



Environment & Rural Affairs Department

Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh EH14 1TY
13 September, 2002

To organisations on the attached list

Dear Stakeholder

CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL SCRAPIE PLAN FOR GREAT BRITAIN- TIMETABLE FOR PHASING OUT TYPE 3 RAMS

I am writing to seek your views on proposals for changes under the National Scrapie Plan to the timetable for phasing out type 3 rams (see below).

Background

Rural Affairs Departments in England, Scotland and Wales launched the National Scrapie Plan in July 2001. The plan has ram genotyping schemes for owners of pure bred sheep from the registered and non registered sectors, aimed at increasing the genetic resistance to scrapie and thereby the theoretical risk of BSE in the national flock. Under the scheme rules, genotypes are grouped into 5 types for NSP purposes. These range from Type 1 -the ARR/ARR genotype -which is fully resistant to scrapie, to Type 4 and 5 - the VRQ genotypes that are highly susceptible to scrapie. This letter concerns the NSP rules relating to those genotypes which carry neither ARR (most resistant) nor VRQ (most scrapie susceptible) ie Type 3, those that consist of ARQ, AHQ and ARH combinations only.

The current rules require that rams in this Type 3 group may be sold or used for breeding without restriction until the end of 2004. Thereafter, any ram on a scheme farm may be used for breeding for up to a further 3 years ie until end 2007.

Current difficulties

Rural Affairs Departments have received representations from the main hill breeds and from one or two other breeds that the present rules for Type 3 genotypes are too restrictive. There is concern that, if the rules are maintained, further uptake into the National Scrapie Plan will be low amongst their members. They are also concerned that the current rules would require too rapid genetic change, with the risk of losing other valuable breeding traits. This has largely been because of the 1 – 2 year impact on the NSP caused by FMD. They therefore

consider that some extension to the restriction dates is needed. On the other hand, there is at least one other breed where there is interest in speeding up the arrangements for phasing out type 3 rams.

Our proposals

In view of these developments, we have reconsidered the rules and propose to make a number of changes to recognise the differing circumstances of individual breeds. It is proposed to change the restriction dates for the sale and use of rams with Type 3 genotypes for hill breeds and breeds where our data now indicate the proportion of resistant genotypes is sufficiently low as to make implementation of the NSP rules impractical. A similar change for the Texel breed is also proposed but not in relation to Type 3 genotypes that carry ARQ.

Under these proposals, the Type 3 category would therefore be divided into sub- categories, as follows:

- Type 3A - rams that may be sold or used for breeding without restriction until the end of 2006. They could then continue to be used on farm until 2008¹.
- Type 3B – rams of Type 3 genotypes AHQ/AHQ, ARH/ARH, AHQ/ARH may be sold or used for breeding without restriction until end 2006. They could then continue to be used on farm until end 2008. (Existing rules would continue to apply to ARQ/ARH, ARQ/AHQ and ARQ/ARQ genotypes).
- Type 3C- rams for which there is no change to existing Type 3 rules ie no sale or use for breeding after end 2004 and no use on farm after end 2007.

We are also considering with the Suffolks the introduction of a further sub-category (3D) for rams where the deadlines for sale or breeding use and for use on farm would be brought forward to end 2003. We would welcome views from Suffolk breed members in the ram genotyping schemes and representatives on this idea.

The attached Annex shows you how we propose breeds should be categorised. The new rules would apply both to existing members of the National Scrapie Plan and to new entrants.

¹ The normal flexibility for further use, in exceptional circumstances, under the current scheme arrangements will be available after this date.

Your Comments

We would value your views on our proposals. If you have any comments on the proposals, please send them by **27 September 2002** to:

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Edinburgh
EH14 1TY

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If you have difficulties in meeting this deadline, please contact us.

In line with the Government's policy on openness, SEERAD intends to make available at the end of the consultation period, copies of comments received. The main Scottish Executive library at K Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD (Tel: 0131-244-8455), will on request supply copies to personal callers or telephone enquiries. It will be assumed therefore that your reply be made publicly available in this context, unless you clearly state that you wish all, or part of it, excluded from this arrangement.

This Letter is addressed to the attached list of interested organisations. All breed societies will be consulted by way of a joint letter issued by SEERAD, DEFRA and WAG. Other Rural Affairs Departments will be carrying out a parallel consultation in relation to other industry stakeholders in England and Wales.

