

would be a welcome initiative which highlights many areas of concern about farm animal welfare and recognises those supermarkets that are working towards better standards of animal care and welfare. It is hoped that the award will encourage all supermarkets to improve the standards of animal welfare that they accept from their suppliers thereby improving the lives of individual farm animals that serve us on a daily basis. However, it is important that focus should be kept on issues of real welfare significance.

Supermarkets and Farm Animal Welfare: Raising the Standards. Published by Compassion in World Farming, Charles House, 5A Charles Street, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 3EH, UK. The document can be found on the CIWF website: www.ciwf.co.uk/pubs/supmart.pdf.

Chief Veterinary Officer's report: Animal Health 2001

The 2001 Annual Report of DEFRA's Chief Veterinary Officer was published recently. It begins with a short section on the role of the State Veterinary Service and an introduction in which the Chief Veterinary Officer mentions some of the Service's achievements over the course of the year, including the handling of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak and other notifiable diseases.

There are four main chapters in the document: Section A is entitled 'Protection of public health in relation to food and diseases transmissible to humans'; Section B covers 'Veterinary surveillance and emerging disease'; Section C reports on 'Prevention and control of animal diseases'; and Section D focusses on 'Animal welfare on farm, during transport, at market and at slaughter'. The chapters review, amongst other topics, current research, results of surveys, information about diseases and control strategies, an update on the Pet Travel Scheme, consumer protection, international trade and livestock protection.

The chapter on animal welfare begins by running through the measures that DEFRA introduced to help alleviate the problems caused by restrictions imposed as a result of the FMD outbreak. These included the provision of advice to farmers on changes in housing, feeding and management to deal with increased numbers of stock on premises; licences for the movement of animals, which allowed them to move across roads on the same holding; and the opening of the Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme to deal with severe welfare problems arising from the FMD restrictions. Slaughter during the FMD epidemic, religious slaughter, consultation exercises and research and development are also mentioned.

Report of the Chief Veterinary Officer: Animal Health 2001. Published by the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. 95 pp A4 paperback (ISBN 0 85521 006 0). Available from DEFRA Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX, UK, and at <http://www.defra.gov.uk>.

Database resource: <http://www.animalscience.com>

CABI Publishing, a division of CAB International, has recently launched [animalscience.com](http://www.animalscience.com). This is a web-based database dedicated to information about animal and veterinary science. There are six main areas: literature search, news and reviews, books, jobs, calendar, and a links section. The literature-search records include material from serials, conference proceedings, books, and published theses and reports; the information is updated on a weekly basis and abstract records are linked to full-text primary journals via Ingenta. The news and reviews section is updated daily and includes corporate news and scientific developments. There is an extensive list of titles in animal and veterinary science in the book section and a selection of available positions around the world is advertised in the job section. In addition, the calendar