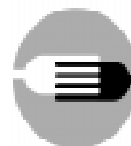




BSE Enforcement Bulletin 52



Food
Standards
Agency

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The contents of this Bulletin, together with back issues and related material, can be found on MAFF's website:
<http://www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/bse/index.html>

THIS MONTH

- SVS audits have found no cases of bovine spinal cord attached to health marked carcasses in Great Britain this month.
- 99% SRM compliance by slaughterhouses in GB with 1 failure and 3 failures elsewhere.
- 100% SRM compliance reported in Northern Ireland

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Well, what a month November has turned out to be. Numbers of BSE cases in Belgium, France and Ireland have increased this year although attention has focussed on France, with numbers rising from 31 cases in 1999 to 112 this year, at 24 November. However, some 42 of these cases were as a result of a new testing programme which began in June. Denmark, Spain and Germany confirmed their first native-born cases of BSE and consumer confidence throughout the Continent took a dramatic downturn. To date, there have been no officially reported cases of BSE in native-born cattle in Austria, Finland, Greece, Italy and Sweden.

Some Member States introduced targeted bans on imports of cattle and/or beef and France introduced or proposed to introduce new measures going beyond those agreed Community-wide in June. The EU Scientific Steering Committee was asked to review the unilateral measures taken by Member States. At home, both local authorities and the Meat Hygiene Service were asked to step up documentation checks on imported beef to ensure compliance with the over thirty month rule. The Commission issued proposals on BSE testing and then further proposals on over thirty month cattle, testing and feed bans.

We will report in more detail next month on all this activity and the further discussions currently underway in Brussels. In the meantime, the Food Standards Agency stated that there was no reason to advise against the consumption of legally sold EU beef but if consumers were concerned about the source of the meat they were buying, they should ask their retailer.

The BSE review website has been extended to provide you with the latest news on the situation, SRM controls in all Member States and the Agency's advice on imports: www.bsereview.org.uk

Jill Wilson
Editor

BSE: status report

This section is designed to provide a quick reference to basic BSE statistics and a context for the enforcement results presented in the Bulletin.

Confirmed BSE cases (by date of restriction)

Figures represent cases confirmed and in each year relate to cattle first placed under restriction in that year. For example, an animal that first showed clinical signs and was placed under restriction in December 1999 would, if confirmed, be included in the 1999 total. The figures are therefore provisional.

Great Britain

	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain ²
Total 1994	20,322	2,296	1,325	23,945
Total 1995	12,307	1,322	672	14,302
Total 1996	7,076	636	301	8,016
Total 1997	3,845	323	141	4,312
Total 1998	2,864	230	84	3,179
Total 1999	2,065	152	37	2,274
2000 ¹	952	75	27	1,076
Cumulative total (to 31 October 2000)	152,759	16,384	8,206	177,417
Of which born after the ban on ruminant protein in cattle feed (18.7.88)				41,832

¹ As at 31 October 2000

² GB total includes 57 cases not placed under restriction: 30 private submissions and 27 from OTMS surveys (see Bulletin #36)

Northern Ireland

Total 1994	345
Total 1995	173
Total 1996	74
Total 1997	23
Total 1998	18
Total 1999	6
Total to end October 2000	15
Cumulative total (since 1988):	1,803
Of which born after the ban on ruminant protein in cattle feed (11.1.89)	237

Over Thirty Month Slaughter Scheme

Region	Animals presented for slaughter from 29 April 1996 to 19 November 2000		
	Abattoirs	Incinerators	Total
England	2,620,536	224,785	2,845,321
Wales	428,486	75,298	503,784
Scotland	627,682	39,699	667,381
Northern Ireland			
Ireland	671,631	0	671,631
UK	4,348,335	339,782	4,688,117

Selective cull

Region	Animals slaughtered from 24 February 1997 to 12 November 2000		
	Abattoirs	Incinerators	Total
England	64,511	3,336	67,847
Wales	5,291	177	5,468
Scotland	2,236	307	2,543
Great Britain	72,038	3,820	75,858
Northern Ireland			
Ireland	1,457	28	1,485
UK	73,495	3,848	77,343

Offspring cull

The BSE Offspring Slaughter Regulations 1998 (SI No. 1998/3070), implemented a compulsory cull of offspring born on or after 1 August 1996 to confirmed BSE cases superseding the voluntary cull that started in August 1998.

Cumulative data as at 10 November 2000 for both the voluntary and compulsory phases of the cull is shown in the table below.

	Backlog cases ¹	Non Backlog cases ²
Offspring born after 1 August 1996 to BSE cases	7,529	10,879
Offspring already dead	3,534	4,819
Offspring slaughtered under the cull	3,899	5,786
Animals awaiting slaughter	0	167

¹ Offspring born after 1 August 1996 to dams in which BSE was confirmed before 25 November 1998

² Offspring born to BSE cases confirmed after 25 November 1998

i For further information on the offspring cull, contact Andy Dixon on +44 (0)20 7904 6322 email: a.dixon@ahvg.maff.gsi.gov.uk

Cattle Identification Inspections

Inspections for Great Britain between April and 29 November 2000

Holdings inspected	2,419
Animals physically inspected and records checked	149,567
Records checked for animals no longer on farm born after 1/1/98 and animals born before 1/1/98	190,226

Cattle Passports

		of which	
Cattle Passports issued	12,607,141	6,388,594	by Agricultural Departments in GB July 1996 - Sept 1998
		6,218,547	by BCMS between 28 September 1998 and 31 October 2000
Cattle movements processed by BCMS 28 September 1998 to 31 October 2000	10,427,015	2,766,284	captured on Passport application forms
		5,533,057	notified by postcard
		2,127,674	notified electronically

BSE cases by year of birth

In reply to a written question, Minister of State and Deputy Agriculture Minister Joyce Quin released the table below which shows the number of confirmed BSE cases by year of birth in Great Britain – as at 30 October 2000.

Year of Birth	No. of confirmed cases
1974	1
1975	0
1976	2
1977	10
1978	6
1979	41
1980	101
1981	261
1982	1,393
1983	4,461
1984	8,067
1985	11,065
1986	19,732
1987	36,869
1988	22,186
1989	12,645
1990	5,640
1991	4,575
1992	3,155
1993	2,359
1994	1,206
1995	294
1996	3 ¹
Unknown ²	43,345
Total	176,923

¹ of which 1 born after 1 August 1996 when feed controls were tightened (see Bulletin #50).

