

tion and data on a range of livestock, and from a wide variety of sources, will be included. A number of reports have already been published through RADAR and the latest publication is the RADAR Cattle book 2006, which was printed in May this year.

Cattle data is sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS), which is managed by the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS), and includes details of births, imports, breed, gender, movements and death. It is required by law that all bovines within Great Britain are individually identified with a unique ear-tag and passport and all movements on and off premises recorded.

It is intended that the RADAR Cattle Book be an informative and helpful resource for individuals working within the cattle industry and that the data and statistics presented will be used to interpret cattle disease, predict disease trends, aid with planning of resources for future disease outbreaks, and assess the impact of policies affecting the cattle population.

The data is presented under 7 main headings: cattle population; cattle premises; breeds; breed purpose; age; births and mortality; and cattle population movement. Each section begins with an explanatory introduction, followed by various graphs, charts and/or distribution maps, and finishes with bullet points highlighting the main findings. Data are grouped either in ways deemed most meaningful to the industry or most epidemiologically appropriate. For example, density graphs showing the distribution of the cattle population across Great Britain use Animal Health Divisional Offices as boundaries since this is thought to be most useful to animal health professionals and cattle age groups are not categorised in regular groupings but in a way that recognises different age groups have different disease risk factors as this is believed to be more useful for understanding the health of the cattle population. Along with the numerous results and analyses there is also a very helpful explanatory question and answer section.

Some of the statistics included are:

- Total cattle population of 9,254,584; of which 35% are dairy and 62% beef.
- Cattle are distributed over 82,241 premises, and the most common herd size (27%) is between 201 to 350 animals.
- Western England, south-western Wales and south-western Scotland appear to have the highest numbers of cattle.
- There are 205 different registered breeds in total but 92% of cattle are one of 10 breeds, the top three being: Holstein/Friesian or cross (34%); Limousin or cross (21%) and Charolais or cross (10%).
- Between June 2005 and May 2006, 13,841 cattle were imported into Great Britain from 8 European Union (EU) countries. The top three countries to import cattle into GB were Ireland (31%), Netherlands (20%) and Denmark (19%). No cattle were imported from outside of the EU.

In general the format of the RADAR Cattle Book 2006 is simple and the layout easy to understand; although some areas are perhaps over simplified. It does successfully

achieve its main aim however of “describing the size, distribution and relevant measurable characteristics of the GB cattle population in a standardised, quality-assured format”. It is a useful start-point for anyone interested in seeing a quick, overall snapshot of the cattle industry.

The RADAR Cattle Book 2006: Descriptive Statistics About the Cattle Population in Great Britain (2006). 46 pp A4. Available for download from: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/vet-surveillance/species/cattle/dataset.htm>

E Carter

UFAW

New Codes of Animal Welfare for Deer and Companion Cats in New Zealand

The main body of legislation covering animal welfare in New Zealand is The Animal Welfare Act 1999. This Act lays out fundamental obligations for people who own or are in charge of animals with the view to ensuring that the physical health and behavioural needs of animals are met and any pain or distress are alleviated. The Act only provides a framework however and secondary legislation, in the form of codes of welfare, provide the necessary detail.

Codes of welfare are issued by the Minister of Agriculture on the recommendation of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) and following a public consultation of farmers, veterinarians, scientific researchers and other interested or appropriate groups. As in the UK, codes are deemed to be guidelines and are not themselves law, although breach of minimum standards within the codes may be used to support a prosecution for an offence under the Act. Codes of welfare take into account good practice, scientific knowledge and existing technology available at the time. They aim to encourage appropriate behaviour, establish minimum standards, and promote best practice. It is required that all codes are reviewed at least every 10 years. So far this year the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in New Zealand has issued two new codes of welfare: Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007 and Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007.

Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007

Cats are now the most commonly owned companion animal in New Zealand with population estimates ranging between 900,000 and 1,500,000. The Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007 was drafted by a writing group convened by the New Zealand Companion Animal Council. It is intended for any person responsible for the care and welfare of cats, including pet owners, breeders, catteries, shelters and pet shops.

The code has 13 sections and lays out 11 minimum standards relating to the care and handling of cats, covering: food and feeding; body condition; water; caged cats; hygiene; removal of kittens from the queen; signs of ill health; use of collars; transportation and euthanasia. There are also sections on: adopting and purchasing a cat; housing; breeding; mating, pregnancy, birthing and

lactation; care of claws and coat; care of older cats; behavioural problems and methods of identification.

