

England Implementation Group (EIG)

Building a better future for England's kept animals

Second report on progress delivering the
Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain in England

March 2008

www.defra.gov.uk

activities agricultural **animal** association best better britain
british btb business cattle committee companion consumers
cost **council** defra deliver delivery development different
disease **eig** encourage **england** equines experience
farmers farming food forward future **government**
group **health** implementation improvements
industry kept key livestock meat meetings national
partnership pig plan poultry priorities progress public
regional report represent **responsibility** role sector
services sffs sharing sheep society standards strategic
strategy subgroup support sustainable trade **trust** uk
veterinary vision **welfare**

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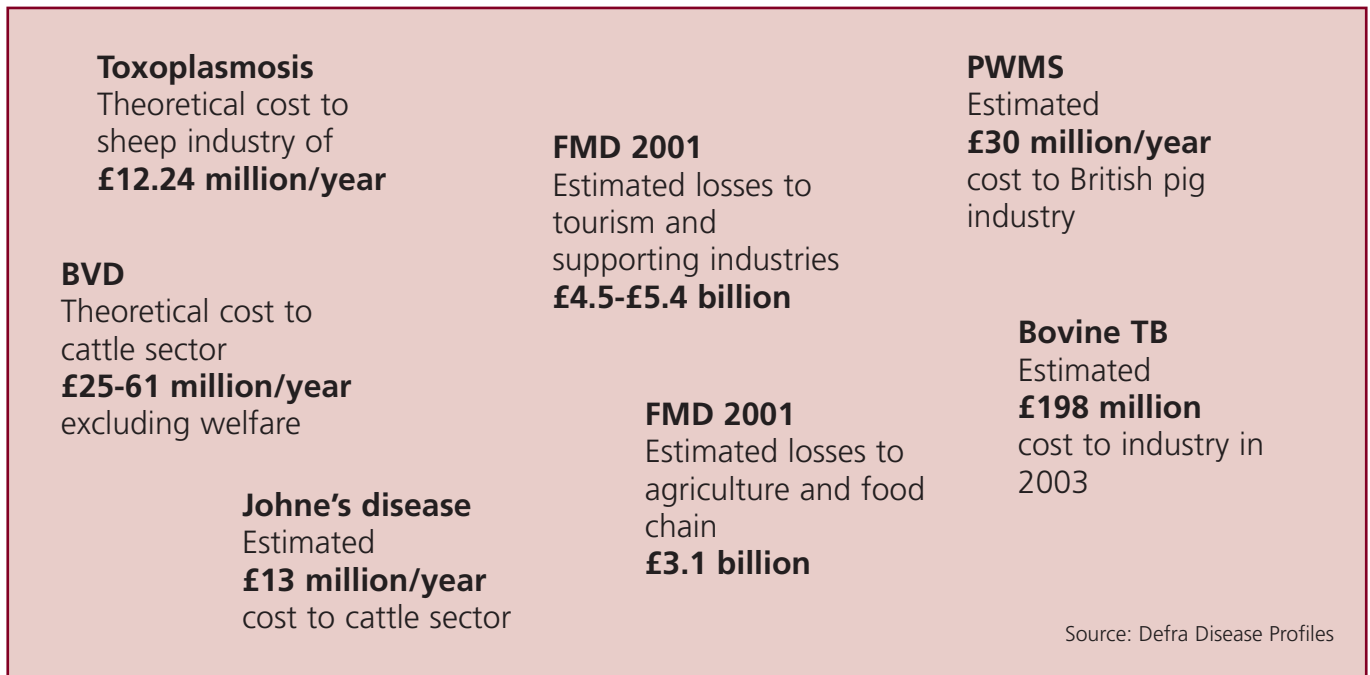
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1. Introduction

The *Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain*¹ provides a vision of a better future for the nation's kept animals and the people that depend on them. It identifies what we need to do differently to make this a reality. Fundamentally, the Strategy is about shifting attitudes and working in new ways, to ensure that those most able to bring about necessary improvements to health and welfare are able to do so. Why? Because good health and welfare matters, not least to the bottom line (see box).



Defra Ministers asked us – the England Implementation Group – to oversee the realisation of the Strategy in England. Our key role is to encourage, challenge and support all those who can help deliver the Strategy and make a difference to animal health and welfare.

