

CMRG MEETING

11.00 am, WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2006

**PATERSON AND WATSON MEETING ROOM,
STEWART STOCKMAN BUILDING, VLA WEYBRIDGE**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Surveillance data
5. National milk quality statistics
6. Cell count ring trials
7. Research
8. Therapy and prevention
9. Education and publicity
10. Any other business
11. Date of next meeting

Points arising from the Central Mastitis Review Group Meeting held at VLA Weybridge on 29 November 2006

Unauthorised herbal products in applicators indistinguishable from standard intramammary syringes

The Group was concerned and disappointed to note that, despite being illegal, these products are still being promoted for use in cases of bovine mastitis. It was reported that one product was on sale at the 2006 Dairy Event. The Group's Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) representative agreed to raise this issue again with VMD enforcement and policy teams.

A statement from the Group warning dairy farmers that it is now illegal not only to sell or administer these products, but also to possess them was published in the July issue of FarmingLink, a Defra newspaper which is sent to all farmers.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/contact/link/pdf/fl-july06.pdf>

National milk quality statistics

The average GB milk quality statistics published on the MDC datum website on 27 November 2006 and the Northern Ireland milk quality statistics for the period January to September 2006 were noted.

<http://www.mdcdatum.org.uk/Milk%20Supply/milkquality.html>

There was discussion of the average somatic cell counts recorded by different first purchasers of milk. The current average cell count for one first purchaser is 178,000 cells/ml; this purchaser is very active in encouraging producers to reduce cell counts. The influence purchasers/processors can have on somatic cell counts was noted.

Quality assurance of milk somatic cell counting

The Group was informed that most milk somatic cell counting is now carried out by just four laboratories, three NMR/NML laboratories and the Eclipse laboratory. The Group was pleased to note that it is reported that all of these laboratories are positive about participating in any future GB milk testing proficiency scheme and they all participated in the latest International Dairy Federation cell count ring trial.

The improved openness of the laboratories with respect to quality assurance issues is very welcome.

Accreditation of UK dairy engineers

It was reported that the Milking Machine Manufacturers' Association is concerned that there is currently no accreditation scheme in the UK for dairy engineers. Currently, anyone, irrespective of qualifications or training, can install or maintain milking equipment. It was agreed that the Group is concerned about this issue and will lobby as appropriate.

Farm Health Planning Cattle Initiative

It was noted that the closing date for applications for projects under the Farm Health Planning Cattle Initiative will be in January 2007. The Group's NFU representative emphasised the need for projects which will be of practical use at farm level.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/fhp/cattle/index.htm>

Research

It was reported that the Roslin Institute is a partner in an EU funded project which includes study of the genetic susceptibility of cattle to mastitis.

<http://www.ri.bbsrc.ac.uk/index.php>

Conferences

The next British Mastitis Conference will be held on 10 October 2007 at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

<http://www.iah.bbsrc.ac.uk/bmc/index.html>

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9 May 2007.