

Farm Livestock, 3rd edition

Graham Boatfield (1994). Farming Press: Ipswich. 144pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Wharfedale Road, Ipswich IP1 4LG, UK; distributed in North America by Diamond Farm Enterprises, Box 537, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607, USA (ISBN 0 85236 274 9). Price £8.50, US\$18.95.

In the introduction to this, the third edition of Graham Boatfield's book on *Farm Livestock*, the author states the aim of providing a simple outline of current British livestock systems. This aim is achieved in the new revision, as it has been in the previous editions. The approach is simple without being too simplistic and enables the reader to obtain an outline of animal husbandry in language that is suited to all levels of ability.

With the suitability of the text to agricultural students particularly in mind, it is possible to recommend it as an introductory text to newcomers from National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 1 to undergraduates with little background in land based industries. The reader is encouraged to apply the theory provided to local and practical situations by a series of tables and questions, demanding observation and study of surrounding enterprises. The diligent student should thus be able to extend the outline provided by the text into a more comprehensive and deeper knowledge base. This also establishes good practice in terms of student centred learning.

In content the text is very little changed except where production targets and other current standards have been updated. There is reference to Economic Community quota systems but this cannot claim to be up-to-date and is not intended to be so. The changes in the regulations surrounding the sale of milk are not included even as a prediction although, admittedly, dairy science is too vast a topic for a book of this nature to attempt to be comprehensive.

Some of the illustrations have not been changed and so, for example, cow types appear very old fashioned, but this example is mitigated by the inclusion for the first time of colour photographs of popular livestock breeds. A more serious criticism could be levelled at the author for failing to emphasize the legal necessity of stockmen to be familiar with the welfare codes, something that only merits a brief suggestion within things to do at the end of the final chapter of the book. The sections on feeding, breeding and animal health should provide the reader with adequate resources to explore these topics further.

As a lecturer of students not intending to specialize within farm animal husbandry, I would recommend this book for the good general background it provides.

Helen Moreton
Hartpury College
Gloucester

Livestock Housing

Edited by C M Wathes and D R Charles (1994). CAB International: Wallingford. 428pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK (ISBN 0 85198 774 5). Price £55.

This is a splendid book which, in a comprehensive way, takes us right up to the present time in our current knowledge on livestock housing. It covers all farm animals as well as the horse. The way it covers the subject is logical – starting with the environmental requirements of the animals, continuing with the physical principles of structure, ventilation, hygiene and