

Dyddiad: Dydd Mercher 6 Mehefin 2001
Amser: 2.00pm – 4.55pm
Lleoliad: Ystafell Bwyllgora, Adeilad y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

Nid yw'r cyfieithiad Cymraeg ar gael ar hyn o bryd.

REPORT OF THE MINISTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS

Foot and Mouth Disease

1. As at 1030 hours on 4 June, no new confirmed cases have been reported during the past week.. The total number of confirmed cases in Wales stood at 92: 54 in Powys; 13 in Anglesey; 18 in Monmouthshire; 3 in Newport; 2 in Caerphilly; and one each in Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taff.
2. On 2 June, the infected area status was lifted on Anglesey and the northern part of Gwynedd, around the Bangor and Caernarfon areas. This will release some 2,200 farms and smallholdings from Infected Area restrictions. The disease status for the Island has now been downgraded to an At Risk Area. This is a welcome development but there is no room for complacency and everyone involved must continue to heed the bio-security guidance that has been issued.
3. As at 4 June, 310,243 animals had been slaughtered in Wales under the disease control measures – 30,233 cattle; 273,168 sheep; 6791 pigs; and 51 goats. A further 32,941 animals are under surveillance. Earlier figures showed the total number of animals affected; I am now able to identify those already slaughtered and those being monitored or where the farmer has appealed.
4. At close of play on 3 June, 472,330 animals from Wales were registered with the Intervention Board under the Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme – 427,906 sheep; 7235 pigs; 36,989 cattle; and 200 goats/ deer. Applications in respect of 327,568 animals have been processed to date. A further 116,541 animals are waiting to be processed. Animals withdrawn from the scheme so far total 28,221.
5. 34,083 movement licences for welfare purposes have been issued in Wales to date. These include 10,729 occupational licences; 14,445 local licences; and 8909 licences under the longer distance movement scheme. In addition, 796 licences have been issued permitting the movement of animals onto common grazing land.

Review of EU Sheep Meat Regime

6. My officials attended the Working Group meeting in Brussels on 29 and 30 May that considered the Commission's draft Council Regulation on the Common Organisation of the Market in Sheep Meat and Goat Meat. The discussions centred on a technical assessment of the draft regulation.

7. The Commission's proposals, published on 16 May, aims to make the scheme simpler and more market oriented. The most notable change is the introduction of a fixed premium for farmers rather than a variable deficiency payment used to date. The Commission proposes to set the premium at € 21 per animal, based on the average of the premia paid from 1993 to 2000. It is proposed that the supplementary premium for less favoured areas should be € 7 per animal and be the same for all producers, whether milk producers or not. The proposal aims to retain aspects of the regime that are working well, such as producers' individual limits of premium rights.

8. Working Group discussions suggest there is general consensus among Member States on the principle of moving to a flat rate payment although views seem to be divided on the actual level of the payment. The Commission has agreed to re-examine a number of issues following the Working group meeting.

9. The Commission is keen that the regulation goes forward for approval to the Council meeting in September or October. If agreed the regulation would come into effect on 1 January 2002.

10. I will be submitting a paper to the Committee before the summer recess so that Committee Members can have an opportunity to discuss this important matter for Welsh agriculture.

Farm Business Options Reviews

11. The Farm Business Options Review scheme came into operation on Monday 4 June. The scheme is being managed by the WDA Mid Wales Division, where an operations room has been set up, and staff there are currently contacting farmers eligible for the scheme to make sure that no one who can take advantage of this free advice misses out.

12. In terms of delivery, some 25 experienced Agricultural Business Consultants have received specialist training in Foot and Mouth issues and the services available through Farming Connect. These consultants will be operating to a strict bio-protection protocol agreed with the Chief Veterinary Officer and, where a farmer prefers not to have someone on his / her farm, provision has been made for off-farm meetings.