The majority of sections are laid out in a format comprising introduction, minimum standard, recommended best practice and general information. The layout is clear and the advice practical, eg suggestions are given when moving home on how best to keep any stress to a minimum. All sections are informative but it is noticeable that some are more thorough and descriptive than others.

It is hoped that this document will offer all those involved with cats practical and helpful advice for caring for their pets as well as laying out minimum standards to ensure compliance with the law. The level of guidance is basic in some areas but the main issues that are important for appropriate cat care and handling are covered and it is therefore a useful and supportive document.

Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007

Drafted by the Deer Industry New Zealand (an organisation responsible for promoting and assisting with the orderly development of the deer industry) the Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007 is intended for all individuals involved with managing and rearing farmed deer. Farmed deer are considered to be all those kept behind any boundary fence, including deer held within game estates or safari parks.

The code is an extensive document that deals with a wide range of considerations for deer husbandry on-farm. Two areas not covered are the removal of velvet and castration of males; these procedures are covered in the Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Deer during the Removal of Antlers, and Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005, respectively.

There are 9 sections to the code and within these sections a total of 15 minimum standards. These standards cover: training; food; water; shelter; handling facilities; holding facilities; restraint and handling practices; restraint equipment; mixing of deer; hard antler; hand-reared fawns; weaning; health; inspections and pre-transport selection.

Many of the sections covering minimum standards are subdivided into several parts and these are then followed by recommended best practices and a useful general information section. For example, within 'Food and Water', feeding is thoroughly covered with 13 suggested best practices and a lengthy general information and feeding management section, including guidance tables showing energy needs for a range of deer in a variety of situations. This section is very comprehensive; especially when considering the comparable UK code of recommendation for the welfare of deer in which feeding and watering is given a scant 6 paragraphs.

The code is helpful and practical and includes a wealth of information (52 pages in all). A high level of emphasis is placed on good stockmanship which, it is acknowledged, relies on a thorough knowledge and understanding of deer and is built upon through experience and training. The behavioural needs of deer are also appreciated and many minimum standards and recommendations to improve deer

welfare are given with these needs in mind, eg following birth fawns must have access to sufficient ground cover for 2 weeks to allow them to express their natural hiding behaviour (Minimum Standard No. 4 – Shelter, part 'c').

Although written for New Zealand farmers it would still be a valuable read for any person interested in, or involved with, deer farming.

Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007 (March 2007) National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. ISBN 978-0-478-29870-3 (print) ISBN 978-0-478-29871-0 (online). 41 pages, A4. Published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand and available for download at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/codes/welfare or on request by email: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz.

Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007 (May 2007) National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. ISBN 978-0-478-29872-7 (print) ISBN 978-0-478-29873-4 (online). 52 pages A4. Published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand and available for download at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/codes/welfare or on request by email: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz.

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Attitudes of EU citizens towards Animal Welfare

Building on a previous 2005 publication, this report discusses the finding of a survey conducted in Autumn 2006 into the attitude of EU citizens towards the welfare and protection of farmed animals. As with the previous survey, the welfare of farmed animals is reported as something which appears to matter to most EU citizens and one that most felt they knew something about but which the majority would also like to receive more information on. The report also gives some interesting insights into national perceptions that underlie these broad concerns and the extent to which the animal welfare message has been taken up by different countries. As such, for those working in this field, it identifies countries where further activity and educational initiatives are likely to be both welcomed and influential. The report will also undoubtedly inform the future thinking of the European Commission and areas for further activity.

Based on the findings of interviews with 29,152 citizens of the 25 EU Member States and 4 accession and candidate countries, the major themes examined in the report are: 'the importance of animal welfare in the public mind', 'knowledge of animal welfare', 'perceptions of national animal welfare standards', 'the impact of higher animal welfare standards on producers' and 'consumer shopping habits and labelling'. For each, the report discusses the results in terms of the European average before considering a breakdown based on individual country and socio-demographic variables. Cross analyses of the responses against specific questions relating to reported self-knowledge of the conditions under which animals are farmed in the respondent's country, the desire to be more informed about national conditions under which animals are farmed, the