

requirements for staffing, inspection, record-keeping, freedom of movement, buildings, accommodation and mechanical equipment, feed and water, mutilations, and breeding procedures. The final paragraph of the Annex, paragraph 21, appears strikingly sweeping and perhaps a potentially powerful force against the use of strains with high prevalences of production diseases. It states: 'No animal shall be kept for farming purposes unless it can reasonably be expected, on the basis of its genotype or phenotype, that it can be kept without detrimental effect on its health or welfare'. Member states are required to bring the legislation, administrative provisions and sanctions necessary for compliance with the Directive into effect before 31 December 1999.

Council Directive 98/58/EC Concerning the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes (1998). Official Journal of the European Communities L 221: 23-27. Obtainable from Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985, Luxembourg.

Welfare of farmed fish

Following the publication in September 1996 of the Farm Animal Welfare Council's (FAWC) report on the welfare of farmed fish, the UK Government consulted interested parties and has now produced a response taking account of these views. This comprises a 4-page overview document with a 17-page Annex which: (i) outlines the points which the Government proposes for inclusion in a welfare code for farmed fish production; and (ii) lists FAWC's recommendations. Two general points are made regarding the way forward. First, since the recently adopted EU Directive on the protection of farm animals (Council Directive 98/58/EC) does not include any requirements which deal in detail with the welfare of farmed fish, the UK will continue to play an active part in the Council of Europe's negotiations to develop recommendations. Second, the Government proposes that many of FAWC's recommendations should be met by developing voluntary codes of practice with the farmed salmon and trout industries. FAWC made a number of recommendations on the need for research and the Government has prioritized these as follows. First to review commercial slaughter methods for trout and ensure that humane methods are available (Government-funded work is already underway on this). Second, if funds become available, to investigate improved methods for stunning and killing farmed salmon and setting stocking densities. Further research into environmental stimulation and interrelationships between food distribution, fish size and fish welfare is then to be pursued. Other research topics, such as the development of systems which minimize injuries to snout and fins, are viewed as matters for the industry to pursue.

Government's Response to the Farm Animal Welfare Council's Report on the Welfare of Farmed Fish. The Agriculture Departments of Great Britain (1998). Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food: London. 22pp. Loose-leaf. Obtainable from the publishers, Government Buildings, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7NF, UK. Free.

Towards a sustainable policy to control TB in cattle. A cull too far?

The first report by the UK Independent Scientific Group on cattle TB, chaired by Professor John Bourne, was published in July 1998, giving details of a randomized trial which will involve the extensive culling of badgers. The Group was formed to advise the UK Government on the implementation of the recommendations contained within the Krebs Report on *Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle and Badgers*, published in 1997 (see, *Animal Welfare* 7: 217).

Responding to the Krebs Report's conclusion that: 'The sum of evidence strongly supports the view that, in Britain, badgers are a significant source of infection in cattle', and that a