GM issues

13. On 15 May, the National Assembly issued a prohibition notice under section 110 of the Environment Protection Act on the seed company Aventis. The prohibition notice introduced statutory separation distances between genetically modified and neighbouring maize crops.

14. Although the remaining Welsh GM trial at Sealand in Flintshire will not be affected by the

prohibition notice, its issue triggers notification to the European Commission under Article 16 of the GM release Directive 90/220/EEC. It is only at the European level that changes can be made to the consents issued under the Directive.

15. The National Assembly, through DETR (the lead UK Department on the Directive), are presently finalising the notification to the Commission. It is likely that the National Assembly's concerns will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the committee set up under Article 21 of the 90/220 Directive to consider these issues. In theory the Commission should respond to the Assembly's notification within three months but, given the general concerns in some member states (in particular France, Italy, Denmark, Greece, Austria and Luxembourg) over GM issues, there may be delays.

Legislation

16. A list of forthcoming legislation has been circulated for information with papers for this meeting (at annex A).

Funding of the Forestry Commission in Wales

17. The Secretary of State for Wales has now signed the commencement order formally transferring financial responsibility for the Forestry Commission's activities in Wales to the National Assembly. Officials will now put in place the appropriate mechanisms to effect the baseline transfer of resources from the Forestry Commission, and to draw down the contribution from the Reserve that is a condition of the settlement. This transfer of funding will now facilitate the implementation of programmes from the Wales Woodland Strategy, which I will be launching on 2 July 2001 at Afan Argoed.

Forestry and *Farming Connect*

18. The Forestry Commission has been working closely with partners within *Farming Connect* and will be funding a woodland co-ordinator post, to be based in Welsh Development Agency Rural Policy Unit in Aberystwyth. The co-ordinator will provide advice on woodland management and adding value to wood as well as assessing applications for grant aid involving farm woodlands. Funding will also be put into developing a capital grant scheme aimed at supporting value-adding projects using farm woodlands.

TIMBER II

19. TIMBER II is the first phase of a joint WDA/Forestry Commission initiative to support the development of wood-using Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME's). TIMBER II will support the preparation of business plans and some free assessment of these. In addition, businesses will be given advice on where best to apply for capital grant aid to support their proposals. Chain of custody certification support is also being developed. Phase II will involve the development of woodland management certification for small and medium sized woodlands, plus a centralised woodland

‘Shelterwoods’ Project

20. ‘*Shelterwoods*’ is an EU co-funded project which aims to help farmers use trees in ways that are complementary to their farming businesses. In addition to providing technical advice, the project will provide grant aid that is targeted towards creating new shelter woodlands that enhance the environment, are designed to fit in with the landscape, and at the same time provide valuable shelter for stock. The project will assist the move towards more sustainable farming practices and will help to protect jobs in the depressed rural economy.

21. The project is initially confined to the Objective 1 area, but may be extended to cover the whole of Wales. It is well integrated with the Woodland Grant Scheme, which offers other complementary grants for tree planting and woodland management. The Forestry Commission are in the process of recruiting a Project Officer.

Annex A

RURAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATION LIST

This is essentially an information paper and will be sent to Committee members on a monthly basis as part of the Minister’s report.

The list is in two parts – annex 1 and annex 2.

Annex 1 shows those items of secondary legislation – 10 in all - which are in the programme up to the summer recess. It is quite possible that there will be other legislation which may have to be included in this list as plans are firmed up.

Annex 1 also identifies secondary legislation requiring to be made under the Executive procedure.

Annex 2 lists all other secondary legislation, 89 in total, in the pipeline that we are aware of but which has not presently been programmed under the Standing Orders procedure.

The list in respect of animal welfare and disease control measures is incomplete due to staff commitments on foot and mouth duty. We will endeavour to up date it in time for the next report.

