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To the attached circulation list

2 November 2009

DISEASE AND FARM ANIMAL WELFARE

The Farm Animal Welfare Council has established a Working group, under the Chairmanship of Meryl Ward, to look into the impact on animal welfare of diseases in farm animals. The study begins in the Summer 2009 and is due to conclude with a published report in the Summer of 2012.

Scope of the study:

The aim of this study is to:

- examine disease incidence by species, including both physical and mental health impacts, and their relationship to animal welfare;
- examine the infrastructure, education and other frameworks that shape the current management of animal disease; and
- identify potential improvements that could reduce the current disease challenge at national, sectoral and individual farm level.

The potential threat of emerging exotic diseases is also examined. The report will cover the main sectors of farm animals, except fish (which may be addressed by another study).

Obviously the scope is wide but the report will use examples to illustrate points of principle, rather than deal with all diseases.

Major areas for Investigation:

1. The incidence and severity (as measured by duration and intensity) of the impact of the major diseases of animals, categorising them by direct and indirect welfare significance and numbers of animals affected.
2. Measures for the recognition of poor welfare and its assessment, and also an assessment of the risk to animal welfare of notifiable and endemic diseases.
3. Current disease surveillance systems at national, sectoral and farm level – their purpose, adequacy and potential for improvement.

4. The availability of current disease diagnostic techniques, and the availability and use of preventative and curative treatments.
5. Major outbreaks of notifiable disease and the consequences for animal welfare.
6. Potential of on-farm disease management, supply chain led solutions and Government strategies to improve welfare through improved health.
7. Potential for improved disease resistance and management through genetic selection.
8. Development of Animal Health and Welfare Strategies and the influence of Europe and OIE. Conflicts between welfare and other policies (e.g. environmental, trade, public health, etc.).
9. The role of education, training and competence and the farm animal health plan in driving improvements – particularly the benefits of stockman/animal interactions.

Comments are invited on the main areas of investigation and anything that consultees may feel is missing.

There are also specific questions in the enclosed Appendix that the Group would like stakeholders to consider and provide answers to those they feel are relevant to them.

In addition to this consultation exercise, we may write to some organisations with specific questions as work progresses. Some may also be invited to discussions with the Group. Normally FAWC reports list the names of the organisations that gave evidence. Should you prefer to be excluded from the list, please let us know when you reply.

If you believe there are any important omissions from the list of consultees, I should be obliged if you would let me have the name and address of an appropriate contact.

FAWC thanks you for your co-operation and looks forward to receiving your comments by 8 January 2010.

Yours faithfully

Richard Aram
FAWC Secretariat

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

a. Name of Organisation responding:

b. What are the top priority diseases in each sector in terms of animal welfare impact and how are these changing?

It will help the Working Group focus their attention on the diseases of farm animals that have the highest impact on animal welfare if you could consider and score the top priority diseases in each livestock sector in which you have direct involvement or interest, with additional commentary where necessary. Carefully consider the impact of disease on individual animals as well as the whole group. There is no need to answer for all sectors. Please could you indicate if your priorities are influenced by a regional or national perspective.

		Intensity of welfare effect (1-4) (a)	Duration of welfare effect (1-4) (b)	Incidence at farm and national level per annum	Other comments
<u>Species/ Sector</u>	<u>Disease</u>				
<i>e.g. Pig</i>	<i>Actinobacillus pleuropneumonia</i>	4	1 (short but severe for most pigs). 3 (for % of pigs left with severe respiratory damage)	National level: <i>fluctuating</i> Farm: – <i>widespread in building/age group on outbreak</i>	
<i>e.g. Sheep</i>	<i>Septic pedal arthritis</i>	4	4	0.1%	
<i>e.g. Dairy Cattle</i>	<i>Sole Ulcer</i>	4	4	1%	

(a) 1) normal, 2) mild, 3) moderate to 4) substantial deviation from the norm

(b) 1) acute (less than 24 hours), 2) short (days), 3) medium (e.g. weeks) to 4) long term (e.g. months) duration of welfare effect

For incidence, please describe both by farm level and national incidence

- c. What are the most valuable measures that indicate the welfare impact of the diseases you have listed above?**

- d. Are current surveillance systems and diagnostic techniques for disease in farm animals adequate for endemic, exotic and emerging diseases?**

- e. Are current systems for control of notifiable disease adequate and what impact do they have on the welfare of infected, and non-infected, animals?**

- f. What are the value and efficacy of the various on-farm methods of preventing and limiting the diseases you have listed above, e.g. biosecurity, farm health planning, vaccination, husbandry, treatment, etc.? What are the barriers to uptake? How are these affected by the husbandry system, industry economics, international trade and public perception?**

- g. To what extent can genetic selection contribute to disease resistance, and progress in improving animal welfare?**

- h. Are there major gaps in current research and development in funding, organisation or subject matter?**

- i. What sources of information and advice do you regularly use in deciding how to manage and treat your livestock?**

- j. Do you have a view on the roles, responsibilities and training of veterinarians in animal welfare?**

- k. How do you train and assess competence of staff?**

List of addressees:

2nd Pillar Projects
2 Sisters Food Products Ltd
Acorn House Veterinary Surgery
ADAS
Agskills
Advisory Committee on Organic Standards
Advocates for Animals
Agricultural Industries Confederation
Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland
Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board
Aldi Stores
All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare
Alliance of Independent Retailers
Animal Aid
Animal Air Transport Association
Animal Diseases Research Association Moredun Institute
Animal Health
Animal Health Trust
Animal Procedures Committee
Animal Rights Law Centre
ASDA Group Plc
Askham Bryan College
Associated British Foods
Association of British Abattoir Operators
Association of Scottish Colleges
Assured British Meat
Assured British Pigs
Assured Food Standards
Aviagen Ltd
AWSELVA
Babraham Institute
Barony College
Berkshire College of Agriculture
Bernard Matthews Foods Ltd
Bicton College of Agriculture
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
Bishop Burton College
Bishopton Vet Group
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Bridgewater College
British Cattle Veterinary Association
British Chicken Information Service
British Deer Farmers Association
British Deer Society
British Egg Industry Council
British Free Range Egg Producers Association
British Goat Society
British Institute of Agricultural Consultants
British Pig Association
British Pig Executive
British Poultry Breeders & Hatcheries Association
British Poultry Council
British Retail Consortium
British Society of Animal Science
British Trout Association
British United Turkeys
British Veterinary Association (BVA)
British Veterinary Poultry Association

Chairman: Professor Christopher Wathes, BSc, PhD
FAWC website: <http://www.fawc.org.uk>

Budgen Stores Ltd
Cobb Vantress Inc.
Cambridge Veterinary
Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture
Carmarthenshire College
Catholic Concern for Animals
Central Science Laboratory
Cherry Valley Farms Ltd
City University (London) Institute of Health Sciences
Cobb Breeding Company Ltd
Coleg Powys
Companion Animal Welfare Council
Compassion in World Farming
Conservative Animal Welfare Group
Consumers Association
Consumers in Europe Group
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd
Countryside Alliance
Council of Europe
Crowshall Veterinary Services
Dairy UK
Defra Animal Welfare Team
Defra Food and Farming Group (Disease)
Duchy College
England Implementation Group, Animal Health and Welfare Strategy
English Beef and Lamb Executive
English Nature
Eurepgap
Eurogroup for Animal Welfare
European Commission
Faccenda Chickens
Farm & Food Society
Farm Animal Care Trust
Farm Animal Initiative
Farm Animal Welfare Network (FAWN)
Farm Assured Welsh Livestock
Farmers' Union of Wales
Farming and Livestock Concern UK
Federation of Muslim Organisations
Federation of Veterinarians in Europe
Food and Drink Federation
Food Aware
Food Standards Agency
Freedom Food Ltd
Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust
Game Farmers Association
Garth Vet Group
George Veterinary Group
Genesis Quality Assurance Ltd
Genus Breeding Ltd
Grampian Country Food Group
Halal Food Authority
Halal Monitoring Committee
Hannah Research Institute
Harper Adams University College
Haven Veterinary Group
Holstein UK
Humane Slaughter Association (HSA)
Hy-Line UK

Inchcolm Veterinary Services
Institute for Animal Health
Institute of Biology
Institute of Food Research
Institute of Grocery Distribution
Institute of Trading Standards Administration
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
International Supreme Council of Sikhs in GB
Islamic Cultural Centre
Islamic Food and Nutrition Council
Islamic Foundation
J Sainsbury plc
John Lewis plc
LACORS
Lantra
Licensed Animal Slaughterers and Salvage Association
Lidl UK
Linking Environment and Farming
Livestock Auctioneers Association
Local Authorities Caterers Association
Local Government Association
Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI)
Manor Court Veterinary Centre
Marks & Spencer plc
Meat Hygiene Service
Middlesex University
Milk Development Council
Minster Veterinary Practice
Muslim Council of Great Britain
NADIS
National Animal Health & Welfare Panel
National Assembly for Wales, Rural Affairs Department
National Association of Agricultural Contractors
National Association of Local Councils
National Beef Association
National Consumer Council
National Consumer Federation
National Council of Shechita Boards
National Council of Women of Great Britain
National Dairy Farm Assurance Scheme Ltd
National Farmers Union
National Farmers' Union of Scotland
National Farmers' Union (Wales)
National Federation of Meat & Food Traders
National Federation of Womens' Institutes
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
National Office of Animal Health Ltd (NOAH)
National Pig Association
National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC)
National Secular Society
National Sheep Association
National Standing Committee for Farm Animal Genetic Resources
Network of Sikh Organisations
Northern Foods Ltd
Nuffield Council on Bioethics
OIE – World Organisation for Animal Health
Organic Farmers and Growers
Organic Food Federation
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Pig Health and Production Consultancy

Pig Veterinary Society
Poultec Training Ltd
Poultry Health Services
Provision Trade Federation
Quaker Concern for Animal Welfare
Quality Meat Scotland
Queens University of Belfast
Road Haulage Association
Roslin Institute (Edinburgh)
Rowett Research Institute
Royal Agricultural College
Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE)
Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
Royal Veterinary College
Sandhill Veterinary Services
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Animal Health and Welfare Advisory Group
Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Science
Scottish Consumers Council
Scottish Dairy Association
Scottish Federation of Meat Traders' Association
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Scottish Government, Rural Affairs and Environment Department
Shechita UK
Sheep Veterinary Society
Slate Hall Veterinary Practice
Small Farm Association
Soil Association
Sparsholt College
St David's Poultry Team
Sun Valley Foods Ltd
SUSTAIN
Tenant Farmers Association
Tesco Stores Ltd
The Food Commission
Traditional Farmfresh Turkey Association
Union of Muslim Organisations of UK & EIRE
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare/Humane Slaughter Association
University College, London
University of Aberdeen
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
University of Newcastle Upon Tyne
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Plymouth
University of Reading
University of Stirling
University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Bangor
Vegetarian Economy & Green Agriculture (VEGA) Research
Vegetarian International Voice for Animals (VIVA)
Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Veterinary Public Health Association
Vion UK
WM Morrison Supermarkets Ltd
Waitrose Ltd
Wales Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Steering Group
Welsh Assembly Government Rural Affairs Department
Welsh Consumer Council
Welsh Local Government Association
West Ridge Veterinary Practice
Women's Food & Farming Union
World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
Wye College
Zoos Forum