The Strategy launched in June 2004 and our group formed in the Summer of 2005. We published our first progress report in November 2006.² This, our second, report reviews progress since then, highlighting the good things, as well as the challenges and questions for the future. It also introduces the England Implementation Plan, which brings together for the first time details of the wide range of actions to which the sector councils and others have committed to help deliver the Strategy.

Helen Browning
Chairman of the EIG
March 2008

¹ Available at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/default.htm
² Available at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/eig/pdf/progress_report1106.pdf

2. Review of progress in 2007-08

“Progress? What progress?” We hear hollow laughter reverberating around farmhouse kitchens and industry boardrooms at the notion that any steps forward have been taken after a year that brought little but disaster for those involved in commercial animal keeping. One after another, Avian Flu, Foot and Mouth and Bluetongue have beleaguered farmers, with massive rises in feed costs and energy prices, floods and the ongoing trials of bTB converging to create a real crisis for almost all meat producers. This is no crying wolf. If farmers were operating solely as the business people they are so often exhorted to be, many of them would be exiting rapidly now. Indeed, in some sectors they are.

Livestock farmers aren't the only ones considering their future. With significant budget cuts – including, ironically and short-sightedly, in animal health and welfare – and major staff reductions in prospect, many Defra officials must also be weighing up their options. For an organisation in the midst of internal restructuring, strategy review and cost cutting, dealing with a stream of exotic disease crises is no easy task. However, despite the many inevitable frustrations, the overall response to the outbreaks – especially the communications with, and through, industry – shows that lessons have been learned from the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak.

Against this difficult backdrop, what of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain? To some, it might seem an irrelevance in these traumatic times. But a wider perspective puts it centre stage, not just in dealing with today's problems, but in underpinning recovery – a way forward for industry and the rural economy. And, yes, even in crisis there has, remarkably, been progress.

Given the central theme of the Strategy to encourage **partnership working** and the appropriate devolution of responsibilities to those who can best manage risks, the gathering pace of sectoral **health and welfare councils** is very welcome. Both the cattle and sheep councils are now established, with core funding provided by the English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX) and the Milk Development Council, and the poultry industry has recently committed to introduce a similar structure. These join the Pig Health and Welfare Strategy and Council, which launched alongside the overarching Strategy in 2004. All four major livestock sectors have started to discuss their priorities for collective action, with success indicators and mechanisms for tracking progress.

Although even more complex, due to the wide range of species and organisations, the **companion animal sector** is also beginning to formulate initiatives for the most significant species, and has established a co-ordinating strategy council.³ Strategy documents for dogs and cats, rabbits and ornamental fish are all well developed as drafts. In March 2007, we saw the launch of the **Equine Health and Welfare Strategy**,⁴ whose comprehensive approach demonstrates real ownership of the issues and collaborative working. An industry health and welfare strategy for farmed trout is close to publication, possibly eventually to cover wider **aquaculture**, although the particular needs of the very different species involved vary.

³ See www.casco.org.uk

⁴ See www.equinehealthandwelfarestrategy.co.uk/home/

Review of progress in 2007-08

A **regional approach to animal health and welfare** and the Strategy is also crucial and it is clear that this will continue to be a priority for the EIG. Over the last year we have received regular reports⁵ from the Government Offices on progress co-ordinating activity in each region. In December 2007, we brought together representatives from the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy Regional Steering Groups, the Animal Health Agency (formerly the State Veterinary Service), the Government Offices and the Regional Development Agencies to share experiences and best practice. This event reaffirmed that the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy, despite its late arrival⁶, is very much part of the Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy (SFFS), and should be treated as such. However, regional implementation of the health and welfare strategy is still patchy. Some regions have made great strides. The South East SFFS Board, for example, introduced an Animal Health and Welfare Subgroup in 2007. This has a clear and focused programme of work, taking forward several relevant concerns, and is beginning to engage well with stakeholders on the ground (see box).

Nevertheless, while all regions have initiatives that contribute to the Strategy, they often appear unco-ordinated so that opportunities for synergy are lost. The key issue appears to be leadership. There is, undoubtedly, room for confusion and debate over whose job it is to get the ball rolling. The Animal Health Agency had a target in its 2007-08 Business Plan to facilitate the development of regional action plans for the Strategy but some Divisional Veterinary Managers seem to have worked on these rather in isolation. Some SFFS Boards have taken the initiative and see the Strategy as very much part of their remit, while others have given it less prominence. The Government Offices have also given it varying levels of priority.

