

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bovine tuberculosis in badgers

The seventeenth report of a series on bovine tuberculosis in badgers has been published by MAFF. It was prepared by the Consultative Panel on Badgers and Bovine Tuberculosis which was set up by the Ministry with the remit of:

- i) keeping under review the evidence relating to bovine tuberculosis in badgers, including its distribution, its prevalence and its relationship to bovine tuberculosis in cattle;
- ii) advising on the operations to be undertaken by the Ministry in order to limit the transmission of tuberculosis from badgers to cattle;
- iii) recommending research appropriate to the problem of badgers and bovine tuberculosis.

The report describes the operational and research work for the years 1992 and 1993 and some plans for the future. In 1992, there were 197 confirmed tuberculosis cattle herd breakdowns, of which 144 were in South West England. In 1993 these increased to 320 and 266 respectively.

A scientific seminar was held in November 1993, and was trenchantly summarized by Professor P M Biggs who '...felt the presentations indicated that in the short term a badger removal policy had to continue but should be compared with a non-removal policy. It was, however, difficult to see removal as a long term solution and the prospects for developing a badger vaccination policy should be examined.'

In December 1993, MAFF announced a new programme to control bovine tuberculosis in cattle and badgers, including research on vaccines; developments of new diagnostic tests for infection in cattle and badgers; monitoring infection in wild badgers where appropriate; research into ways of avoiding transmission of tuberculosis; co-operation with university departments, and a new badger control strategy based on the test for tuberculosis in the live badger.

Bovine Tuberculosis in Badgers Seventeenth report by The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food July 1994 Produced and published by MAFF: London (1994). 37pp. Paperback. Obtainable from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP, UK (PB 1678) Price £2.95.

Summary of new animal welfare regulations

There have been a number of changes in the legal regulations controlling the use of animals in biomedical research institutes in the United States of America. A short summary-booklet has been written by Robert R Smeby and published in February 1994 by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW), and is a useful and reasonably detailed account of the current statutory requirements. The summary cannot be used as a replacement to the complete regulations as published in the *Federal Register* but it will still be found most helpful by scientists, research animal care personnel and by others wanting or needing to know something of the details of the regulations covering laboratory animal care and use in the United States.

Summary of New Animal Welfare Regulations Robert R Smeby (1994). Scientists Center for Animal Welfare: Bethesda. 15pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Golden Triangle Building One, 7833 Walker Drive, Suite 340, Greenbelt, MD 20770, USA. Price US\$4.50.