A copy of this letter will be published on the Scottish Executive website, at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/views/views.asp>

Yours sincerely



STUART BAXTER

Animal Health and Welfare 3

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department

CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL SCRAPIE PLAN FOR GREAT BRITAIN- TIMETABLE FOR PHASING OUT TYPE 3 RAMS

ANNEX

Breed	Revised Type 3 Categorisation	Category Description
Badger Face Welsh Mountain	3A	3A = rams that may be sold or used for breeding without restriction until end 2006. Continued use on farm permitted until 2008
Balwen Welsh Mountain	3A	
Beltex	3A	
Beulah Speckled Face	3A	
Black Welsh Mountain	3A	
Blackface	3A	
Boreray	3A	
Brecknock Hill Cheviot	3A	
British Inra 401	3A	
British Milk Sheep	3A	
Cheviot	3A	
Dalesbred	3A	
Derbyshire Gritstone	3A	
Devon Close wool	3A	
Friesland	3A	
Galway	3A	
Gotland	3A	
Greyfaced Dartmoor	3A	
Hebridean	3A	
Herdwick	3A	
Hill Radnor	3A	
Kerry Hill	3A	
Llandoverly Whiteface	3A	
Llanwenog	3A	
Lonk	3A	
Manx Loghtan	3A	
North Country Cheviot	3A	
Rough Fell	3A	
Roussin	3A	
Ryeland	3A	
Shetland	3A	
Shropshire	3A	
Soay	3A	
South Wales Mountain	3A	
Southdown	3A	
Swaledale	3A	
Talybont Welsh	3A	
Teeswater	3A	
Tregaron Welsh Mountain	3A	
Vendeen	3A	
Welsh Hill Speckled Face	3A	
Welsh Mountain	3A	
White Faced Dartmoor	3A	
White Faced Woodland	3A	
Zwartbles	3A	

Breed	Revised Type 3 Categorisation	Category Description
Texel	3B	3B = rams of type 3 genotypes other than ARQ\ARH,ARQ\AHQ,ARQ\ARQ (existing rules apply to these genotypes) may be sold or used for breeding without restriction until end 2006. Continued use on farm permitted until 2008.
Berrichon du Cher	3C	3C = No change to existing Type 3 rules
Bleu du Maine	3C	
Bluefaced Leicester	3C	
Border Leicester	3C	
Cambridge	3C	
Charmoise	3C#	
Charollais	3C	
Clun Forest	3C	
Cotswold	3C	
Cotentin	3C	
Dorset Down	3C	
Devon & Cornwall Longwool	3C	
Exmoor Horn	3C#	
Dorset Horn & Poll Dorset	3C	
Hampshire Down	3C	
Jacob	3C	
Ile de France	3C	
Leicester Longwool	3C	
Lincoln Longwool	3C	
Lley	3C	
Norfolk Horn	3C	
Meatlinc	3C	
Oxford Down	3C	
Portland	3C	
Romney	3C	
Rouge de L'Ouest	3C	
Ryeland	3C	
Teeswater	3C#	
Wensleydale	3C	
Wiltshire Horn	3C#	
Suffolk	3D	3D* = rams that may be sold or used for breeding without restriction until end 2003. Continued use on farm permitted until end 2003.
* We would welcome views from Suffolk breed members in the NSP and breed representatives on this idea.		

may need special consideration in relation to controls

CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL SCRAPIE PLAN FOR GREAT BRITAIN - TIMETABLE FOR PHASING OUT TYPE 3 RAMS

List of Consultees

All Chief Executives
All DVMs
All Scottish Faith Groups
All Scottish Political Parties
British Veterinary Association (Scottish Branch)
Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Crofters Commission
Crofters Foundation, The
Food Standards Agency
Health & Safety Executive
Highlands & Islands Sheep Strategy
Highlands and Islands Sheep Health Association
Institute for Animal Health Neuropathogenesis Unit
Moredun Research Institute
National CJD Surveillance Unit, The
National Farmer's Union of Scotland
National Sheep Association
Quality Meat Scotland
Rowett Research Institute, The
Royal Dick Veterinary College
Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland, The
Royal Society of Edinburgh, The
SAC Veterinary Science Division
Scottish Agricultural Colleges
Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers
Scottish Association Of Sheep Health
Scottish Association of Young Farmers
Scottish Borders Enterprise
Scottish Branch BVA
Scottish Consumer Council
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Landowners Federation
Scrapie and Related Diseases Advisory Service
Sheep Veterinary Association
Sheep Veterinary Society
Shetland Agricultural Association
Shetland Animal Health Trust
Shetland Islands Council
University of Glasgow Veterinary School
Women's Farming Union