² before record keeping requirements were strengthened in 1995/96

i For further information about the Cattle Tracing System contact the **BCMS Helpline** between 8.00am - 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am - 1.00pm Saturday on **0845 050 1234** (UK calls charged at local rate) or **+44 1900 702 222** (from outside the UK)

Information can also be found on the BCMS website at: www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/bcms

i For general information on BSE, visit the MAFF website at: www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/bse/index.html

Alternatively, contact the **MAFF Helpline** on **0645 33 55 77** (UK local rate) +44 20 7270 3000 (if calling from outside the UK)

News Items

EU Pithing ban - consultation

The consultation period is now closed on proposals to implement an EU-wide ban on pithing in cattle, sheep and goats contained in Commission Decision 2000/418/EC, which was adopted on 29 June (see Bulletin #47).

“Pithing” is the masceration - or mashing - of the brain by a rod introduced through a hole in the beast’s skull, made by a captive bolt gun. The practice is carried out in some slaughterhouses to prevent injury to slaughtermen by immobilising animals and preventing involuntary kicking.

The EU ban is being introduced because research has indicated that there is a theoretical possibility that the practice of pithing may cause cattle carcasses to be contaminated with brain tissue.

The research, by the University of Bristol, was looking for signs of brain tissue in the jugular vein (the blood vessel draining the head) of cattle which had been stunned by various methods (see Bulletin #40). They found brain tissue in jugular venous blood of one animal out of sixteen that been stunned by a captive bolt gun before pithing. None of fifteen animals that had been stunned using a captive bolt gun without subsequent pithing showed any sign of brain material in their blood.

The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) considered the results of the research but did not feel there was sufficient data to give an accurate assessment of the frequency with which pithing might lead to brain material entering the blood stream. The Committee advised that the very low number of infected animals at a late stage of the incubation period entering the food chain in the UK meant there was no need to alter current slaughter practices (see Bulletin #29). However, this view was not shared by the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) which advises the European Commission, and the ban was subsequently included in the EU Decision. The Food Standards Agency accepted that such a ban would provide an extra safeguard

by removing any possibility that brain tissue could be transported via the bloodstream to the edible parts of the carcass, as a result of pithing. The ban is therefore being introduced as a precautionary measure.

This is the second phase of the implementation of the Decision which is due to come into effect on 1 January next year. The other two phases are:-

- EU-wide rules on removal and disposal of specified risk material (SRM) from cattle, sheep and goats from 1 October 2000 (see Bulletin #51);
- introduction of EU controls on SRM imports from third countries from 1 April 2001.

Separate but parallel legislation is being introduced in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

i For further information and a copy of the consultation documents, contact **Martin Roberts** in the Food Standards Agency’s Meat Hygiene Division on +44 (0)20 7238 6489 email: martin.roberts@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Food Standards Agency review of BSE controls

The final public meeting of the Stakeholder Group to discuss the Food Standards Agency's review of BSE controls was held on 2 November at the Cumberland Hotel in London. A revised report (the third draft) was subsequently discussed by the Food Standards Agency Board at their meeting in Cardiff on 9 November.

The final report is currently in preparation and is expected to be issued before Christmas.

i A copy of all three draft reports, background information and documents, comments, details of meetings and news are available on the **BSE controls review** website at: www.bsereview.org.uk.

Details of Food Standards Agency Board meetings are available on the Agency's website at: www.foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk/events.htm

For further information, contact the Agency's **Food Standards Helpline** on **0845 757 9012** (UK local rate) or +44 20 7972 2400 (if calling from outside the UK)
email: helpline@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Proposals to negotiate a relaxation of beef export controls

Earlier this month, Agriculture Minister Nick Brown wrote to Commissioner Byrne asking the Commission to proceed with proposals to relax the export ban on Northern Ireland cattle and beef; to allow the export of bone-in veal and beef under the Date-based Export Scheme (DBES); and to permit DBES slaughterhouses to handle non-DBES eligible animals at separate times or on separate production lines.

However, in the light of subsequent concerns about BSE in Europe and the increase in BSE cases in Northern Ireland (up from 6 cases in 1999 to 20 at the end of November this year), Brid Rogers, NI Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, announced on 27 November that she had decided not to proceed with the NI case at the moment. Nevertheless, officials will continue to work informally with Commission officials on finalising the plan.

Nick Brown has also asked the Commission to revisit conditions for the export of tallow and tallow derivatives following relevant Scientific Steering Committee Opinions issued earlier this year.

The proposals on Northern Ireland exports were issued for consultation earlier this year (see Bulletin #49). Comments received from interested parties are being taken into account in finalising the plan.

i For further information, contact **Neil Leach** in MAFF's Beef Export Task Force on +44 (0) 20 7904 6841
email: n.k.leach@ahvg.maff.gov.uk

The SSC's Opinion on the relaxation of the bone-in veal is at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/ssc/out139_en.pdf

Their Opinion on the use of vertebral column for the production of gelatin and tallow is at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/ssc/out77_en.html

The consultation package is available on the MAFF website at: www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/int_trade/gen_int/ni_cons.pdf

Responses to the consultation exercise are available from the **MAFF library** at 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH. Telephone **0645 33 55 77** (UK local rate) or +44 (0)20 270 3000 (if calling from outside the UK)

Cattle herd registration project nearly complete

Following a major logistical exercise, just over 90% of the entire herd in Great Britain is now recorded on the cattle tracing database held by the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS). The registration project involves updating information on around 6 million animals and extending the cattle database to cover all cattle in Great Britain.

A year ago 40% of the national herd was recorded on the database, but as at 30 November cover had increased to just over 90%. Since 15 September, around 3.8 million sets of movement cards printed with the animal's details have been issued for older cattle so that farmers can report subsequent movements to BCMS.

The exercise was launched in August (see Bulletin #49) when nearly 113,000 forms were sent to cattle farmers seeking details of cattle born before 1 July 1996 and the current location of cattle issued with passports between 1 July 1996 and 28 September 1998 (since their movements have not been held centrally). Farmers were asked to return the information by 25 September against a common 'census' date of 10 September.