There are also debates about the funding of regional activities. Again, some regions have found the small amounts of resource needed to establish a co-ordinating group, while the lack of money seems like an insurmountable barrier for others. We see merit in looking to the European Union's Axis 1 funds, available through the Rural Development Programme for England, that will soon become available, to ensure that regional integration can move forward. While this pot of money is quite limited, it could sensibly provide for co-ordination and communication activity, if not for all the desired projects that may spring from a regional health and welfare plan. We will continue to encourage best practice in regional implementation in 2008.

The industry-Government South East Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy (SFFS) Board takes forward the Government's priorities for delivering a sustainable farming and food sector in the region.

In May 2007, the Board introduced an **Animal Health and Welfare Subgroup** to give more of a strategic focus on health and welfare objectives. Overall, the Subgroup aims:

- for practical actions to advance the national Animal Health and Welfare Strategy;
- to facilitate the regional implementation of livestock sector health and welfare strategies;
- to act on small scale objectives as a group or by using direct influence; and
- to influence the scope of major regional projects so they include worthwhile and achievable health and welfare elements.

⁵ Links to these reports can be found in the relevant minutes published at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/eig/minsagendas.htm

⁶ The Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy was launched in 2002, while the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy came 2 years later

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The Subgroup has a small membership and runs on a small budget, provided by the regional Government Office and Development Agency. All the same, it is making a significant difference. It aims for a mix of small-scale tactical activities alongside work to influence and shape major Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) expenditure in the region. Current activities include:

- defining regional RDPE project proposals to manage and fund health and welfare training activities, and to demonstrate the value of supply chain information in the meat sector ahead of new European regulations on that;
- mailing all small-scale sheep and goat keepers in the region to promote free access to the EBLEX Sheep Better Returns programme, which will improve their health and welfare skills;
- supporting the establishment of a new small flock keepers' club in Kent; and
- assessing the grass roots impact and implications of Bluetongue in the region.

The ongoing rise in **Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB)** incidence is immensely depressing, and it is incredible that farmers are still in limbo, awaiting political decisions on the way forward. It can only be hoped that the recent pronouncements of the House of Commons' Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee⁷ will give Ministers the required confidence to allow some clarity to emerge on how to progress. Wildlife control is obviously the major debate, but we strongly support the prospect of review and clarification of the strategy overall. Farm structures and practices are changing, and these evolutions need to be featured into control plans going forward. A welcome development was the introduction of the independent bTB Advisory Group.

Over the last year, we have supported and challenged the emerging thinking on **responsibility and cost sharing** (RCS) in animal health and welfare. We are convinced that, if the opportunity is well used, the RCS agenda provides both a real prospect for industry to take livestock health into its own hands, and to establish mechanisms to encourage best practice. There is scope to reduce the cost of animal disease overall through this route, and to shift fundamentally the relationship between Government and industry to mutual benefit. However, the potential pitfalls are legion, as we have seen over the last 12 months or so. Ministerial impatience to move on cost sharing in a timescale which precluded the, in our view, essential development of a simultaneous change in roles and the decision-making process, came close to derailing hard won progress. The devolved countries' reluctance to fully engage at this stage, exacerbated by the original JIGWG⁸ England-centric perspective, raises the prospect of an undesirable England-only approach. Then the aforementioned blows to the livestock industry, leaving little thinking time, and even less appetite for any prospect of additional cost.

⁷ The Committee's report of 27 February 2008 "Badgers and cattle TB: the final report of the Independent Scientific Group on cattle TB" available at www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/environment__food_and_rural_affairs/efra_bovine_tb_follow_up.cfm

⁸ The Joint (Industry/Government) Working Group, which reported on the sharing of responsibilities and costs of exotic animal disease in July 2006. See www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/regulation/csharead/jigwg/report01/index.htm

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However, cost sharing will happen, through the European Union if not unilaterally. Indeed, several other member states already have initiatives running successfully (see box). The question is whether industry can negotiate a decision-making framework which puts it in the driving seat on non-zoonotic animal health policy, and allows the most appropriate deployment of available resource (see the pie charts for an illustration of how much Defra and Animal Health spend on health and welfare). This will not happen overnight, nor should it, and we would urge stakeholders to continue to think boldly and creatively about possible outcomes, thus ensuring that Government has no reason or excuse to implement on a cost-only basis. In particular, we are keen to encourage the pursuit of opportunities to engage all the supply chain, and to ensure that mechanisms for both revenue raising and use of funds encourage best practice in livestock husbandry and biosecurity in its widest sense.

