

Welcome to the fourth edition of Farming Standards. If you have queries about any articles included in this issue, please contact us on the published numbers or contact your local union representative.

Avian Influenza

The Trading Standards Service has recently sent out information to all members of the Wrexham Animal Health Enforcement Forum on the latest advice given by the Welsh Assembly Government on the emergence of Avian Influenza (AI).

The possibility of an outbreak of Avian Influenza is a concern for us all. Whilst the risk is increasing, and is regarded as high, in terms of global spread it remains low for the UK, taking account of the migratory route through the affected areas.



However, complacency cannot be afforded and early detection and rapid action is the key to both local and national government responses, particularly in the areas of surveillance of wild birds, emergency preparedness and bio-security. Currently, the Welsh Assembly Government is asking keepers to:

- Ensure that they feed and water birds indoors wherever possible to avoid attracting wild birds into their premises.
- Review their bio-security.
- Plan ahead for the possibility of other measures being brought in.
- Be vigilant.

Two leaflets have been produced: 'Bio-security and Preventing Disease', (PB11380) – this leaflet is aimed at larger commercial poultry keepers.

'Protect your birds from the risk of Avian Influenza', (PB11393) – this leaflet is aimed at smaller and non-commercial poultry keepers.

Copies of these leaflets can be obtained by e-mail or fax as follows

E-mail - defra@iforcegroup.com

Fax - 0208 957 5012

Commercial poultry keepers have been asked to carry out on-farm risk assessments with their private vet

to make sure that they have done everything possible to minimise the risk of avian influenza (and other diseases) entering their flock.

An extensive range of guidance materials and more are available on the DEFRA website, to which the National Assembly has a link as follows:

<http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/e/master.asp?nl=1&n2=102&n3=259>

Obviously, early detection is the key to disease containment with any suspicion being reported to the State Veterinary Service at Caernarfon. Telephone number: 01286 674144.

STOP PRESS!

[“The Avian Influenza \(Preventative Measures\)\(Wales\) Regulations 2005”](#)

These regulations came into force on 28/10/05 and the preventative measures include:

- Require the Secretary of State to evaluate the risk of the transmission of the Avian Influenza virus and to take appropriate measures to reduce that risk

continued on back page

Sheep & Goats (Records, Identification and Movements) (Wales) Order

The following article is an attempt to clarify the new regulations surrounding sheep/goats and movements of sheep/goats.

Defining Your Holding

Main Site: Is where the main buildings and livestock facilities are, together with all adjoining fields. If your fields are separated from your farm by a road, stream, boundary (i.e. hedge, fence) then these fields are considered part of the main site.

Effectively your holding is the main site plus any outlying parcels of land, wholly or partially within five miles. (Five miles is measured as the crow flies from the nearest borders of the main site).

All land must be under your sole management and control

Do I need a further CPH Number?

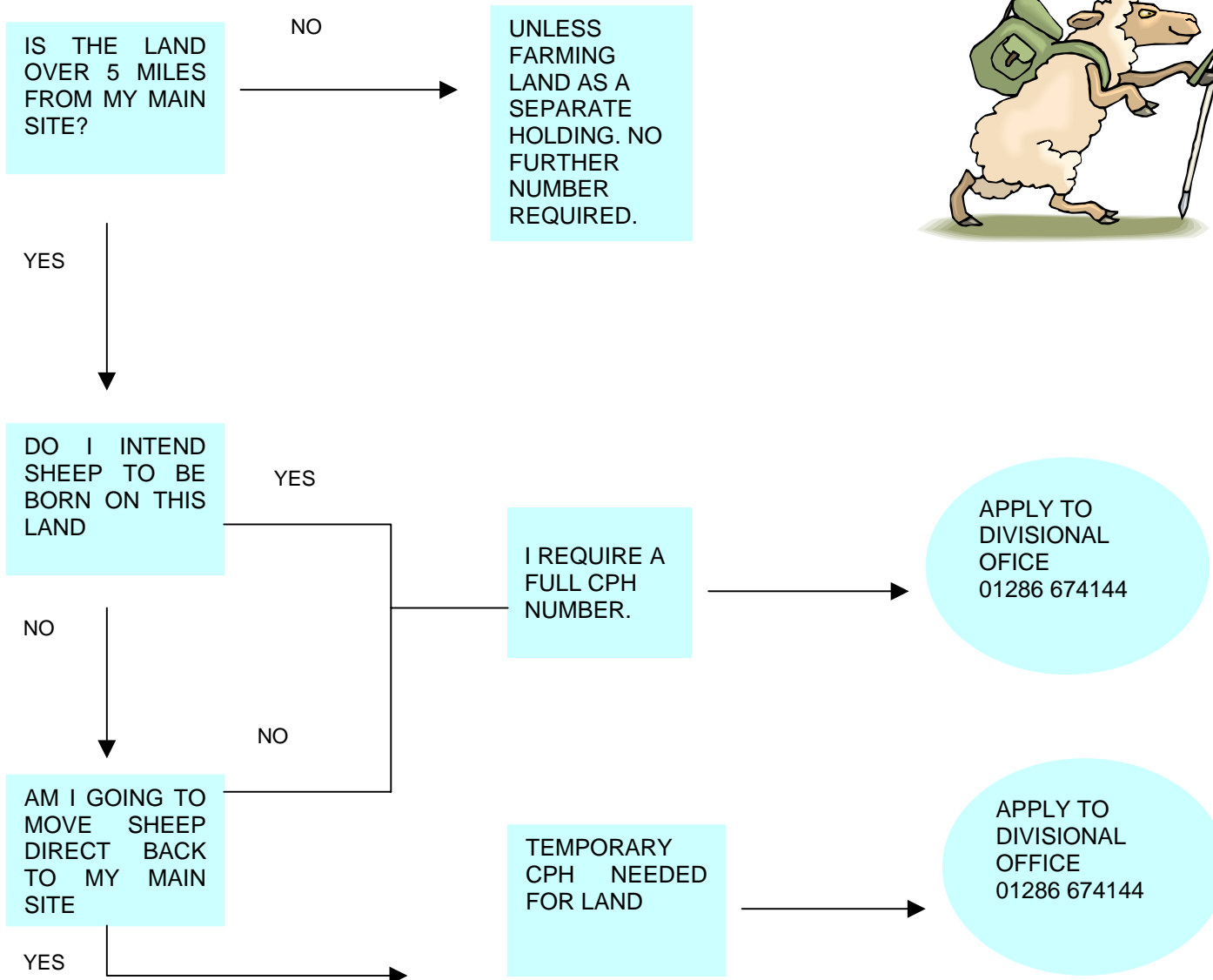
The State Veterinary Service through their Divisional Office will allocate temporary CPH.