By end November, about 30,000 farmers had not yet responded. Although the majority of these are not believed to have any older cattle, this needs to be confirmed. Farmers were advised of the potential benefits of having a complete national database and have been informed that legislation will make it compulsory to register all cattle and report all cattle movements. The English Cattle (Identification of Older Animals) Regulations 2000 came into force on 1 December 2000 and will make it an offence to move any animal after 29 January 2001 and not report that movement to the BCMS. Between 1 December 2000 and 29 January 2001 it will be an offence not to report the movement of any animal for which a movement card has been issued. Penalties for each breach of the Regulations range from a maximum £5,000 fine to two years imprisonment.

i For further information about the registration project contact the **BCMS Helpline** on **0845 050 1234** (UK calls charged at local rate) or **+44 900 702 222** (from outside the UK)

Alternatively, visit the MAFF website at: www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/index.htm

Contact the Stationery Office on **0345 023 474** (UK local rate) or **+44 870 600 522** (if calling from outside the UK) for copies of the Cattle (Identification of Older Animals) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000 No 2976) priced £2.00 or visit the HMSO website at: www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2000/20002976.htm

EU Regulation on Animal By-Products: proposals published

Following last month's publication of the European Commission's proposals for a Regulation on animal by-products, MAFF has sent a summary and draft Regulatory Impact Assessment to interested organisations for comment.

The draft EU Regulation covers controls on:

- animal by-products (ie animal carcasses, parts of animal carcasses and products of animal origin which are not intended for human consumption)
- manure and gut contents
- processed animal protein

These categories include blood products, hides and skins, petfood, game trophies, etc.

The Regulation will consolidate and update the provisions of the Animal Waste Directive (90/667/EEC), parts of the BALAI Directive (92/118/EEC) and associated legislation. It will set out conditions for the disposal, processing and use of animal by-products and products derived from animal by-products. It will also apply controls to trade in such material within the European Union and to imports from third countries. In addition, the approval or registration of most premises in which by-products are processed or disposed of would be required.

The main change from the existing legislation would be the introduction of three categories of animal by-products. Categories 1 and 2 would be "high risk" material, such as Specified Risk Material and the carcasses of fallen stock or diseased animals. Category 3 would be "low risk" material (essentially that which is fit for human consumption). Category 1 material could not be used for any purpose, while Category 2 material would have a very limited number of uses (such as the use of manure and gut contents in a biogas plant and the use of rendered fat (tallow) in an oleochemical plant). Only Category 3 material could be used in livestock feedingstuffs and petfood.

The Commission's aim is to protect public and animal health and maintain consumer confidence in the livestock industry and hopes that the new provisions will come into force on 1 February 2003, allowing 18 months for them to be implemented.

Food Standards Agency statement of general objectives and practices

The Food Standards Agency has published the final text of its Statement of General Objectives and Practices. This document describes in broad terms how the Agency will operate and has been approved by the Secretary of State for Health and the devolved administrations.

Among other things, the Statement sets out the Agency's commitment to:

- put the consumer first, by developing effective and well-targeted policies on food safety and other food issues, by promoting the interests of UK consumers in Europe, and by providing clear advice and information
- build and maintain a reputation for expertise, excellence and independence
- work closely with all stakeholders, other public bodies and Government Departments with an interest in food safety and other consumer interests in relation to food
- be accountable, open, consistent and proportionate, and adopt best practice in the way it works.

The draft was issued for consultation earlier this year (see MHER #38).

i A copy of the MAFF's letter to interested organisations along with a summary and draft Regulatory Impact Assessment can be found on the MAFF website at: www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/bse/general/conslet.pdf

If you do not have access to the internet, contact **Lisa Phipps** in MAFF's Animal By-products and SRM Branch on +44 (0) 20 7904 6407

The full text of the proposal can be found on the EU website at: europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/bse/bse18_en.pdf

i A copy of the Statement is available from the Agency's website at: www.foodstandards.gov.uk/sgop.htm

If you do not have access to the Internet, contact **Christine Pearson** in the FSA's Corporate Strategy Division on +44 (0)20 7972 2387

email: christine.pearson@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

European Food Authority – proposed Regulation adopted

The European Commission has formally adopted a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council which sets out general principles of food law and establishes the European Food Authority (EFA). These were identified as priority measures in the Commission's White Paper on Food Safety (Bulletin #42). There will be a separate proposal on the location of the EFA.

As proposed, the EFA will have a separate legal identity and cover all areas having an impact on food safety including animal health and welfare, plant health and nutrition. Its key functions will be to: provide independent scientific advice on food safety and nutrition issues; identify emerging risks; operate an extended rapid alert system; and inform the public on all matters within its remit. It will therefore focus on risk assessment and risk communication.

Commission proposals on the structure and functions of the EFA are detailed but many issues remain unresolved and will require further discussion. We are particularly interested to see how issues such as the Authority's remit and the integration of risk assessment, risk communication and risk management will be addressed (the UK Government's concerns on these issues were expressed in its response to the Commission in May this year (see Bulletin #47)).

The general food law provisions seek to establish basic requirements for the marketing of food and for the assurance of a safe food supply to consumers. These include a definition of 'food', responsibilities for both food and animal feed businesses, principles of food trade, and transparency requirements.

The target for adoption of the Regulation by the European Parliament and Council is December 2001 so that the Authority could start operations in 2002. It is expected to have about 250 staff within 3 years and a budget of some Euro 40 million.

The Food Standards Agency will be consulting widely on the proposed Regulation.

i The Commission's news release announcing the adoption of the proposal is available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/library/press/press82_en.html

The Proposals are at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/intro/efa_prop_en.html

The Commission's White Paper on Food Safety (COM (1999) 719 of 12 January 2000) is at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg24/library/pub/pub06_en.pdf

The FSA's consultation package will shortly be available at: www.foodstandards.gov.uk/consultations.htm

For further information, contact **Vivien Lund** in Food Labelling Standards and Consumer Protection Division on +44 (0)20 7238 6252
email: vivien.lund@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

European Commission website

The following documents are now available on the Commission's website:

- Press release on the Scientific Standing Committee (SSC) opinion on the scientific justification of national BSE measures
- Press release on the Commission's new measures on BSE
- Frequently asked questions about BSE
- SSC opinion on the scientific basis for: the import bans by 3 Member States with regard to BSE risks in France and the Republic of Ireland; measures proposed by France with regard to BSE risks; and, banning animal protein from the feed for all farmed animals. Adopted 27-28 November 2000.
- Press releases on the statements by Commissioner David Byrne on new BSE cases and BSE developments in Germany and Spain
- SSC opinion on the Lancet article of 16 September 2000 on the transmission of BSE by blood transfusion in sheep
- SSC statement on mammalian derived meat and bone meal forming a cross contaminant of animal feedstuffs adopted on 24-25 September
- SSC notes on the safe handling, transport and temporary storage of meat and bone meal which may be contaminated with a BSE agent adopted on 26-27 October 2000
- SSC opinion on the proposal for controlled use of ruminant SRMs as feed for fur animals in FINLAND
- Speech on BSE made by Commissioner Byrne to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 15 November 2000 and supplementary speaking note on meat and bone meal
- Results of the Standing Veterinary Committee (SVC) 15 November 2000 meeting on BSE
- Main EU legislation on BSE
- Press release on the current situation on BSE in the EU
- Press release on the proposal for a BSE test for older cattle in the EU
- Report of 8-12 May 2000 FVO mission to FINLAND to look at BSE controls and cattle identification
- Minutes of 14-15 September 2000 SSC meeting

i The press releases, speeches, SVC results and BSE related documents can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/bse/index_en.html

The SSC opinions can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/ssc/index_en.html

The FVO report can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/finland/vi_rep_finl_1/27-2000_en.pdf

Enforcement results

SRM audit

The Bulletin gives results of SRM audit surveillance for a rolling year. This issue contains the most up-to-date results from November 1999 to October 2000, the latest month for which figures are available. Entries that have changed since previous editions are shown in *italics*.

Specified Risk Material

Great Britain (State Veterinary Service)

There were four unsatisfactory visits in October, one of which was at a slaughterhouse.

Slaughterhouses

Date	1999		2000										12 months total
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
% Satisfactory	99.4	99.1	98.9	99.4	99.1	99.4	99.7	99.7	99.1	99.7	99.6	99.7	99.4
Number of visits	356	348	352	343	352	321	327	344	329	292	276	291	3,931
Satisfactory visits	354	345	348	341	349	319	326	343	326	291	275	290	3,907
Total unsatisfactory	2	3	4	2	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	24
Inadequate separation from other animal by-products	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
Inadequate storage	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Inadequate staining	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	6
Inadequate separation from materials fit for human consumption	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	7
of which findings of spinal cord	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Inadequate record keeping	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Movement to inappropriate destination	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Inadequate weight records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dentition test/young lamb stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation failure	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Non removal of spinal cord/vertebral column, head and spleen (sheep only)	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5

There was one unsatisfactory visit to a slaughterhouse in October. The operator's records showed the despatch of SRM from cattle and sheep on a day when no such movements had taken place. In addition, SRM was

being moved to an incinerator whose approval had been suspended, as reported last month. The results of a follow up visit are still awaited.

Notes

"Percentage satisfactory" figures are presented for guidance, but have significant disadvantages when the number of premises inspected is small, when a single failure will markedly reduce the % satisfactory value. For example, if only 3 premises are visited, the only possible compliance percentages are 100, 67, 33 and 0. In these circumstances, caution should be exercised when interpreting the significance of changes in the percentage figures. This does **not** apply to the absolute figures in the tables.

More than one failure may be recorded during a single inspection visit to an individual premises. For this reason, the total number of unsatisfactory visits may be less than the total number of contraventions.

Knackers/hunt kennels

The SVS audit is designed to safeguard the human and animal food chains. In the case of knackers and hunt kennels, whose products are not eligible for the human food chain, the audit is aimed mainly at the protection of animal health. The main throughput of hunt kennels is made up of casualty animals and dead stock.

	Date		2000										12 months total
	1999	1999	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
% Satisfactory	98.9	97.8	98.9	99.3	98.5	99.3	99.3	99.3	100	99	99.6	99.5	99.1
Number of visits	278	273	281	294	260	268	277	283	262	249	250	216	3,191
Satisfactory visits	275	267	278	292	256	266	275	281	262	247	249	215	3,163
Total unsatisfactory	3	6	3	2	4	2	2	2	0	2	1	1	28
Inadequate separation from other animal by-products	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	12
Inadequate storage	2	4	1	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	17
Inadequate staining	2	5	3	2	3	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	23
Inadequate record keeping	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Movement to inappropriate destination	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Inadequate weight records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There was one unsatisfactory visit to a hunt kennel in October due to a failure to keep adequate records of the despatch of cattle SRM and failing to maintain the level of staining. A satisfactory follow up visit has since been made by local veterinary staff.

Additional failure in September

There was one further unsatisfactory visit at a hunt kennel in September due to a failure to correctly store and stain cattle SRM. A satisfactory follow up visit has since been made by local veterinary staff.

Incinerators

	Date		2000										12 months total
	1999	1999	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
% Satisfactory	100	100	99.6	99.2	99.6	99.6	99.6	99.6	99.6	98.6	100	99	99.5
Number of visits	213	220	228	246	230	237	232	257	235	210	226	194	2,728
Satisfactory visits	213	220	227	244	229	236	231	256	234	207	226	192	2,715
Total unsatisfactory	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	2	13
Inadequate separation from other animal by-products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Inadequate storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Inadequate staining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Inadequate record keeping	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Inadequate weight records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incinerator not operating satisfactorily	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	2	12

There were two unsatisfactory visits in October. Both incinerators are at hunt kennels where ash was being disposed of in burial pits with standing water at the bottom. The results of the follow up visits are awaited.

Rendering plants

Date	1999		2000										12 months total	
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct		
% Satisfactory	97.1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99.8
Number of visits	34	35	31	35	39	32	33	39	32	36	37	31	414	
Satisfactory visits	33	35	31	35	39	32	33	39	32	36	37	31	413	
Total unsatisfactory	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Inadequate separation from other animal by-products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate staining	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Inadequate record keeping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate weight records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Rendering plant not operating satisfactorily	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Transportation failure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

All visits were satisfactory.

Collection centres

Date	1999		2000										12 months total	
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct		
% Satisfactory	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Number of visits	32	31	32	31	31	30	31	30	29	26	26	21	350	
Satisfactory visits	32	31	32	31	31	30	31	30	29	26	26	21	350	
Total unsatisfactory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate separation from other animal by products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate staining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate record keeping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Movement to inappropriate destination	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate weight records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

All visits were satisfactory.