The EIG has been intensely involved in Defra's current consultation on responsibility and cost sharing, hosting and speaking at most of the regional workshops. Our role is to encourage good engagement and bold, creative thinking.

Meanwhile, there has been a welcome move towards greater industry participation in decision-making during last year's disease outbreaks. This increased involvement should build confidence in the bigger opportunities that lie ahead.

Some examples of **cost sharing in other European countries...**

Belgium – There are separate funds for cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. Livestock keepers pay levies and the money collected is used to fund the replacement of stock slaughtered compulsorily as part of disease control and prevention.

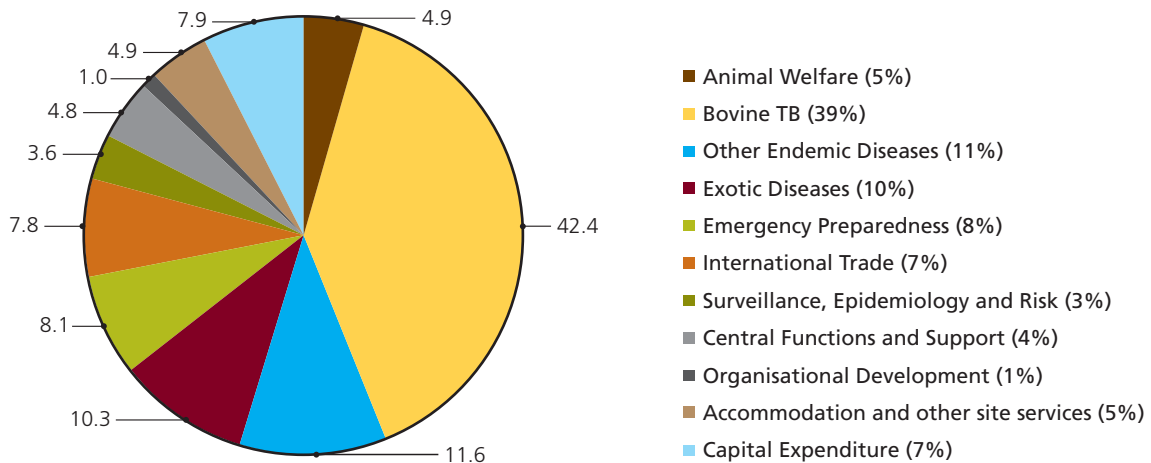
France – The Groupement de Défense Sanitaire in each Department collects a livestock subscription to deal with diseases outside of the direct purview of government, and operates FMD mutual insurance for business interruption costs, covering those farmers affected by disease control restrictions but not subject to slaughter of animals.

Germany – An annual declaration of animals and a linked levy goes into a regional animal health fund to provide the livestock industry's funding for disease outbreaks and other areas (such as research) on a 50:50 basis with government.

The Netherlands – Product boards collect a levy, backed by bank guarantee, from their sectors to contribute to a disease fund, up to a pre-determined level.

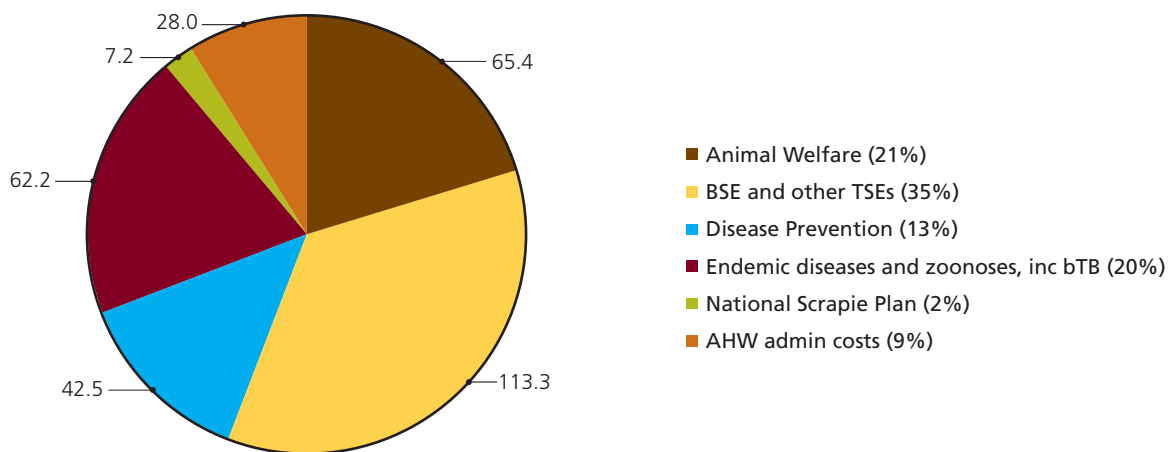
Illustration of Animal Health and Defra spending on animal health and welfare