Temporary CPH numbers will be allocated to land over five miles from a keepers main site which he owns or has on a lease (not temporary grazing) and which does not require a flock mark

For example where sheep are not born on that land and the return move is back to the main holding.

Moves to other land or holdings will require a full CPH number.

The diagram below is designed to assist you in deciding if you need further CPH numbers. You can also consider any outlying land within five miles of the main site as a separate holding.



Movements if all land is within five miles

- You **do not need** to complete a movement document or report the movement to the local authority
- You **must** record the movement in your flock register
- Sheep **must** be identified within six to nine months

Movements if land is outside five miles

- **You must** apply holding of birth tags or “S” tags
- **You must** record the movement in your flock register
- **You must** complete a movement document and send a copy to the local authority

Flock Registers

You **must** record

- Date of movement
- Number of sheep moved
- Relevant ID
- Transporters name and vehicle registration
- CPH number of holding of departure
- CPH number or address of destination
- Lot numbers if moved from a market
- If sold without moving, name and address of new owner
- Number of sheep born/lost or died
- Replacement tags
- Running total
- Result of animal inventory

Movement Documents

- Similar to previous documents
- But **all** sections must be completed

Sole Occupancy Authority (S.O.A.)

An SOA is a group of premises within the same management control, which are linked for the purpose of overcoming the six-day standstill when animals are moved between those premises

Previously there was no need to notify moves within an SOA or apply “S” tags

The rules have now changed

You must comply with the rules applicable for your holding i.e. premises wholly within five miles or outside five miles – the disease control standstill remains unchanged.

Over Thirty Months Slaughter Scheme (OTMS) Rule Changes

From 7th November 2005, bovines born on 1st August 1996 and after will be allowed for slaughter for human consumption. This is providing that the bovine has a negative stem sample when tested for TSE/BSE at the abattoir.

In order to support the market DEFRA have agreed with the European Union Commission (EUC) that the OTMS scheme can run in parallel with material entering the human food chain. Therefore for a short period of time the producer will be able to choose to consign post 1st August 1996 animals to either the OTMS or to slaughter for human consumption.

It is envisaged that exports of animals born after 1st August 1996 will commence in mid February 2006. However this date is based on there only being technical hurdles to overcome.

It is envisaged that the OTMS scheme will end in mid January and be succeeded by "The Older Cattle Disposal Scheme" (OCDS).

The draft OCDS Regulation provides for a "flat rate" compensation payment on a sliding scale to encourage producers to present their animals. A rate of 360 Euros per animal applies to scheme presentations until December 2006; a rate of 324 Euros per animal applies to scheme presentations until December 2007 and a rate of 292 Euros per animal applies to scheme presentations until December 2008.

A flat rate not dependent on the weight of the animal means that the need to weigh animals on a live weight basis will no longer apply. The role of live weight markets within the OCDS is therefore currently being considered as the material may go straight to abattoirs.

New rules on the emergency slaughter of animals will come into force from 1st January 2006. From this date, where cattle are born on or after 1st August 1996 and are slaughtered on farm because they cannot be transported to a slaughterhouse, only those animals that have suffered an accident will be eligible for human consumption. The animal must also have been healthy before the accident and comply with all normal ante-mortem conditions.