Article 10 premises

Article 10 premises are defined in the Specified Risk Material Order 1997 as suitable to process SRM for use in a manufacturing process which is not producing any food or feedingstuff, cosmetic, pharmaceutical or medical product or anything intended or likely to come into direct contact with any of them.

At present there are 3 premises approved under Article 10. There were 2 visits made in October, which were both satisfactory.

i For further information on the SRM controls in Great Britain, contact **Martin Roberts** on +44 (0)20 7238 6489
email: martin.roberts@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Northern Ireland (DARD Veterinary Service)

Slaughterhouses

Date	1999		2000										12 months total	
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct		
% Satisfactory	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Number of visits	11	13	14	12	13	10	9	12	8	12	9	11	134	
Satisfactory visits	11	13	14	12	13	10	9	12	8	12	9	11	134	
Total unsatisfactory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate separation from other animal by-products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate staining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate separation from materials fit for human consumption	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
of which findings of spinal cord	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate record keeping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Movement to inappropriate destination	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate weight records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Transportation Failure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

All visits were satisfactory.

Rendering plants

Date	1999		2000										12 months total
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
% Satisfactory	61.5	71.4	75.0	92.9	88.9	91.7	92.3	100	100	85.7	100	100	88.6
Number of visits	13	14	12	14	18	12	13	16	16	14	13	12	167
Satisfactory visits	8	10	9	13	16	11	12	16	16	12	13	12	148
Total unsatisfactory	5	4	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	6	25
Inadequate separation from other animal by-products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate storage	5	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	15
Inadequate staining	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Inadequate record keeping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate weight records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rendering plant not operating satisfactorily	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Transportation failure	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	6

All visits were satisfactory.

Hunt kennels

	Date		2000										12 months total	
	1999		Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		Sep
% Satisfactory	90.9	76.9	92.9	100	92	92.9	100	100	100	100	100	93	100	94.9
Number of visits	11	13	14	8	13	14	18	11	5	20	15	15	157	
Satisfactory visits	10	10	13	8	12	13	18	11	5	20	14	15	149	
Total unsatisfactory	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	
Inadequate separation from other animal by-products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate storage	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Inadequate staining	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	
Inadequate record keeping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Movement to inappropriate destination	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Inadequate weight records	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	

All visits were satisfactory.

i For further information on the SRM controls in Northern Ireland, contact **Valerie Allen** on + 44 (0)28 9052 4663
email: valerie.allen@dardni.gov.uk

Authorisation of plants for removal of sheep spinal cord

The Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997 (as amended) provide that sheep spinal cord may be removed only in abattoirs or cutting premises specifically authorised for this purpose. The table below gives the number of premises in respect of which an application for authorisation had been received by 14 November 2000 and of these the numbers

- authorised
- refused (because either they were not licensed under the Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations

1995 or there were good reasons to doubt the applicant's capacity adequately to carry out the operation)

- void (because the application was withdrawn or the applicant had gone into liquidation)
- for which further information is required before authorisation can be considered
- authorisations which have lapsed because the licence issued under the Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995 has been revoked

		Applications received	Authorised	Refused	Void	Further information required	Authorisations lapsed
Slaughterhouses	England	270	226	11	10	3	20
	Scotland	35	27	-	3	2	3
	Wales	28	27	-	-	1	-
	Total	333	280	11	13	6	23
Stand-alone cutting plants	England	12	9	-	-	-	3
	Scotland	6	4	-	1	1	-
	Wales	3	3	-	-	-	-
	Total	21	16	0	1	1	3

i The list of GB premises authorised for removal of sheep spinal cord is available on the MAFF website at: www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/bse/index.html

For further information, contact **Martin Roberts** on +44 (0)20 7238 6489
email: martin.roberts@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Feed sampling programme

Great Britain

It has been illegal to feed ruminants with all forms of mammalian protein in Great Britain since November 1994 and to feed any farmed livestock with mammalian meat and bone meal (mammalian MBM) since 4 April 1996. Mammalian protein may still be fed to non-ruminant animals, such as pigs and poultry, in forms other than mammalian MBM (e.g. as processed catering

waste). The ban on feeding mammalian MBM to all farmed livestock was introduced to avoid inadvertent feeding to ruminants.

The legal controls covering farmed livestock are summarised below, together with those that apply in the EU, for comparison.

Feed type	Under UK legislation:		Under EU controls:	
	Can be fed to...			
	Ruminants?	Non-ruminants?	Ruminants?	Non-ruminants?
Mammalian MBM	No	No	No ¹	Yes
Mammalian protein (other than MBM)	No ²	Yes	No ³	Yes
Blood meal, tallow, fish meal, poultry offal meal, feather meal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

¹ Commission Decision 94/381 provides for the ban on mammalian protein to be restricted to the feeding of ruminant protein to ruminants where a system is in place that can distinguish between ruminant and non-ruminant protein.

² Except milk, gelatin, amino acids, dicalcium phosphate, dried plasma and other blood products

³ Except milk, gelatin, hydrolysed proteins (as defined in Commission Decision 199/129/EC), dicalcium phosphate, dried plasma and other blood products.

Feed Survey

Since February 1996, the State Veterinary Service (SVS) has been conducting a statistically based survey of feed mills to monitor compliance with the feed controls. The test used is an Enzyme Linked Immuno-sorbent Assay (ELISA) designed to detect the presence of ruminant or porcine protein in compound feed.

The survey currently includes 2,823 premises, covering feedmills, on-farm mixers and other premises handling livestock feed. The target number of samples per year is 20,000. The survey includes premises milling or mixing feed for any species of farmed livestock. The number of samples to be taken from each premises is determined in proportion to the amount of feed produced or used. 9,000 samples a year are taken from large commercial mills producing all types of farmed livestock feed - the maximum number of samples is 3 per week. 11,000 samples a year are taken from smaller feed premises - the minimum number of samples for very small and intermittent producers is 1 per year. Survey samples continue to be taken from premises under investigation.

Results

The results of the feed survey have been encouraging, indicating widespread compliance with the feed ban, and revealing a very low proportion of positive and inconclusive results from the number of samples tested. Since sampling began in February 1996, 67,063 samples have been tested, of which 99.74% tested negative for mammalian protein. The results of the feed survey during the last 12 months are summarised below.

