

SAC Animal Health and Welfare Guidance Website

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) carries out key research in many areas within the farm animal industry and, in line with their objective to create and transfer knowledge throughout the farming sector, they have a comprehensive and useful website (www.sac.ac.uk).

A recent addition to the SAC website is a subsection within Research and Sustainable Livestock Systems that specialises in offering advice and information on improving animal health and welfare. The information presented is based on research carried out by the SAC and other collaborating organisations and a number of topical issues within animal health and welfare are summarised as follows:

- **Animal Welfare and Productivity:** this section covers the interaction between productivity and animal health and welfare.
- **Dairy Health and Welfare:** looks at two major health concerns for cattle – mastitis and lameness, and also considers the effect that breeding and housing have on dairy welfare.
- **Sheep Health and Welfare:** includes lameness, sheep scab, advice on handling, lambing management, fleece cleanliness, ewe condition and worm infestation.
- **Beef Health and Welfare:** covers handling systems, dystocia, castration and dehorning.
- **Biosecurity:** discusses the spread of disease, outlines plans to avoid disease and gives an example of risk assessment.

The information presented is clear and the site simple to navigate. Where more detail is required on any of the subjects covered, straightforward links are provided to either other internal areas of the website, in the form of related documents and technical notes, or to websites of other, relevant organisations (such as DEFRA and SEERAD). There are also useful addresses and email links which facilitate easy contact with the relevant people within each field.

The site does not cover pig and poultry but for individuals who are working, studying or simply have an interest in the dairy, sheep or beef industries; this website is a valuable resource.

SAC Animal Health and Welfare Guidance Website. 2006. Provided by the Scottish Agricultural College and available at www.sac.ac.uk/animalhealthwelfare (accessed 10th November 2006).

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