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RURAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2001
Legislation to be made before the Summer recess 2001

TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED TIMETABLE			COMMENTS
		Business Committee	Legislation Committee	Plenary	
The IACS Appeals (Wales) Regulations 2001	To establish an independent appeals mechanism for CAP subsidy payments	12 June	26 June	3 July	Standard procedure
The Undersized Crab Claws (Wales) Order 2001	Measures to support EU technical conservation regulation 850/98	27 March	1 May	31 July	Accelerated procedure
The Undersized Whiting (Wales) Order 2001	Measures to support EU technical regulations 850/98	27 March	1 May	31 July	Accelerated procedure
Seed Fees (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2001	Implements fee increase of 5% for 2001/02				Executive Procedure. SI expected to be signed by 18 th June
Plant Health (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001	Controls the spread of Rhizomania within the scope outlined in EC Directive 93/51	19 June	26 June	17 July	Accelerated procedure

The Common Agricultural Policy (Wine) Regulations 2001	Implements the EU reformed wine regime (Council Regulation 1493/1999) and provides for enforcement in Wales of EU marketing regulations	1 May	8 May	12 June	Standard procedure
The Agricultural Processing and Marketing Grant Regulations 2001	To implement grant scheme (in support of RDP and Objective 1) aimed at improving the processing and marketing of primary agricultural produce				Executive procedure. Cabinet agreement obtained. SI expected to be signed by 8 June
Farm Diversification Grants Regulations 2001	To implement capital grants to support farm improvement and diversification under RDP and Objective 1 programmes				Executive procedure. Cabinet agreement obtained. SI expected to be signed by 8 June.
Rural Development Grants (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2001	To implement a match funding grant of last resort for projects under RDP and Objective 1				Likely to be executive procedure. SI expected to be made in early July
The BSE Monitoring (Wales) Regulations 2001	Measures to support Commission Decisions 2000/64 and 2001/233/EC				Likely to be Executive procedure. SI planned to come into force on 1 July.

TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS
The Potatoes Originating in Egypt (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001	To implement controls on the import of Egyptian potatoes to control potato brown rot	26-Jun-01	
Plant Breeders' Rights (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2001	To implement fee increase of 3.75% for 2001-02	Jul-01	SO 23 SI - made jointly with MAFF
The Seeds (National List) (Fees) Regulations 2001	To implement fee increase of 3.75% for 2001-02	Jul-01	SO 23 SI - made jointly with MAFF
The Seed (Fees) (Amendment) Wales Regulations 2001	To implement fee rise of 5% for 2001-02	Jul-01	
The Pesticides (maximum residue levels) (Amendment) Regulations	revises the register of maximum pesticide residues	Jul-01	SO 23 SI
The Fisheries and Aquaculture Structures (Grants) (Wales) Order 2001	To provide powers to make grants to enable investments to qualify for EU fisheries support	31-Jul-01	
The Agricultural Holdings (Units of Production) (Wales) Orders 2001	Specifies figures for agricultural incomes used in cases of possible succession to an agricultural tenancy	01-Aug	Two SIs - possible Executive procedure
The Farm Waste Grant (Nitrate Vulnerable Zones) (Wales) Scheme 2001	To implement an increase in grant aid from 25% to 40% of expenditure incurred on farm waste facilities within NVZs	01/08/2001	
Residuary Milk Marketing Board regulations	To provide for the dissolution of the body and the disposal of remaining assets	30/09/2001	

Welfare of laying hens regulations	EU proposals laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens kept in various systems	30/10/2001	SO 23 SI
The Undersized Spider Crabs (Wales) Order 2001	Measures to support EU technical conservation regulation 850/98	31/10/2001	
Scallop Conservation Order	To implement new restrictions on scallop fishing	31/10/2001	
Environmental Impact Assessment (Uncultivated land and semi natural areas) Order	To implement the uncultivated land and semi natural areas provisions of the EIA Directive	01/12/2001	Subject to transfer of function from DETR to NAW
Review of sheepmeat regime	To implement any EU decisions on a reformed sheep regime following Commission review	01/01/2002	
Small Farmers' Scheme	proposed optional alternative to direct support payments for small farmers	01/01/2002	
The Cereal Seeds Regulations	To implement conclusions of seed certification review	01/07/2002	
TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS
The Fodder Plant Seeds Regulations	To implement conclusions of seed certification review	01/07/2002	
The Oil and Fibre Seeds Regulations	To implement conclusions of seed certification review	01/07/2002	
The Beet Seeds Regulations	To implement conclusions of seed certification review	01/07/2002	
The Vegetable Seeds Regulations	To implement conclusions of seed certification review	01/07/2002	
The Seeds (Registration, Licensing and enforcement) Regulations	To implement conclusions of seed certification review	01/07/2002	