Month in which sample was collected	No. premises visited		No. samples taken	
	Total visited	No. of premises with +ve or inconclusive results	Total tested	No. +ve or inconclusive results
November 1999	832	0	1,735	0
December 1999	576	1	1,300	4
January 2000	705	3	1,574	9
February 2000	918	3	1,794	6
March 2000	838	2	1,793	9
April 2000	534	1	1,301	2
May 2000	590	1	1,559	1
June 2000	529	0	1,395	0
July 2000	498	0	1,276	0
August 2000	374	0	1,016	0
September 2000	416	0	1,131	0
October 2000	226	0	421	0
12 months Total			16,295	31

Samples of Feedstuffs which are not part of the Survey

Samples of livestock feedstuffs or ingredients can be submitted to the laboratory for testing for a variety of reasons. These will include:

- samples taken by the SVS where there were grounds for suspicion that an infringement had taken place,
- samples submitted by enforcement authorities; and,
- private submissions by feed mills etc.

Whenever a sample which is not part of the survey gives a positive or inconclusive result, the SVS carry out an investigation in the same way as they would for a survey sample.

Investigation of Positive or Inconclusive results from the Feed Survey

A positive result does not necessarily show a breach of the ban. The legal incorporation of, for example, blood products or other protein (ie. not in the form of MBM) in non-ruminant rations may give a positive ELISA test result. A full on-site investigation is carried out by a Veterinary Officer of the SVS in the case of all samples which do not give a negative result, in order to identify the cause of the positive or inconclusive result. During such visits an assessment is made to determine if there is any evidence of either:

- accidental or deliberate addition of mammalian proteins to ruminant feeds
- accidental or deliberate addition of mammalian meat and bone meal to any livestock feed.

Premises are subject to additional sampling until the matter has been satisfactorily resolved. This additional, investigational, sampling is not reported in the above Feed Survey Summary table, but routine survey samples continue to be taken from plants under investigation but in which production continues, and these samples are included in the Feed Survey Summary table.

At the end of October 2000, two investigations into positive or inconclusive results are currently in progress to determine if there has been a breach of the ban.

Completed Investigations

There were no investigations completed in October 2000. In all, since sampling began in February 1996, 75 investigations into positive or inconclusive results have been completed. Four breaches of UK regulations have been detected, which are briefly summarised below. These all related to the presence of mammalian meat and bone meal in non-ruminant rations, and are not, therefore, a breach of EU legislation.

- April 1996 - a breach was detected which related to mammalian MBM in non-ruminant rations.
- February 1998 - this breach also related to the presence of mammalian MBM in non-ruminant rations. The company had been successfully prosecuted for an earlier offence, but this breach was primarily associated with a renderer which was subsequently declared bankrupt.
- January 1999 - this breach was associated with the investigation completed in February 1998, and involved contaminated meal from the same source. Subsequent samples were negative, and the company at which the breach was detected is no longer producing feed.
- January 2000 - porcine protein was detected in poultry meal being fed to pigs. Waste from a poultry meat factory was found to occasionally include waste pork products in the preparation of the poultry meal. Again, as this involved non-ruminant feed only, this was a breach of UK domestic legislation, and not of EU legislation.

i The Feed Survey Summary Table presented here covers the last 12 months of sampling. The survey summary covering 1996 - 1999 was last published in Bulletin #42

Further details of the feed sampling programme can be found on the MAFF website at: www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/bse/bse-statistics/level-4-feedsamp.html

Alternatively, contact **Roy Smith** in MAFF on +44 (0)20 7904 6284
email: r.d.smith@ahdc.maff.gsi.gov.uk

Northern Ireland

Feeding ruminant protein to ruminants was prohibited in Northern Ireland in January 1989 and extended to all mammalian protein in March 1995. In March 1996 inclusion of mammalian meat-and-bone meal (MBM) in any farm livestock feed was banned as in the rest of the UK.

Enforcement of the ban is under the control of the Veterinary Service with routine inspection and collection of samples from feed mills being carried out by the Quality Assurance Division of the Department of Agriculture. Samples are collected in proportion to the output of ruminant feed in each mill with two samples collected each week from the largest mills. All samples are sent to Luddington VI Centre for testing for the presence of ruminant and porcine proteins using the ELISA method.

Laboratory results are as follows (based on date of laboratory report).

Month	Number and result of samples tested			Total
	Negative	Inconclusive	Positive	
1999				
November	147	0	0	147
December	95	0	0	95
2000				
January	121	0	0	121
February	117	0	0	117
March	201	0	0	201
April	158	0	0	158
May	232	0	0	232
June	152	0	0	152
July	191	0	0	191
August	176	0	0	176
September	122	0	0	122
October	161	0	0	161
12 month total November 1999 - October 2000	1,873	0	0	1,873
Total from July 1996 - October 2000	9,314	17	5	9,336

On-farm controls

The Department has implemented a scheme to check the source of feed used on all ruminant holdings in Northern Ireland. This is divided into three areas of diminishing priority as follows:

1. Known home mixers particularly those who in the past used MBM. These are visited on a quarterly basis and samples of feed or ingredients collected for ELISA testing. 280 home mixers are recorded at present.
2. Herds with any association with a BSE case.
3. All other herds.

During October 2000, 216 farms had their feed sources checked. 17 were home mixers and 22 samples were taken, 2 of which were from material imported from the Republic of Ireland.

i For further information on the feed controls in Northern Ireland, contact Valerie Allen on + 44 (0)1232 524 663
email: valerie.allen@dardni.gov.uk

The Bovines and Bovine Products (Trade) Regulations 1999

These Regulations (as amended) implement the beef export controls laid down by Council Decision 98/256/EC as amended. Amongst other things, they permit the export of de-boned fresh meat derived from bovines slaughtered in the UK which meet the requirements of the Date-based Export Scheme (DBES). All stages of preparation (including processing, storage, distribution etc.) from slaughter through to final export must take place in officially approved "XAPD" establishments. Approval is currently limited to slaughterhouses and cutting plants only.

The Regulations also permit, under the XAP scheme, the export of fresh meat, minced meat, meat preparations, meat products, petfood and 'other products of animal origin' derived from bovines slaughtered outside the UK, as well as petfood containing foreign origin mammalian meat and bone

meal. Again, all stages of preparation, from import into the UK to final re-export, must take place in officially approved establishments.

These Regulations also set out the rules applying to UK producers of gelatin, collagen, tallow derivatives, amino acids and peptides for food, feed, cosmetic, medical and pharmaceutical uses from non-UK cattle. Producers must be approved and are subject to regular inspections. In addition, approval is also required for any other company which wishes to export such products.