Animal Health's Business Plan 2007-08 gave the following initial allocation of resources in £millions for its work in 2007-08 (Finance Chapter, Table 1). This is intended to illustrate the ballpark figures only. The Agency's actual expenditure may be significantly different.



Total allocation (inc. capital expenditure) – £107.3 million

Defra's 2007 Departmental Report gave the following estimated expenditure (or "outturn") in £millions for its work in 2006-07 (Chapter 11, Table 2). This is intended to illustrate the ballpark figures only. Defra's actual expenditure for 2006-07 may be significantly different.



Total estimated outturn – £318.6 million

Positive developments are ongoing in several other areas that we have been monitoring and supporting. We have been concerned about the **future provision of veterinary services** and keen to see the veterinary profession and Defra develop strategic plans to this end. The re-invigoration of the **Vets and Vet Services Working Group**, under the chairmanship of Professor Philip Lowe, is extremely welcome. The group now has a focused work plan and we anticipate useful outcomes during 2008.

Review of progress in 2007-08

The EIG **Surveillance Subgroup** pursued the opportunities identified in our surveillance report of June 2006,⁹ especially regarding the scope for gathering information from the National Fallen Stock Scheme. As a result, the cattle sector council is considering the potential for taking this further.

The Animal Health and Welfare Strategy has been criticised for its lack of clarity on welfare, and Defra published the **Animal Welfare Delivery Strategy for England** in October 2007 to address this concern. It is consistent with the wider Strategy and sets out, in more detail, the Government's priorities for improving animal welfare standards. The EIG has undertaken to oversee the implementation of the Delivery Strategy, and has formed a subgroup to fulfil this role, with representation from the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), the Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) and the Zoos Forum. Defra is working closely with the subgroup to identify key welfare priorities and an action plan will be developed for each, using the Delivery Strategy objectives to identify key action points. We are aware that there is scope for confusion about the relationship and overlap between the Animal Welfare Delivery Strategy and the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. We have been confused ourselves on occasions! We will continue to seek clarity and coherence in 2008.

While our remit is limited to England, we have maintained close links with our counterparts in **Scotland and Wales**¹⁰ to ensure we are moving in the same direction and to learn from each other's experience. We have also followed developments in the European Union with interest. The Commission's Communication on **"a new Animal Health Strategy for the European Union 2007-2013"**¹¹ is based broadly on the same principles as the British Strategy and we will continue to maintain a watching brief as the Commission develops an action plan, during 2008 and beyond, to implement the EU Strategy.

So, some progress, in process if not result at this stage. But perhaps the most important, if least developed, workstream we are engaged in, is to review the **potential of the market** to encourage and support better health and welfare. There are several strands of this theme that warrant investigation. For example, could other actors in the food chain play a more significant role in encouraging better practice on farm? Inevitably, the multiple retailers come under the spotlight here, but with a large number of meals eaten out of home, food service must also bear examination. How can retailers ensure that welfare initiatives and improvements in England are not undermined by cheaper imports from less advanced systems elsewhere? How has the supply chain responded to the challenges detailed by FAWC in its report¹² on the welfare implications of farm assurance schemes? Sales of ethical food products, such as fair trade, organic and free-range, are growing strongly, but will these premium products be the only refuge for a fundamentally uncompetitive livestock industry?

Many questions and few answers. But the bottom line is the bottom line. If the market does not play its part in supporting the high levels of health and welfare that we want and need in England, then not only will the Strategy fail, but we will further erode our productive capacity, and with it the many benefits that livestock bring to our country and environment.

9 Available at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/eig/pdf/review-vetsurv.pdf

10 The Scottish Animal Health and Welfare Advisory Group (see www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animal-welfare/AHWStrategy/AdvisoryGroup) and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Committee (see <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalhealthandwelfarestrategy/ahwssteeringcommittee/?lang=en>)

11 Available at http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/index_en.htm

12 Available at www.fawc.org.uk/pdf/fas-report05.pdf

3. Introducing the England Implementation Plan

Alongside this Progress Report, the EIG is launching its web-based England Implementation Plan for the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain. You can find it at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/eip/default.htm. The responsibility for publishing this plan was given to the us by Defra in our Terms of Reference.

This Plan shows what key policy makers are doing, across Government, the industry and elsewhere, to help deliver the Strategy and bring about long term improvements to the health and welfare of England's kept animals. It brings this kind of information together in one place, for the first time. It is the successor to Defra's one-off Implementation Plan¹³ of 2004 (which primarily outlined the Department's activities when the Strategy was launched) and 2005 progress update.¹⁴

We will use the Implementation Plan, as our Terms of Reference suggest, as a basis for monitoring Strategy delivery and holding key people to account. But we would also like others to read and understand it and take inspiration from the range of actions and commitments.

We believe the Plan needs to be a "live document", updated as and when contributing plans change. For this reason, we have made our plan a web document, which as much as possible links to plans in their "home environment".

¹³ Available at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/strategy/implementation_plan.pdf.

¹⁴ Available at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/pdf/prog_report.pdf.

About the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy

The following are key extracts from the Strategy which capture the essence of what it is trying to do.

1. The Strategy's vision

This is a shared vision of what we want the world to be like by 2014:

- Animals in Great Britain kept for food, farming, sport, companionship, entertainment and in zoos are **healthy and treated humanely**.
- Our **disease status** is amongst the highest in the world, and we are able to trade our animals and animal products internationally.
- The **costs** of livestock health and welfare are appropriately balanced between industry and the taxpayer.
- All **disease emergencies** are dealt with swiftly and effectively using an agreed approach.
- **Consumers** value the confidence they have in food produced safely from healthy animals that are well cared for. Consumers and retailers accept that higher standards of animal health and welfare are not cost free.
- Livestock keeping is part of a **competitive British farming industry** which succeeds by meeting the needs of consumers at home and abroad, producing food safely and to high standards of health and welfare.

2. The Strategy's Aim

To deliver the vision, the Strategy aims to: "develop a new partnership in which we can make a lasting and continuous improvement in the health and welfare of kept animals while protecting society, the economy, and the environment from the effect of animal diseases."

3. The Strategy's five themes – or guiding principles

If the vision is the destination, the following five themes are the Strategy's guiding principles directing how we get there:

- Working in partnership.
- Promoting the benefits of animal health and welfare: prevention is better than cure.
- Ensuring a clearer understanding of the costs and benefits of animal health and welfare practices.
- Understanding and accepting roles and responsibilities.
- Delivering and enforcing animal health and welfare standards effectively.

About the England Implementation Group

We were appointed by Defra ministers, in June 2005, to advise Government on implementing the Strategy in England. We are thirteen individuals (see below) chosen for our individual expertise and experience rather than to represent particular sectors, though we do broadly represent the generic range of interests, if not the full range of species, in England.

Ultimately, we are accountable to Defra and its Ministers, and are very much a resource for them to draw on. However, Defra has given us a good degree of independence, not least the freedom to choose how we want to fulfil the broad role given to us by the Department.

Our overarching objective, as set out in our Terms of Reference (see below), is to oversee delivery of the Strategy in England and, in doing so, help bring about long-term improvements to the wellbeing of the nation's kept animals. Our Work Programmes are published on our website, at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/eig/index.htm. We meet in public several times a year. Invitations to those meetings are also published on our website.

Membership

Helen Browning (Chairman)

20 years' experience of the food and farming industries as a major organic producer and former Chairman of the Soil Association. Currently the Association's Director of food and farming, and Chairman of the Food Ethics Council. Helen's contributions to organic farming have been recognised by awards including an OBE and Fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. She was a member of the 'Curry Commission'.

Richard Bennett

An agricultural economist at Reading University with over 20 years' experience of research on the economics of animal health and welfare, undertaking numerous projects for both Government and commercial organisations. A trustee and council member of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare and of the Humane Slaughter Association. He is also a member of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC).

