

livestock. There are also sections on correct servicing and maintenance of firearms and other equipment.

The video is well produced and the information presented in it is clearly demonstrated and described. It is an informative and valuable training resource for all those responsible for, or planning to become responsible for, farmed livestock. It will be of interest also to all those involved in education about farm animal production and welfare. It is accompanied by a booklet which provides further information and re-emphasises key points.

Emergency Slaughter: practical guidance on the humane killing of injured, diseased, and non-viable livestock Humane Slaughter Association (February 2004). Video. Produced by Countrywise Communication. Published by and available from the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK; telephone +44 1582 831919; email info@hsa.org.uk. Price £15.

Reducing injuries to dairy cattle

'Reducing Injuries to Dairy Cattle' is an interactive CD-ROM resource aimed at providing guidance on minimising the risk of injuries to dairy cattle through the identification and amelioration of potential causes. This guide is the result of a series of Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)-sponsored meetings held around the UK to provide practical advice and technical support for all those involved in the dairy industry

From the title page, clicking on one of the eight module icons takes the user to a PowerPoint presentation on the theme of the module, most of which are sub-divided into further sections. In addition to the introduction and a section describing common injuries, the other sections discuss housing factors affecting the prevalence of injury, lameness, cow behaviour, locomotion scoring, teat injuries, and ear tagging.

The introduction outlines the types of injury to which dairy cattle are susceptible, with accompanying photographs illustrating the main injury points, together with the potential causes. Drawing on the Farm Animal Welfare Council's Five Freedoms, the different aspects of welfare

are discussed, as are the financial benefits for the farmer of investing in good welfare practices. The most comprehensive section covers the topic of housing conditions, primarily focusing on the advantages and disadvantages of cubicles and straw yards. Detailed information regarding cubicle design is given: bedding material, appropriate dimensions of individual cubicles in relation to cow movement, and the common problems associated with their use are detailed. In the section on lameness, prophylactic measures are discussed, including how underfoot conditions, concrete, farm tracks, gateways and paths, and access and feed passages can affect its incidence. A practical demonstration on identifying lameness by locomotion scoring is given in a series of video clips showing cows with varying degrees of lameness. Understanding the natural behaviour of cattle is also an important tool in minimising the number of avoidable injuries as it can help in the designing of facilities in order to avoid accidents and stress. This point is captured in the section on cow behaviour, in which the strengths and weaknesses of the senses, the flight zone and its application for control of movement (including video clips), and handling facilities (including the race, AI stalls and backing gates) are discussed.

Navigation through the CD-ROM is straightforward although the narration accompanying each slide has to be complete before the user can move on to the next slide. The package takes approximately one hour to navigate fully. The major points are illustrated throughout with well-placed diagrams and photographs, whilst links to further sources of information, including the 'Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Cattle' and the FAWC website, are supplied. For those requiring further information, a list of websites on the topic of cow health is provided, along with contact details for the Animal Health and Welfare Department (DEFRA).

Reducing Injuries to Dairy Cattle DEFRA (May 2004). CD-ROM produced by ADAS, compiled by Countrywise Communication. Available from the Animal Welfare Division of DEFRA at Animal Welfare Division, Area 509, 1A Page Street, London, SW1P 4PQ, UK; telephone +44 20 7904 6521; website www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/default.htm