Approved to produce and/or export gelatin or amino acids/peptides (from imported raw materials)

Gelatine Products Ltd.*	Croda Colloids Ltd
Sutton Weaver	Foundry Lane
Runcorn	Ditton
Cheshire	Widnes
WA7 3EH	Cheshire, WA8 8UB

PB Gelatins UK Ltd.	Croda Colloids Ltd
Treforest Industrial Estate	149 New Bedford Road
Treforest	Luton
Mid Glamorgan	Bedfordshire
CF37 5SU	LU3 1LG

Healan Ingredients Ltd *	Croda Colloids
19 Londesborough Road	Maxwell Road
Market Weighton	Plymouth
York	Devon
YO4 3HW	PL4 0SN

Oxoid Ltd
Kingsland Business Park
Wade Road, Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG24 8PW

* These companies do not manufacture gelatin from raw materials, but import gelatin and blend it in the UK for export.

There have been 7 inspections by the SVS since last month, making the total 823 since January 1997. The inspections continue to show that the approved plants are operating in accordance with the controls laid down in the Regulations and, in particular, are using only imported raw materials for the manufacture of gelatin/collagen/amino acids and peptides for food, feed, cosmetic, medical and pharmaceutical uses.

Approved to produce and/or export collagen (from imported raw materials)

Devro Teepak Ltd
5 Belgrave Street
Bellshill Industrial Estate
Bellshill
ML4 3LD

Devro Teepak Ltd
Moodiesburn
Chryston
Glasgow
G69 0JF

Johnson and Johnson Ltd
5 Belgrave Street
Bellshill Industrial Estate Bellshill
ML4 3LD

There have been 6 inspections since last month, making the total 368 since May 1998. All have been satisfactory.

Registered to produce tallow (from UK slaughtered bovine raw materials)

De Mulder and Sons Ltd	John Knight (ABP) Ltd
Mancetter Road	Knights Rd
Hartshill	Silvertown
Nuneaton	London
CV10 0TA	E16 2AT

McIntosh Donald	ABP (Shrewsbury) Ltd
The Meat Factory	Battlefield Road
Portlethen	Harlescott
Aberdeen	Shrewsbury
AB12 4QB	SY1 4AH

There have been 16 inspections since last month, making the total 504 since September 1997. Since the last edition of the Bulletin, the results show that all plants continue to meet the requirements of their registration.

i Full lists of XAP and XAPD approved premises – which are inspected and audited on a regular basis – are available in the “product exports” section of the MAFF website at: www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/default.htm

For further information on the DBES scheme, contact **Helen Guedalla** on +44 (0)20 7904 3316 email: h.k.guedalla@ahvg.maff.gsi.gov.uk

For further information on the XAP scheme, contact **Richard Mabbitt** on +44 (0)20 7904 6391 email: r.t.mabbitt@ahvg.maff.gsi.gov.uk

For further information, contact **Daniel Gauntlett** on + 44 (0)20 7904 6391 email: d.m.gauntlett@ahvg.maff.gsi.gov.uk

SRM Order : controls on imports

The Specified Risk Material Order 1997 (as amended) prohibits the import of SRM unless it is sent direct to approved premises. Premises may be approved to process SRM for use in a manufacturing process which is not producing food, feed, cosmetic, pharmaceutical or medical products, or anything likely to come into direct contact with any of them. Further information on premises approved under these provisions which are set out in Article 10 of the Order can be found in the SRM section of Enforcement Results.

Imports from third countries

The Order requires imports into Great Britain of certain animal products (including beef, sheepmeat, goatmeat and petfood) which are destined for food or animal feed use to be accompanied by a supplementary official veterinary certificate confirming that the product does not contain, and is not derived from, SRM.

Every consignment of animal products, not just those requiring SRM certificates, arriving at one of the 43 Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) in the UK is subject to veterinary checks. BIP staff - normally officers of the Port Health Authority - have been instructed to check that all consignments which require SRM certification have it.

For the period 1 January 1998 - 30 October 2000 returns from the BIPs listed below record the following checks:

BIP	No. consignments checked for compliance with the SRM order	No. consignments rejected for reasons of non-compliance with the SRM order
Belfast Port	25	0
East Midlands Airport	1	0
Felixstowe	4,410	10 (no SRM certificate)
Gatwick Airport	232	5 (no SRM certificate)
Grimsby-Immingham	10	0
Heathrow Airport	1,249	1 (incorrect certification) 16 (no SRM certificate)
Liverpool	765	1 (no SRM certificate)
Manchester Airport	36	1 (no SRM certificate)
Southampton	1,188	2 (no SRM certificate)
Thamesport	2,080	0
Tilbury	29,157	4 (no SRM certificate)

No imports of animal products which require SRM certification have been recorded at other border inspection posts.

Imports from, or via, other EU Member States

Commission Decision 2000/418/EC came into force, in regard to intra-Community trade only, from 1 October 2000. This Decision implements Community-wide measures in regard to SRM. From 1 October the UK no longer required importers to notify us of consignments from other Member States, nor do such consignments need to be accompanied by an SRM declaration.

UK national rules in regard to SRM will continue to apply for third country imports until 31 March 2001 when the provisions of Decision 2000/418/EC applicable to third countries will come into effect.

i For further information, contact
Nigel Widden on + 44 (0)20 7904 6406
 email: n.e.widden@ahbse.maff.gsi.gov.uk

Legal action

Actions completed

MAFF

Exports

Exports from the UK of beef and beef products are subject to stringent conditions. Compliance is monitored by regular checks at ports, and is backed up by special enforcement powers provided by the Bovines and Bovine Products (Trade) Regulations 1999.

Where any consignment is found to be in breach of export conditions it may be detained or seized by MAFF Inspectors, who then apply to a Magistrates Court to order whether the goods should be destroyed or disposed of within the UK. There were no hearings in October 2000.

Investigations into a number of cases of alleged illegal exports are continuing.

Hawarth

At Hemel Hempstead Magistrates' Court on 1 December 2000, Mr Peter Hawarth, a farmer from Radlett in Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to three offences under the Cattle Identification Regulations 1998 for using false information when applying for cattle passports. He was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £1,000 costs.

