

COMING SOON...

The next generation livestock traceability service for sheep, goats and deer in England

Livestock traceability is fundamental to disease control and food safety, both of which are vital for customer confidence in meat and livestock products and to assure UK trade. It is not a new concept for the sheep sector and as a direct consequence of the 2001 FMD outbreak, sheep farmers and others have been reporting animal movements for many years, first by paper and then digitally through ARAMS (Animal Reporting and Movement Service).

The introduction of sheep EID in 2010 and ARAMS in 2014 underpinned a significant improvement in sheep traceability, thanks in large part to markets, collection centres and abattoirs having to record sheep, EID tags and confirming moves including those to slaughter with ARAMS digitally. As a result, more than 75% of sheep movements are now reported digitally and individually.

ARAMS will soon be replaced with an up to date service called the Livestock Information Service (LIS). Defra is investing in this multi-species approach for England, recognising that this should make life easier for businesses and create better traceability insight for disease control and provide confidence for trade. The devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales are doing likewise and we are working with them to ensure the connectivity between our different movement reporting services.

LIS testing is now nearing completion for the reporting of sheep, goat and deer movements and will be the first release of functionality on the new multi-species platform.

Initial changes for abattoirs will be relatively minor, but it is important you read the following to understand what you will need to do to use LIS when ARAMS is switched off:

1. Abattoirs will still need to provide the same information to LIS as they do to ARAMS today. The law around sheep ID, record-keeping and movement reporting is not changing, and government guidance is unchanged.
2. Abattoirs will still be required to confirm movements onto their premises digitally.

We have worked hard to prepare for a smooth transition from ARAMS to LIS but if you do experience any problems, then please contact our Service Centre who can provide clarity on what to do and where to go if you need help.

3. Abattoirs that currently report using 3rd party software will need to
 - i. contact their software provider to understand what changes their users will need to make and
 - ii. register for an account with LIS once the new website is available (dates and details tbc).
4. Abattoir users who currently report using the ARAMS website will need to register with LIS, before they can start to use the new LIS website when live.

More important things Abattoirs reporting to ARAMS need to know before it is switched off:

- There will be a one-week window as we move from ARAMS to LIS.
- LIS goes online in a staged way starting with markets, then abattoirs and finally farmers.
- All abattoirs reporting sheep movements (in that specific week) will be asked to hold their notifications until the new LIS website or your abattoir software are activated.

The new multi-species LIS in England has been developed through a government/industry collaboration called the Traceability Design User Group (TDUG). Norman Bagley (AIMS) and Nick Allen (BMPA) have been active members of that group for several years and have made a strong contribution to setting the direction for LIS and designing the service.

Together, our overall ambition is to start to make livestock information more useful for businesses, using more comprehensive, accurate livestock information to enable better business decisions.

With more than 22m sheep involved in movements between premises last year in England, the role of abattoir movement reporting is vital. Confirming quickly and accurately that sheep have been sent for slaughter and confirmed as dead is very important, especially in the event of disease incursion or food contamination.

Once the new service is up and running, we will make additional support available via our Service Centre. The team will be able to signpost the right help and support to abattoirs, as we know and understand how challenging some actions can be for some businesses, such as including sheep EID tag numbers in movement reports. LIS will help us understand how well this is being done and can help us understand how we will need to support businesses to do this better and therefore improve their performance.

LIS will share more details shortly about what is changing, what abattoirs need to do differently, how, and when.