

Principles of Farm Health Planning

Phil Thomas
AMTRA



Presentation 2

FIT FOR PROFIT – PLANNING THE FARM’S HEALTH



It will appear that today we will not be able to cover the module page by page – and that is not the intention. However, we will deal with the main elements and the key ‘take away’ points.

- Principles of Farm Health Planning Farm
- Disease Prevention and Control
- Preparation of a Farm Health Plan

Background



- Farm Health Planning is not an entirely new concept BUT there is new emphasis driven by:
- Development of farm assurance schemes
- Emphasis on animal health within the 4 national 'strategies for agriculture'
- Major recent disease outbreaks have heightened Government, public and industry recognition of the cost of animal disease and the benefits of safeguarding animal health

Sir Don Curry Report



'The efficient and profitable production of livestock in England is dependent on healthy animals. Animal diseases – even those outside the scope of the current Royal Society Inquiry – have serious economic and welfare consequences. In view of England's abysmal animal health record in recent years, DEFRA in consultation with industry need to devise and implement a comprehensive animal health strategy.'

Scope of Animal Health and Welfare Strategy



- Farmed livestock
- Companion and other animals
- Farmed and ornamental fish
- Game species
- Wildlife

Themes of the Health and Welfare Strategy



- Working in Partnership
- Understanding and accepting roles and responsibilities
- Promoting the benefits of animal health and welfare: prevention is better than cure
- Understanding the costs and benefits
- Delivering and enforcing standards

Implementation



- Same policy throughout the UK but different implementation programmes in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Largest differences between countries relates to geo-veterinary links, e.g. Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and where CAP reform has been differently implemented e.g. Land Management Contracts in Scotland.

Regulatory and Policy Change



- Animal Health and Welfare Act(s) 2006
- Food Safety Regulations 2006-2008
- Economic impact (Presently subject to consultation)

Animal Health and Welfare Act(s) 2006




'A person commits an offence if he does not take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.'

Animal Health and Welfare Act(s) 2006




For the purposes of legislation animal's needs are defined to include:

- its needs for a suitable environment
- its needs for a suitable diet
- its needs to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
- its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.




Definition of Good Practice

Whilst failing to comply with these Codes of Practice will not of itself be taken as an offence, compliance or lack of compliance respectively will be taken as 'tending to establish negative liability' or 'tending to establish positive liability' under the Act.



EU Food Directive – introduced in stages from 2006-2008: Records

- The nature and origin of animal feeds
- The health status of animals sent for slaughter
- Any veterinary medicines administered and their withdrawal dates
- The use of biocides and plant protection products
- The results of any relevant analyses carried out
- Information required for the purposes of traceability up and down the food chain
- Records for other purposes which are required by the regulator



Economic Impact



- Impact of health planning varies with:
 - Endemic diseases
 - Zoonotic diseases
 - Exotic diseases
 - Animal welfare
- 'Cost sharing' between the public sector and industry is/will continue to be the next big topic of debate
- Big issue for producers will be the management of business risk

Business Risk: Cost factors



- Unavoidable costs
- Controlled costs
- Uncontrolled costs

Business risk is highest where there are a large proportion of uncontrolled costs

Disease Risk Management



Producer's ability to prevent or control disease depends on his/her capability:

- To identify circumstances where disease risk is present or is heightened
- To manage livestock in ways that will minimise disease occurrence and spread
- To recognise disease conditions where they occur
- To take action promptly to deal with any disease conditions that arise

Systems for disease risk management and farm health planning go hand in hand

Animal Health Supplies



- Principle: *Prevention is better than cure* BUT disease is an ever present risk
- Animal health suppliers can assist through the provision of licensed products
- Treatment for infection and infectious diseases
- Treatment for nutritional diseases
- Treatment for ectoparasites and endoparasites
- Essential sundries needed for the safe and effective operation of a livestock business



The End