Local Authority

Brown – Northumberland County Council

At South East Northumberland Court on 16 October 2000, Mr Gordon Brown, a farmer from West Chevington in Northumberland pleaded guilty to 17 offences under the Animal By-Products Order 1999, 15 were for failing to dispose of sheep carcasses without undue delay, and two for allowing ruminant animals and poultry access to unrendered animal by-products. He also pleaded guilty to failing to record the movement of pigs, an offence under the Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 1995. He was given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £545.64 costs.

Frater – Northumberland County Council

At Alnwick Magistrates' Court on 6 November 2000, Mr Robert Henry Frater, a farmer from Alnwick, Northumberland, pleaded guilty to five offences under the Animal By-Products Order 1999 for failing to correctly dispose of sheep carcasses and allowing ruminant animals to have access to them, two offences under the Cattle Identification Regulations 1998 for failing to record the movement of cattle and one offence under the Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 1996 for failing to record the movement of sheep. He was fined a total of £1,300 and ordered to pay £597.73 costs.

Pytchley Hunt Kennels – Northamptonshire County Council

At Daventry Magistrates' Court on 1 November 2000, Mr Peter Raymond Jones, Huntsman at the Pytchley Hunt Kennels in Northampton, pleaded guilty to an offence under the Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997 for failing to store specified risk material in an impervious container and an offence under the Animal By-Products Order 1999 for failing to dispose of sheep carcasses without undue delay. Other offences were not pursued. He was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £450 costs.

Swanton – Dorset County Council

At Wimborne Magistrates' Court on 21 September 2000, Mr Robert Swanton, a farmer from Shaftesbury, Dorset pleaded guilty to eighteen offences under the Cattle Database Regulations 1998 and the Cattle Identification Regulations 1998 for using false information when applying for cattle passports and failing to keep correct records. He was fined a total of £950 and ordered to pay £550 costs.

Actions continuing

MAFF

Jones & Jones

Mr Richard Jones and his mother Mrs Elizabeth Jones, farmers from Gwernymynydd in Flintshire, have been charged with various offences under the Cattle Identification Regulations 1998 and the Protection of Animals Act 1911. They are due to appear before Mold Magistrates' Court on 14 December 2000.

Dibb

Mr Bryan Dibb, who kept sheep at Moorhall Farm in Calderdale, West Yorkshire has been charged with various offences under the Protection of Animals Act 1911, the Dogs Act 1906 and Animal By-Products Order 1999. At Calderdale Magistrates' Court on 25 November, the case was adjourned to 1 December 2000.

A J Evans

Mr Andrew John Evans, a sheep farmer of Ffairfach, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire has been charged with a number of offences under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter and Killing) Regulations 1995, the Protection of Animals Act 1911, Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997, Animal By-Products Order 1999, Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 1999 and Cattle Identification Regulations 1998. At Ammanford Magistrates' Court on 30 October, the case was adjourned for pre trial review on 27 November 2000.

Rogers

Mr William Rogers, a farmer from Basingstoke in Hampshire, has been charged with a number of offences under the Cattle Identification Regulations 1998 and Cattle Database Regulations 1998. He is due to appear before Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on 4 December 2000.

Food Standards Agency

Robbins & Williams

Mr Michael Robbins of Knowle, Warwickshire and Mr Sidney Williams of Dudley, West Midlands have been charged with various offences including under the Specified Risk Materials Regulations 1997. The case against Mr Robbins has been committed for trial at Warwick Crown Court on 21 December 2000. The case against Mr Williams has been adjourned to 7 December.

Investigations

Investigations by the Food Standards Agency, MAFF and Intervention Board are continuing into a number of alleged offences under the SRM Regulations 1997, the Cattle Identification Regulations and the Over 30 Months Slaughter Scheme. A number of further investigations have been completed (mainly regarding alleged SRM offences) and the reports are under consideration for possible prosecution. Several investigations are being carried out by Local Authorities.

Staff from the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department continue to liaise closely with the local enforcement and prosecution authorities in investigations involving irregularities, and the possible misuse of animal documentation. The Department provides technical assistance to facilitate the prosecuting authorities' investigations.

Further details will be published as each case reaches the judicial stages.

Glossary

BSE

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

DARD

Northern Ireland's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

ELISA test

Enzyme-Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay, a specially developed test used to detect mammalian protein in animal feed

FSA

Food Standards Agency

MAFF

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mammalian Meat and Bone Meal (mammalian MBM)

Mammalian protein obtained by rendering, or an equivalent process in the case of imported products, whole or part of a dead mammal

MHS

Meat Hygiene Service. Agency of the FSA responsible for enforcement of hygiene, welfare at slaughter and SRM controls at premises licensed under the Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995 (as amended). Also carries out meat inspection and health marking, and provides export certification where required by importing country or Community rules. Full details given in an article in Bulletin #1

NAWAD

National Assembly for Wales - Agriculture Department

SERAD

Scottish Executive - Rural Affairs Department

SRM

Specified Risk Material. Broadly speaking for cattle, the head (including brain but excluding tongue), spinal cord, tonsils and spleen from cattle over 6 months old and the thymus and intestines from cattle of any age. For sheep and goats the head (including brains but excluding tongue), and spleen of any sheep and goats, and the tonsils and spinal cord of sheep and goats over 12 months of age or with first permanent incisor erupted

Spongiform encephalopathy

A progressive degenerative disease which causes microscopic holes in the brains of affected animals. The animals become uncoordinated, nervous and eventually die. BSE is a spongiform encephalopathy

State Veterinary Service (SVS)

MAFF's veterinary body dealing with all animal health and welfare matters. Covers Great Britain and plays a major role in advising on and implementing animal health policy. Full details given in an article in Bulletin #4

TSE

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy

VPHU

Veterinary Public Health Unit of the Food Standards Agency. Includes regionally based Veterinary Meat Hygiene Advisers

Further Information

If you would like to receive regular monthly copies of the BSE Enforcement Bulletin, or know of anyone who would like to do so, if you require back issues, or if you have any general comments, queries or suggestions on the Bulletin, please contact **Jill Wilson** on + 44 (0)20 7238 6498 or **6410**. Alternatively, write to the following address:-

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The contents of this Bulletin, together with back issues and related material, can be found on MAFF's website: <http://www.maff.gov.uk/maffhome.htm>

The **Food Standards Helpline** can assist with general enquiries on BSE Tel: **0845 757 012** (UK local rate) or +44(0)20 7972 2400 (for non UK callers)
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