Transposition of Directive 2001/18/EC	To implement controls on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs and repeals Directive 90/220/EC	Oct-02	
The Seeds (National Listing of Varieties) Regulations 2001	To implement changes to National Listing infraction proceedings. GM implications	Autumn 2001	
The Cereal Seeds (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96. GM implications	Autumn 2001	
The Fodder Plant Seeds (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96. GM implications	Autumn 2001	
The Oil and Fibre Seeds (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96. GM implications	Autumn 2001	
The Beet Seeds (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96. GM implications	Autumn 2001	
The Vegetable Seeds (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96. GM implications	Autumn 2001	
The Cereal Seeds Hybrid (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 99/96 and 99/54 on hybrids of cereals and tricale germination. GM implications	Autumn 2001	
The Seed Potatoes (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96. GM implications	Autumn 2001	
The Plant Health (Amendment) (No2) Wales Order	Amendment to protected zone provisions in EC Directive 2000/29/EC	Autumn 2001	
Plant Protection Products Regulations	revises the EU register of approved pesticides	Autumn 2001	
Green Code	Statutory code of practice for farmers	Autumn 2001	Possibly SO 27 legislation

Dairy Quotas Regulations	Consolidation of existing EU regulations	Autumn 2001	
Home Grown Cereals Authority amendment order	To implement provisions in Regulatory Reform Act	Autumn 2001	SO 23 SI
Tir Mynydd amendment regulations	To implement any agreed changes from the review of the scheme as part of RDP evaluation	2004	
Amendments to dairy quota regulations	To implement EU reforms under Agenda 2000 awarding extra quota allocation to dairy farmers and to compensate dairy farmers for cuts in support prices	01/04/2005	SO 23 SI
Egg Marketing Amendment regulations	To implement EU provisions simplifying marketing terms for free range hens	Timing uncertain	
The Organic Products (Wales) Regulations 2001	Sets the standard for organic farming. Will ban use of GMOs in organic farming and introduce new standards for organic livestock	Timing uncertain	
The Bruscellosis in Cattle Herds (Wales) Order 2001	Provisions governing the testing of milk for brucellosis	Timing uncertain	
The Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (Wales) Order 2001	Regulatory framework for testing of milk for EBL	Timing uncertain	
The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001	To implement EC Directive 98/58	Timing uncertain	
TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS

The Bovine and Bovine Products (Trade) (Wales) Regulations 2001	Will permit the despatch of bone-in beef from establishments approved under the Date Based Export Scheme to the domestic market	Timing uncertain	
The Sea Fish (Specified Sea Areas) (Regulation of Nets and other Fishing Gear) Order 2001	Measure to support EU technical conservation regulation 850/98	Timing uncertain	
The Prohibition of Fishing with Multiple Trawls Order	Measure to support EU technical conservation regulation 850/98	Timing uncertain	
The Condensate from Rendering Plant of Ruminant Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001	To implement a SEAC recommendation on spreading of condensate onto land	Timing uncertain	
The Lobster and Crawfish v Notching Order 2001	Alignment of UK legislation with new EU technical conservation regulations	Timing uncertain	
The Plant Health (Export Certification) Order 2001	Will resolve unlawful plant health charges once UK ministers have agreed an approach	Timing uncertain	
The Seed Potatoes (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2001	Will resolve unlawful plant health charges once UK ministers have agreed an approach	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI - made jointly with MAFF
The control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 2001	Pesticide regulation and freedom of information	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI
The Plant Protection (Basic Conditions) Regulations	Concerns the placing of plant protection products on market provisions with respect to storage use and application	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI

