that are specific to their circumstances.

To keep informed about the project, and receive the latest developments, you can express your interest at: www.rcvsknowledge.org/farmvetchampions

5. How can I help promote the project?

We encourage as many people to help promote the project as possible as this will help to ensure a strong community of farm-associated veterinary professionals to galvanise and improve antimicrobial prescribing stewardship on a widespread scale.

Please continue the discussion around AMR with colleagues who are eligible to become Farm Vet Champions to encourage them to take part.

Practices and organisations can pledge their support and become a Farm Vet Champion stakeholder: www.rcvsknowledge.org/farmvetchampions. In doing so, they will receive updates about FVC project progress.

You could run a campaign within your organisation to promote the project. Please contact the communications team at communications@rcvsknowledge.org for any support.

Please include this link in any communications: www.rcvsknowledge.org/farmvetchampions

You can support the project on social media by using the hashtag #FarmVetChampions

You can also keep up to date about RCVS Knowledge's work, including our other AMR projects by [subscribing to our newsletter intheKNOW](#).

6. How do I access the training?

The learning modules, which have been created by our excellent [steering group](#), can be accessed at RCVS Knowledge Learn: <https://learn.rcvsknowledge.org/>.

7. What does the training cover?

The learning modules are predominantly species-specific but include an extended program on the legal use of veterinary medicines, policies, and One Health aspects of antibiotic prescribing and stewardship, alongside an extensive variety of short modules on vet-farmer communication and behaviour change. Depending on your role, and the species you treat, you can select the modules that are relevant to your interests and area of work.

Module topic	Provider
Introduction to Farm Vet Champions	Fiona Lovatt
Introduction to medicines	
Introduction to antimicrobials and antimicrobial resistance	Tim Nuttall, (The University of Edinburgh)
Legal and Responsible use of Medicines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Record keeping requirements - Storage of medicines - Labelling of medicines - Cascade - Surveillance - Practice Standards Scheme (PSS) for farm practice 	Pam Mosedale (RCVS Knowledge), Donal Murphy (NOAH), and Lee Grist (VMD)
UK strategy, categorising antibiotics and principles of monitoring antibiotic use and benchmarking	Fraser Broadfoot (VMD)
One Health and resistance monitoring	Tamsin Dewe (VMD)
Vet and Farmer Communications; attitudes and behaviour	
Applying human behaviour change science for farm animal welfare	Suzanne Rogers (HBCA)
Farm animal welfare: the human element	Jo White (HBCA)
Motivational interviewing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Example of motivational interviewing 	Alison Bard (Bristol University)
How to RESET farmers mindset	Jolanda Jansen (St Annas Advies)
Participatory approaches to change	Lisa Morgans (Innovation for Agriculture)
Experiences from Arwain Vet Cymru	Gwen Rees (AVC/Bristol University/Aberystwyth University)
Seeing things from a farmers point of view	Philip Robinson (Harper Adams University)
Prescribing cultures UK beef and sheep farmers	Kim Hamer (University of Glasgow)
Prescribing cultures UK pig farmers	Lucy Coyne (Liverpool University)
Species specific	

Responsible use of antibiotics in the dairy herd	Rachel Hayton (BCVA)
Responsible use of antibiotics in suckler cattle	Keith Cutler (BCVA)
The forgotten cattle user: youngstock	Kat Hart (BCVA)
Responsible antibiotic use in turkeys	Henrietta Kodilinye-Sims (BVPA)
Responsible antibiotic use in laying flocks	Henrietta Kodilinye-Sims (BVPA)
Responsible antibiotic use in gamebirds	Henrietta Kodilinye-Sims (BVPA)
Responsible use of antibiotics in pigs (small scale units)	Mandy Nevel (PVS)
Responsible use of antibiotics on sheep farms	Fiona Lovatt (SVS)
Responsible use of antibiotics on goat farms	Nick Perkins (GVS)

8. What are the future plans for the project?

RCVS Knowledge will be providing opportunities for Farm Vet Champions to network, both online and in person, to unite in empowering all UK farm animal veterinary professionals in responsible antibiotic prescribing behaviours. Farm Vet Champions will discuss and share their best practice and work together towards the common goal of good antibiotic stewardship, leading on to continued improvements for animal health and welfare standards alongside positive inspiration and leadership in One Health efforts.

By Spring 2022, Farm Vet Champions and their practices will also be able to use the platform to set both their own and their practices SMART goals. They will be able to track progress towards these goals, to help support the sustained translation of their learning into practice.

9. Which organisations are involved in the project?

We are grateful to be working with a specialist steering group to develop and peer-review the module content for the learning platform. Our stakeholder group are key in actively promoting and supporting the Farm Vet Champion project and encouraging sign-ups from potential Farm Vet Champions.

[To learn more about our steering group and stakeholder group, please visit our website.](#)

10. I have a specific question about the project, who should I ask?

Please email the RCVS Knowledge team at ebvm@rcvsknowledge.org

Last updated: April 2021