Tim Brigstocke

A founding director of a specialist knowledge transfer company for the land-based sector and former Chief Executive of Holstein UK. Takes an active role in a large number of organisations including as a director/trustee of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and chairman of the Institute of Biology Agricultural Sciences Committee. Policy Director for the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers (RABDF), Executive Director for Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS) and a non-executive director for Lantra, the sector skills council for the land based sector.

Chris Brown

Head of Ethical and Sustainable Sourcing for ASDA. Previously held positions with Government, the Meat and Livestock Commission and Marks & Spencer. Also a member of the Programme Management Committee for the Defra Sustainable Livestock Link.

Annex B: About the England Implementation Group

Neil Cutler OBE

A partner in a family run dairy farming business who was an active member of the advisory group that helped develop the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. A former chair of the NFU Animal Health and Welfare Committee, board member of DairyCo and AMTRA, and member of the Veterinary Residues Committee.

Nigel Durnford

The Principal Animal Health and Welfare Inspector with Gloucestershire County Council Trading Standards, with over 25 years' experience in delivery and enforcement of animal health and welfare standards within local authorities. Member of the National Animal Health and Welfare Panel and lectures on animal health and welfare law and enforcement for the South West Regional Assembly.

Stewart Houston CBE

A partner in a family owned sow pig unit and a director of a company producing pig systems. Chair of the National Pig Association, the British Pig Executive, the Pig Health and Welfare Council and a Meat and Livestock Commission Commissioner. On the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, as Chair of the Pig Sector Company.

Peter Jinman

A senior partner in a veterinary practice in Herefordshire who was an active member of the advisory group that helped develop the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. A member of a number of committees including the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) and previously President of the British Veterinary Association. Chairman of the bTB Advisory Group and council member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Diane McCrea

An independent consultant on food and consumer affairs and formerly head of Food and Health Research at the Consumers' Association (now Which?). Has represented Consumers International as the head of the delegation at Codex Alimentarius – the international food standards setting body. A member of a number of committees including the advisory committee on Animal Feedstuffs and SEAC.

Martin Potter

An independent consultant on farm animal welfare and husbandry with a background in research in animal welfare science. Formerly Head of Farm Animals Department with RSPCA and a former member of FAWC.

Peter Scott

A veterinary surgeon providing veterinary services to a large proportion of the UK tonnage of rainbow trout. A Defra-appointed zoo inspector and veterinary adviser to Pets At Home. An ex-President of the British Veterinary Zoological Society. Active member of the Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) since its inception. Sat on the Dimmock Committee on avian quarantine and the Government's Circus Welfare Working Group.

Annex B: About the England Implementation Group

Dick Sibley

Principal and director of a mixed veterinary practice for over 27 years. The founding member of the Board of the National Dairy Farm Assured Scheme who has chaired British Cattle Veterinary Association committees for Farm Assurance, Health Planning and bovine tuberculosis.

Sarah Wolfensohn

Head of Veterinary Services Department at Oxford University with a varied background in science, the pharmaceutical industry and education. Active on European committees and on the "Joint Working Group on Refinement: To improve animal welfare".

Terms of Reference

As published on the EIG's webpages¹⁵...

"The England Implementation Group is an independent body established to drive forward delivery of the vision and strategic aims of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. In pursuit of that objective the Group will work with Government, the livestock and food industries, animal owners, the veterinary profession, consumers and other stakeholders to **foster wide ownership** of the Strategy and a shared commitment to its outcomes.

The Group will publish an **Implementation Plan** to monitor delivery of the Strategy by all stakeholders, and hold interested parties, including Government, to account under the Strategy. It will provide an overview of its achievements and of the future challenges and priorities of the Strategy through an **annual progress report** and annual updating of the Implementation Plan.

It will give **advice** to the Chief Veterinary Officer or to Ministers on matters within the scope of the Strategy including Government regulation of animal health and welfare.

It will also give advice on any matters specifically remitted to it by the Chief Veterinary Officer or Ministers.

It may investigate any topic falling within the scope of the Strategy and publish such advice, **analysis and commentary** as it considers appropriate.

The Group will normally meet 6 times a year. Provision will be made for public attendance at meetings of the Group and full minutes of the meeting will be published on the Defra website.

The Group will liaise regularly with its counterparts in Scotland and Wales."

How to contact us

Please email our Secretariat at eig@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Or write to them at:

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9 Millbank
c/o Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

¹⁵ Available at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/eig/tor.htm.