The Processed Animal Protein (Wales) Regulations 2001	Will introduce controls on the use of processed animal proteins in animal feed	Timing uncertain	
Cattle Artificial Insemination Amendment Regulations	To rationalise regulations for AI disease control purposes	Timing uncertain	
The Tuberculosis Order	To improve controls on bovine TB	Timing uncertain	
EA byelaw - closed season on canals	To stop fishing for conservation purposes	Timing uncertain	
The Swansea Bay (Deep Dock Ltd) Mussels Fishing Order	Grant of fishing rights to one body	Timing uncertain	
The Swansea bay (Penclawdd Shellfish Processors Ltd) Order	Grant of fishing rights to one body	Timing uncertain	
The Three Rivers Regulating Order	Grant of fishing management rights to one body	Timing uncertain	
The Geographical Indications, Designations of Origin and Certificate of Specific Character	To implement EU decisions on the protection of Welsh food products	Timing uncertain	Not definite if this will require an SI. Awaiting legal advice.
Amendments to the Fish Health Regulations 1997	To establish GB as a single zone with regard to certain fish disease	Timing uncertain	
TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS
Poultrymeat Marketing Standards Regulations	Technical regulations to implement EU standards on labelling, storage and grading of poultry meat	Timing uncertain	
Possible amendments to TB Order	To restrict the movement of herds where there is a refusal to test valuation procedures	Timing uncertain	

Review of Welfare of Animals in transit	To implement changes agreed to strengthen welfare standards of animals in transit	Timing uncertain	
Amendments to Beef Special Premium Regulations	To implement amendments required as part of the Agenda 2000 revisions of the EC beef regime	Timing uncertain	
Amendments to sheep annual premium and suckler cow premium quota regulations 1997	To implement Agenda 2000 reforms to the beef regime to cut SCP and to respond to Judicial review	Timing uncertain	
Diseases of animals (approved disinfectants) Order	To replace existing Order clarifying list of disinfectants	Timing uncertain	
Sheep and Goats Spongiform Encephalopathy Amendment Wales Order		Timing uncertain	
Sheep and Goats Spongiform Encephalopathy (Determination of Compensation) Wales Order		Timing uncertain	
Welfare of Animals (Slaughter) Regulations	To implement EU amending Directives	Timing uncertain	
Amendments to Rabies legislation incorporating Pet Travel Scheme	Will allow pet dogs and animals to be brought into Wales from Europe without quarantine	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI - made jointly with MAFF
The Product of animal origin (import and export) regulations	To implement EC Directive 97/12	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI
The Horse Passport Order	To implement EC Directive 64/433	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI

The Feedingstuffs (Zootechnical Products) Regulations	Amends 1998 regulations on criterium of feeding stuffs	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI
Classical Swine Fever Regulations	To revise and strenghten controls for this disease	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI
Swine Vesticular Disease Order	To improve and strenghten controls for this disease	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI
Amendments to Corn Returns regulations 1997	To allow producers to make electronic returns	Timing uncertain	SO 23 SI
The Potatoes Originating in Netherlands (revocation) (Wales) Regulations 2001	Revokes legislation applying additional disease control measures to Dutch potatoes	Timing uncertain	
Farm Woodland Premium Scheme	To amend payment rates	Timing uncertain	
Tir Gofal	To implement any changes following stocktake (subject to Ard Ctte and Commission approval)	Timing uncertain	
The Transport of Farmed Animals Cleansing & Disinfection (Wales) Regulations	Measures to implement EU Directive 97/12	Timing uncertain	
The Coast Protection Notices (Wales) Regulations	To replace existing regulations made under the Coast Protection Act 1949	Timing uncertain	