Current thoughts are that only about 20,000 in total per year of these animals will meet the criteria. This is due to a number of factors that include the tight restrictions that will be enforced, lack of casualty slaughterhouses and the unwillingness of slaughterhouses to take these animals.

The remainder of these animals will be eligible for free collection on the Over 24 Month Bovine Fallen Stock Scheme for TSE testing. It is envisaged that this scheme will run to the end of 2008

Animals that are casualties and are born prior to 1st August 1996 will be collected on the basis as it is undertaken presently. As aforementioned the rate will be the same excluding relevant transport costs.

Food and Feed Hygiene for Farmers and Growers

New Food Hygiene Regulations will apply to all food producers from January 2006 – this will affect all farmers and growers.

New Feed Hygiene Regulations will apply to all businesses that make, use or market animal feed from January 2006. This includes most livestock farms, an arable farm that grows, use or sells crops for feed use. These Regulations are intending to ensure that you and others involved in food production take all appropriate steps to control potential food hazards, at every stage.

Farmers as primary producers, will have to follow basic hygiene procedures in relation to the feed they use or grow and ensure that hazards are properly controlled. Most of these controls will come into effect from 2008. However, farms currently registered for mixing feed containing additives will have to notify their local authority by 1 January 2006 and comply with the conditions by that date. The Trading Standards Division will send out letters to all those currently registered for mixing feed in order to enable them to comply with this requirement.

All this is designed to help ensure that feed provided to animals is safe and can be traced in the event of a safety incident. It is complimentary to the standards that apply to the production of food that are set out in the new Food Hygiene Regulations.

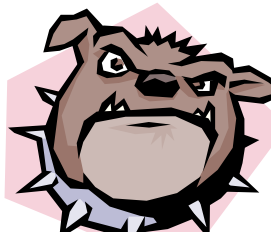
A guidance note will be compiled and sent out to farmers outlining the basic hygiene procedures and records that they will need to keep.

Wrexham Animal Health Enforcement Forum

The next meeting of the Forum is to be held on Wednesday 7th December 2005. If you have any questions arising from articles in this newsletter or matters you would like raised, please direct them through your local representative who will receive an invitation to the meeting.

You can also contact the help desk on 01978 296076.

Turning the Other Cheek



On a sunny afternoon in early October I was on my rounds of visits when arriving at a farm I was greeted by a pack of dogs.

I got out of the car and hastily went to the Farmhouse door hoping for someone to answer it quickly. The door swung open and the owner told me that he couldn't spare the time at that moment as he already had someone with him.

By the time I turned to leave, the dogs had obviously decided that I was fair game and suddenly I felt an excruciating pain in my right buttock. On hearing my shriek the farmer came back to the door to see what was going on. As I turned to speak to him the dog tried for the other cheek. I swiftly turned and using my hands I tried to protect myself from further attack.

The farmer's daughter caught the culprit and tied it up before asking me if I wanted her to take a look to see if the dog had drawn blood. I quickly declined her offer.

"That dog takes a dislike to men with bald heads or wearing hats" the owner declared.

Well, needless to say I wasn't wearing a hat.

I Gingerly I climbed back into my car and balancing on my un-bitten side drove back to the office where I was met with a barrage of insults and offers to check the wound.

The accident book was filled in and then I was off to the doctors where the Nurse saw me. She checked my records to see when I had last had my Tetanus jab and found I was up to date. I turned to leave and she said "You can't go just yet, I need to check the bite".

So in true British fashion, I dropped my trousers touched my toes and made a wish. After what seemed an age the Nurse called in the trainee nurse and they both proclaimed they couldn't see anything. And I am absolutely positive they were talking about the dog bite!!!!!!



A reminder of how to deal with Fallen Stock

Farmers are reminded about the action they need to take in respect of stock that die on farm or are killed other than for human consumption.

- For cattle aged over 24 months, complete details of the death in the passport or registration document and farm record and telephone 0800525890 for free collection of the carcase for BSE testing and disposal. The passport or document should stay with the animal, to be collected at the same time.
- For cattle aged 24 months or less, complete details of the death in the passport/registration document and send it to BCMS. The death should also be entered in the farm records. Dispose of the carcase in accordance with the Animal By-Products Regulations.
- Sheep/Goats/Pigs, complete details of the death in the farm records and dispose of the carcase in accordance with the Animal By-Products Regulations

"The Avian Influenza (Preventative Measures)(Wales) Regulations 2005"

Continued from front page.

- Provide for the Secretary of State to declare A.I Prevention Zones or to serve notices on premises at risk and list the measures, which may be imposed on zones and premises. These include the housing of poultry and the feeding of poultry indoors.
- Prohibit the holding of gatherings of birds anywhere in Wales unless they are licensed by the Secretary of State after a risk assessment.
- Require the keepers of fifty or more birds on commercial poultry premises to keep written records of their stock and other information. This information is to be passed to the Secretary of State at a date to be specified.
- Monitoring of premises and the powers of inspectors appointed by the Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities.