

Dyddiad: Dydd Mercher 18 Gorffennaf 2001
Amser: 2.00pm – 5.10pm
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

1. As at 11:50 am on 16 July, the total number of confirmed cases in Wales stood at 101. 63 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. As at 13 July, 261,953 animals had been slaughtered under the disease control measures - 35,294 cattle, 220,705 sheep, 5905 pigs and 49 goats, A further 32,941 animals are under surveillance, and 9000 sheep are under surveillance on Brecon Beacons.

[Figures are changing daily due to recent developments. Up to date figures available at the Committee].
3. At close of play on 11 July, 584,999 animals from Wales were registered with the Intervention Board under the Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme - 529,460 sheep, 7,371 pigs, 47,968 cattle, and 200 deer. Applications in respect of 404,309 animals have been processed to date. A further 116,254 animals are waiting to be processed. Animals withdrawn from the scheme so far total 32,522.
4. 43,218 movement licences for Welfare purposes have been issued in Wales to date. These include 11,801 occupational licences; 18,835 local licences; and 12,582 licences under the longer distance movement scheme. In addition, 1242 licences have been issued permitting the movement of animals onto common grazing land.
5. As far as compensation is concerned, claims from Welsh producers totalling nearly £48 million have been processed to date with only one livestock compensation claim outstanding.

Meeting with Rt Hon Margaret Beckett

6. I attended the meeting of Agriculture Ministers on the 4 July with the new Secretary of State for DEFRA, Margaret Beckett, in the chair. Our discussions ranged widely, with Foot and Mouth Disease top of the agenda. All were agreed that short term measures are essential for the Autumn sheep market

and rebuilding the livestock sector is an absolute priority. Both the short and medium term measures require concerted action across the UK. Detailed discussions are ongoing, including with the European Commission and Treasury.

7. At the request of the National Assembly's Business Partnership Council, I attended its last meeting on 6 July to discuss the economic impact of Foot and Mouth Disease. We had a useful discussion with contributions from the Wales Tourist Board, the Federation of Small Businesses and NFU Cymru. The suggestions from the group on how best to assist rural recovery are being considered by the Rural Partnership's task and finish group.

Rural Recovery Plan

8. Members will be aware that the Assembly set up a Task & Finish Group to assess the impact of Foot and Mouth on the rural economy and advise on measures to aid rural recovery. The Group was drawn from the Wales Rural Partnership with additional members from the agri-food sector, the Isle of Anglesey and Powys County Councils and Cytun.

9. The Group invited proposals from a wide range of organisations including Partnership members themselves and other interested bodies. The Joint Secretariat of the Partnership, comprising the WLGA, the WDA, WCVA and the Assembly, is drawing together a draft recovery plan from the proposals received for consideration by the Rural Partnership on 24 July.

10. A key issue will be to provide help to rural businesses in the areas which have suffered most. A range of measures is being considered to tackle the immediate problems arising from the disease and start to build the longer term regeneration of rural Wales. They include proposals to help tourism, agricultural and other rural businesses, provide a much need stimulus to help rural communities get back on their feet and provide support for individuals who have suffered stress as a result of the outbreak.

Rural Hardship Fund

11. The Assembly has authorised payment of over £1m by the Countryside Agency who are our partnerships managing the Rural Hardship Fund for Wales, to the ARC Addington Fund and the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) to match funds they have disbursed in Wales from public donations for the relief of personal hardship. I very much welcome the important work which the Addington Fund, RABI and others are doing to help people in Wales at this difficult time.

LEADER+ Development Strategies

12. I am pleased to inform the Committee that I have now selected the Groups who will participate in the LEADER programme for 2000-2006. They are:

- CRAI (Clwydian Range)

- Menter Mon (Anglesey)
- Glasu (Powys)
- SPARC/PLANED (Pembrokeshire)
- Northen Marches (Wrexham)
- Rural Conwy (Conwy)
- Adventa (Monmouthshire).

13. Fourteen applications were received, and I selected the seven Groups listed above based on the quality of their Development Strategies and the resources available. All of the applicants have been informed of this decision.

14. Together the seven applications approved represent:

- A good geographic spread
- A mixture of groups which have participated in LEADER I and II (Sparc, Menter Mon), new groups in areas previously covered by LEADER (Rural Clwyd, CRAI, Glasu) and new groups in new areas (Northern Marches, Adventa)
- Good coverage of the three Themes/Measures – three groups have opted for Adding Value, three groups have opted for Natural and Cultural Resources, and one group has opted for Quality of Life

15. The seven groups have been invited to prepare detailed Business Plans, and a decision about financial allocations will be made once these have been appraised.

RURAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATION LIST

This is the Secondary Legislation Update which forms an annex to the Ministers' Report.

The list is in two parts:

Annex 1 shows those items of secondary legislation – 13 in all- which are in the programme

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 – 74 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 as complete as resources permit due

to staff commitments on Foot and Mouth. The next report will be in October 2001.

Annex 1

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	10 July	Standard procedure. Comes into force on 1 st August
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
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 over the Summer recess.

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 September/October.
Foot & Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001	An amendment to enable grouse shooting to take place				Executive Procedure. SI expected to be signed before 18 th July.
Residuary Milk Marketing Board (Transfer of Assets) Regulations 2001	To provide for the disposal and transfer of remaining assets	16 th October		25 th October	
Milk Marketing Board Dissolution Order 2001	To provide for the dissolution of the Body	16 th October		25 th October	
BSPS Regulations 2001	To implement the Agenda 2000 Beef Reforms			10 th July	S023- Joint with DEFRA. Will come into force 15 th August
Import and Export Restrictions (Foot & Mouth Disease) Wales No.9 Regulations 2001	Controls the import and export of certain meat products				Executive Procedure. SI expected to be signed 13 th July.

Foot & Mouth Disease (Prohibition of Vaccination) (Wales) Reg. 2001	Implements EC Directive on giving power to the Member state to control vaccination				Executive Procedure. SI signed on 3 rd July.
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Annex 2

TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS
Plant Breeders' Rights (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2001	To implement fee increase of 3.75% for 2001-02	Late Autumn 2001	SO 23 SI - Joint
The Seeds (National List) (Fees)(Amendment) Regulations 2001	To implement fee increase of 3.75% for 2001-02	Late Autumn 2001	SO 23 SI - Joint
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	
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	
TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS
The Cereal Seeds Regulations	To implement conclusions of seed certification review	01/07/2002	
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 repeal Directive 90/220/EC	Oct-02	
The Seeds (National Listing of Varieties) Regulations 2001	To implement changes to National Listing.	Timing uncertain	
The Cereal Seeds (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96.	Timing uncertain	
The Fodder Plant Seeds (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96.	Timing uncertain	
The Oil and Fibre Seeds (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96.	Timing uncertain	
The Beet Seeds (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96.	Timing uncertain	
TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS
The Cereal Seeds Hybrid (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 99/96 and 99/54 on hybrids of cereals and tricale germination.	Timing uncertain	
The Seed Potatoes (Amendment) Wales Regulations	To implement EC Directives 98/95 and 98/96.	Timing uncertain	
The Plant Health (Amendment) (No2) Wales Order	Amendment to protected zone provisions in EC Directive 2000/29/EC	Autumn 2001	
Green Code	Code of practice of pesticides use by farmers	Spring 2002	Possibly SO 27 legislation
Dairy Produce 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	
TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS
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	
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	SO 23
The Seed Potatoes (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2001	Will resolve unlawful plant health charges once UK Ministers have agreed an approach.	Timing uncertain	SO 23
The control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations	Pesticide regulation and freedom of information	Timing uncertain	SO 23
TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS
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	This is not an SI	The byelaw was signed on 02/03/01 and is now complete

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	
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	
TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS

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	
TITLE	INTENTION OF LEGISLATION	PROJECTED DATE FOR MAKING SI	COMMENTS
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	
Plant Health (Amendment) Regs.	Introduces measures to control the spread of potato ring rot	Timing uncertain	
Seeds(fees) (Amendment) Regulations	Fees Increase	Timing uncertain	Cannot be made until the fodder plant seeds (amendment) (Wales) Regulations have been made
The Plant Protection (basic Conditions) Amendment Regs.	Sets out the General conditions for pesticide sales.	Timing uncertain	Cannot be made until the control of pesticides (amendment) Regs. are made
Livestock Quotas Regulations	To implement measures to consolidate and liberalise the quota regime	Autumn 2001	
AAPS	To consolidate & incorporate a number of new measures	Winter 2001	

- **The eligibility of part rather than whole carcasses for private storage schemes to be checked and the committee informed - Mike Dunn (Agriculture Policy Division).**

Separate material will follow as necessary at a later stage, in light of the Ministerial meeting on 17th July 2001.

- **A note of clarification to be provided on the FMD infectivity of meat after slaughter - David Thomas (SVS)**

A note on FMD Meat Infectivity has already been supplied (attached to ARD 12-01(min) as annex 1.)

- **Details of the rural regeneration package, including the distribution of rate relief, to be included in the Minister's report for the committee's meeting on 18 July (Rural Policy Division).**

We do not yet have detailed information on how local authorities have spent their allocations of the £12 million special grant - they have until the end of this month to use the money. But from the feedback we have been getting, it seems that they are using a mix of rate relief (for periods up to 12 months) and grants to cover other fixed costs using new 'economic well-being' powers in the Local Government Act 2000.

We wrote to all local authorities on 6 July asking them whether they would spend all of their allocations. This is with a view to redistributing any unspent special grant money to those areas worst affected. So far Powys, Pembrokeshire and Anglesey have all said that they would spend their full allocations.

- **Details of funding plans to accelerate implementation of the National Scrapie Plan to be provided - Mike Dunn (Food and Farming Development Division).**

Will be dealt with under Agenda Item 4: Budget by Mike Dunn

- **Note of clarification to be provided on the make up of the £9 million available under LEADER+ - Mike Dunn (Food and Farming Development Division)**

LEADER+ consists of the following elements, as outlined in Chapter 5 of the Single Programming Document (financial tables):

	Million Euro	£*
EAGGF	14.7	9.2
National Assembly for Wales	12	7.5
Other Public	2.8	1.75
Private	1.4	0.85
TOTAL	30.9	19.3

*Exchange rate of £1 = 0.625 Euro

The overall financial allocations are divided between three Actions. The three Actions consist of a mixture of funding from EAGGF, National Assembly for Wales, Other public sector sources and private sector funding. A breakdown of the £9.2 EAGGF is provided below:

	Million Euro	£
Action 1 – local activities	10.3	6.44
Action 2 – joint projects	3.7	2.34
Action 3 - networking	.2	.13
Technical Assistance	.5	.31
TOTAL	14.7	9.2

Wales will therefore receive EAGGF of 14.7Million Euro (approx £9.2million) over a period of six years under LEADER+. The Assembly has allocated £1million pounds per year for the next three years in its Budget to match-fund LEADER+.

- **Note to be provided on eligibility for subsidy where livestock had been culled – Gareth Jones (Foot & Mouth Operations)**

This is a complex issue and action needs to be agreed across UK Agriculture Departments.

We will give the Minister a note to send to the ARD Committee this week.

- **Additional Issue: Proposed 20 day standstill for animal movements**

Given the volume of responses to the consultation exercise we are reviewing our proposals in the light of those responses. A standstill would have slowed down the rapid livestock movements that originally helped spread foot and mouth disease. However we have decided to make this issue part of a total approach to future disease control, which will also include biosecurity, animal identification and licensing. This will allow fuller veterinary and economic assessments to be carried out. In the meantime, current movement licensing controls will continue.