Our meetings during 2007-08

We met four times in public during 2007-08. We also met in closed meetings (primarily to discuss how we manage our business) and in subgroups. The Chair and individual members also met with various stakeholders over the course of the year.

Detailed records of the discussion at our public meetings are published on our website.¹⁶ Here is a list of what we discussed, and with whom, at our four 2007-08 meetings (there was also a regular update with Defra on responsibility and cost sharing at each one).

Our meetings during 2007-08
EIG13 meeting, 23 May 2007, London
The Government response to David Eves' review of the health and welfare delivery landscape , including a forthcoming consultation on the response (<i>in discussion with a representative of Defra</i>)
Government and industry preparations for Bluetongue , which had not yet arrived in Britain (<i>Defra, National Farmers' Union</i>)
Progress developing a sectoral approach for the health and welfare of companion animals , and separate strategies for different species
The outcome of a consultation on an Animal Welfare Delivery Strategy for England and the next steps towards its implementation (<i>Defra</i>)
EIG14 meeting, 26 Sep 2007, Cambridge
Progress made by the pig sector implementing its long-established sectoral health and welfare strategy (<i>BPEX</i>)
How the poultry sector is developing its own strategic approach to health and welfare (<i>British Egg Industry Council, British Poultry Council, British Veterinary Poultry Association</i>)
What is happening to improve health and welfare, and promote Strategy goals, in the East of England (<i>Animal Health, East of England Sustainable Farming and Food Regional Chair, Government Office of the East</i>)
How Defra prioritises and funds health and welfare research (<i>Defra</i>)
EIG15 meeting, 11 Dec 2007, London
The work of the Vets and Vet Services Working Group in considering how farm animal vets can respond to changing public priorities for animal health and welfare, food safety and public health (<i>Chair of the Working Group</i>)
The licensing framework for veterinary medicines and its impact on their availability (<i>Veterinary Medicines Directorate</i>)
The activities of the recently-established England Cattle Health and Welfare Group in developing a strategic approach to health and welfare in the sector (<i>ECHAWG</i>)
The national bTB strategy and its relevance against changing farming practices (<i>Defra</i>)
EIG16 meeting, 26 Feb 2008, London
Progress implementing the Strategy in the South East (<i>Animal Health, Animal Health and Welfare Subgroup to the SE SFFS Board, Government Office of the SE</i>)
Follow-up to EIG14 on how the poultry sector is developing its own strategic approach to health and welfare (<i>British Egg Industry Council, British Poultry Council, Game Farmers' Association, National Farmers' Union</i>)
The role of retailers and caterers in promoting health and welfare (<i>BaxterStorey, Tesco, Waitrose</i>)
Next steps with farm health planning as the Defra project ends (<i>Defra</i>)

¹⁶ See www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/eig/meetings.htm.

Annex C: Our meetings during 2007-08

Many people came to observe and participate in our four 2007-08 meetings. These included representatives of the following organisations:

3663

ADAS

Animal Health

Assured British Meat

Assured Food Standards

Baxter Storey

Bernard Matthews

British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums

British Cattle Veterinary Association

British Egg Industry Council

British Horse Society

British Poultry Council

British Veterinary Association

British Veterinary Poultry Association

British Waterfowl Association

Cambridgeshire County Council

Central Association of Agricultural Valuers

Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC)

Country Land and Business Association

Coarse Fish Traders Association

Dairy UK

Defra

Dogs Trust

East Midlands Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy Delivery Group

FOCAS (Federation of Companion Animal Societies)

Fisheries and Angling Conversation Trust

Food Standards Agency

French Embassy in London

Goat Veterinary Association

Government Office for the West Midlands

The Horse Trust

Institute for Science and Society

Kennel Club

Lantra

Lechlade and Bushyleaze Trout Fisheries

Livestock Auctioneers Association

Meat Hygiene Service

National Consumer Federation

National Farmers' Union

Annex C: Our meetings during 2007-08

NOAH (National Office of Animal Health)
Norfolk County Council Trading Standards
Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association
PD Hook
Pet Care Trust
Rabbit Welfare Association
Road Haulage Association
Royal Agricultural Society of England
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
South East Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy Animal Health and Welfare Subgroup
South East Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy Board
Tenant Farmers Association
Trading Standards Institute
Tubney Charitable Trust
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
UK Horseshoers Union
Veterinary Laboratories Agency
Wales AHWS Steering Committee
Welsh Assembly Government
Zoos Forum

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