

Pig welfare

The Pig Welfare Advisory Group, which represents a cross-section of organizations involved in pig production in the United Kingdom, has been set up to ensure that the results of research and development work on pig welfare are disseminated to the industry. It has now produced a series of useful practical management guidelines which are based on sound commercial experience. The booklets vary in length from four to sixteen pages but they all contain precise, clearly laid out practical advice. The welfare of pigs can but be improved by the application of the ideas and suggestions included in these publications. Titles include:

- No 1 *Introduction of Sows into Groups* (PB1490); 5pp
- No 2 *Non-Straw or Low Straw Systems for Housing Dry Sows* (PB1491); 4pp
- No 3 *Muck Handling for Sows* (PB1492); 4pp
- No 4 *Cubicle and Free-Access Stalls* (PB1493); 9pp
- No 5 *Yards and Individual Feeders* (PB1494); 8pp
- No 6 *Yards or Kennels with Short Stall Feeders (Trickle Feeding or Wet Feed Systems)* (PB1495); 8pp
- No 7 *Yards or Kennels with Floor Feeding* (PB1496); 13pp
- No 8 *Outdoor Sows* (PB1497); 8pp
- No 9 *Electronic Sow Feeders (ESF)* (PB1498); 16pp

Pig Welfare Advisory Group Publications Series of nine A4 booklets. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1993). Obtainable free of charge from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP, UK.

Food animal well-being

In April 1993 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Purdue University jointly held a conference and workshop in Indianapolis (Indiana) on farm animal well-being. The proceedings have now been published by Purdue University as a 140 page, A5 sized volume. As the following list of contents shows, contributions were given by many of the leading workers in the field of animal welfare in the United States:

Presented papers

- Animal production and the new social ethic for animals. *Bernard E Rollin*
- Animal well-being research priorities: FAIR '95 and some personal observations. *Joy A Mench*
- Animal well-being: some key philosophical, ethical, political, and public issues affecting food animal agriculture. *Andrew N Rowan*
- Assessing animal well-being: common sense, uncommon science. *David Fraser*
- Variations in US animal production systems: current trends and their impacts on animal well-being and the economics of production. *Stanley E Curtis*
- The international (European) perspective on the impacts of the animal welfare movement on food animal production systems. *Gerhard Baumgartner*
- Animal welfare – politics or facts? *James R Moseley*
- Opportunities for science and technology to improve production systems to assure animal well-being and economic viability. *Paul B Siegel*
- Future impact of new science and emerging technologies on animal well-being. *W R Gomes*

Workgroup deliberations

Researchable problems and priorities. *Co-Chairs: Gary Moberg and Joy A Mench*

Public issues and concerns. *Co-Chairs: Janice C Swanson and Paul B Thompson*

Implications for guidelines and regulations. *Co-Chairs: Bonnie Buntain and Dale Schwindaman*

Implications for production agriculture and agribusiness. *Co-Chairs: Anne Banville and Richard Reynells*

Overview and concluding remarks. H Glenn Gray

This proceedings volume contains a number of important, well-documented and well-written papers. It is greatly to the credit of the USDA and Purdue University that these valuable contributions to the farm animal welfare debate have been so promptly made available in the public arena. The very reasonable price being charged for this well-produced volume should help ensure that it is widely circulated and used.

Food Animal Well-Being 1993 Conference Proceedings and Deliberations Produced and published by USDA and Purdue University: West Lafayette (1993). 140pp. Paperback. Obtainable from Purdue University Office of Agricultural Research Programs, 1140 Agricultural Administration Building, Purdue University, West Lafayette IN 47907-1140, USA (ISBN 0 931682 36 3) Price US\$6 including postage.

Animal welfare in New Zealand

The above named publication, produced by the New Zealand (NZ) Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, gives an overall account of the governmental side of the animal welfare scene in New Zealand. It covers the welfare situation of farm and laboratory species, working and companion animals, and that of wild and feral mammals and birds. The main emphasis, as is right in a country which depends upon the export products of pastoral farming for nearly 50 per cent of its export income, is on the animals used in agriculture.

The booklet is clearly written, lavishly illustrated and uses a number of diagrams to explain the interacting roles of the various governmental and non-governmental bodies involved in the development and practice of animal welfare in the country.

Some critics, no doubt, will suggest that this stylishly-produced document paints too perfect a picture. This may or may not be true, but there is no doubt that it contains a mass of well-presented factual information. The document looks back to the past and forward to the future. The history of the current legislation is covered, as well as predictions as to how it must be improved. The point is well made that as a society changes, so that society's animal welfare expectations change.

All in all, this is a well-produced, useful and informative booklet.

Animal Welfare in New Zealand New Zealand MAF and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1993). 16pp. Paperback. Obtainable from MAF New Zealand, ASB Bank House, 101-103 The Terrace, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand (ISBN 0 478 07334 8) Price \$NZ10.