

**Date:** Tuesday 31 July 2001  
**Time:** 9.30am to 11.30am  
**Venue:** Committee Room, National Assembly Building

## **REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS**

### **Rural Recovery Plan**

1. On 26 July, the First Minister and I jointly announced a £65 million funding package to help rural Wales recover from the effects of Foot and Mouth Disease. A copy of the recovery plan has been circulated to Committee Members and is also available on the National Assembly website.
2. The recovery plan is the culmination of the efforts of the Rural Partnership of Wales' Task and Finish Group which was established earlier this year to look at the impact of the disease and make recommendations for re-launching the rural economy. I am grateful for all their hard work.
3. We are due to discuss the Plan later today but briefly the key measures in the plan are:
  - A £9m Rural Business Recovery Fund concentrated on the nine rural local authorities; this is on top of the £12m announced by the Finance Minister on 27 March.
  - A further £4.2m immediate help for marketing and development for tourism businesses.
  - £5m for new integrated tourism & environmental projects.
  - £5m for new rural community regeneration projects.
  - £5m for a new enterprise grant for small and medium sized firms; Additional business advice and support.
  - £11m to help farm business development including farm woodland and biomass and the agri-food sector.
  - £1m to help promote local shows and events.
  - Almost £3m to support measures to tackle rural stress.

### **Foot and Mouth**

4. As at 10:30 hours on 30 July, the total number of confirmed cases in Wales stood at 112 - 73 in Powys, 13 in Anglesey, 19 in Monmouthshire, 3 in Newport, 2 in Caerphilly and one each in Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taff.
5. As at 27 July, 331,001 animals had been slaughtered under the disease control measures - 34,848 cattle, 290,091 sheep, 5,941 pigs and 121 goats. further 5000 sheep are under surveillance on the Brecon

Beacons.

6. This includes the 4,000 sheep culled on 27 July. The process of gathering 9,000 further sheep in contiguous hefts also began on the same day.
7. As far as compensation is concerned, claims from Welsh producers totalling nearly £58 million have been processed to date with only one livestock compensation claim outstanding.