

Date: Wednesday 27 February 2002
Time: 2.00pm to 5.30pm
Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building

Scrutiny of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak.

Responsibilities

Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and State Veterinary Service (SVS)

1. DEFRA, and the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) before it, have responsibility under the Foot and Mouth Disease Order 1983 and the Animal Health Act 1981 for dealing with the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak. The SVS is the veterinary operational veterinary arm of DEFRA for dealing with animal health issues

National Assembly for Wales

2. The Assembly's responsibilities are defined by the legal framework set up by the Animal Health Act 1981. The National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999 did not transfer the "Minister" function of the Animal Health Act 1981 to the National Assembly save in relation to certain specific diseases. The function of disease control in respect of Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) is a " Minister" function and was therefore not transferred to the Assembly. of which FMD was not one. It only transferred the "Ministers" and "appropriate Minister" functions. As legislation is enabled jointly, i. e. by "Ministers", the Assembly did not have discretion to act independently.

3. The Transfer of Functions Order did however give the Assembly responsibility for "appropriate Minister" and " Ministers" functions under the Animal Health Act 1981. This meant that the Assembly did have a role in making some legislation on FMD jointly with MAFF/DEFRA, in respect of issues where legislation was needed to enable the MAFF Minister to exercise his disease control functions in Wales. During the FMD crisis, legislation was made by the Assembly amendments, for example, were made to the FMD Order to cover on such issues as footpath closures, shearing, dipping. These changes were made on veterinary advice and made quickly. Because the "Minister" function had not been transferred the responsibility for implementing the joint legislation remained with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

4. In addition the National Assembly has a designation to make legislation under section 2.2 of the

European Communities Act 1972 for CAP purposes. This means that the Assembly has the role of transposing Community legislation into domestic legislation. All of the legislation that deals with Imports and Exports for example has been made independently by the Assembly subsequent to numerous Commission Decisions, which give the legal authority on which to make such legislation.

5. The Assembly was able though, through a s41 agreement of the Government of Wales Act 1998, to carry out certain functions of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on behalf of the Minister and not the Assembly). It was agreed that staff of the National Assembly would be able to exercise responsibilities under s34 of the Animal Health Act 1981 and the Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value)(Wales)(No 4) Order 2001 (as from time to time amended or replaced). Staff of the National Assembly were also placed at the disposal of the Minister of Agriculture to provide administrative, professional or technical services in respect of the exercise of the Minister of Agriculture's functions under sections 16, 31, 33, 34, 36 of and paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to the Animal Health Act 1981 and the Foot and Mouth Disease Order 1983, as from time to time amended or replaced.

European Commission (especially re vaccination)

6. The EC Directive 85/511 as amended introduced Community measures for the control of Foot and Mouth disease. The UK through its Foot and Mouth Disease Order 1983 had, in the main, already promulgated its provisions.

7. On vaccination:

- Directive 85/511 was amended to prohibit the use of vaccination since 1992. Article 13 permits, but does not require, emergency use of vaccines when FMD has been confirmed and threatens to become extensive.
- Member States are encouraged to submit detailed plans concerning any use of vaccine for prior approval via the SVC before they are implemented. Member State's can resort to use of vaccine before the plans are approved providing basic community interests are not endangered.
- Pharmaceutical legislation (Directive 81/851) requires all veterinary medicinal products to be authorised but Article 4 allows an exemption to use unauthorised products 'in the event of a serious disease' epidemic. It is this exemption that the Commission uses to release vaccine from the European Vaccine Bank.
- EC Decision 2001/303 lays down the conditions for vaccinating endangered species (plus rare breeds and animals required for important and irreplaceable research).
- The prohibition on the use of FMD vaccines is implemented in Wales through the FMD (Control of Vaccination) (Wales) Regulations 2001 and similar legislation has been introduced in Scotland and EnglandWales.
- In GB an EC Decision (2001/257 as amended) would have permitted the GB authorities to vaccinate *cattle* against FMD in the counties of Cumbria, Devon, Somerset, Cornwall and Dorset.

Local Authorities

8. Under the Animal Health Act 1981 and the Foot and Mouth Disease Order 1983 local authorities have substantial enforcement responsibilities.

Scottish Executive

9. Animal health is totally devolved to the Scottish Parliament. Ministers in Scotland are responsible for policy development and implementation. However, Great Britain is considered to be a single epidemiological unit and as such the same EU and international requirements apply to Scotland as to the rest of the UK.

10. The difference in responsibilities between the National Assembly and Scotland is based on the way the Scottish devolution settlement was made. In terms of animal health Scotland has full powers under the Animal Health Act 1981 which it can amend as it wishes subject to complying with International and Community obligations.

11. FMD Operations – National Assembly - Regional Operations Directorate (annex 1).

12. Chronology/timeline (annex 2).

Annex 1: FMD OPERATIONS - NAW ROD STRUCTURE

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE TIMELINE

WEEK COMMENCING 19 FEBRUARY

POLICY

20th February – National Assembly Ministers informed of first foot and mouth disease (FMD) case at Cheales in Essex. State Veterinary Service (SVS) from outset followed identical disease control procedures in Wales to rest of Great Britain.

22nd February - Letter issued on Foot and Mouth Precautions to NAWAD staff and wide range of bodies including farming unions, local authorities, markets agencies and other government departments

Animal Health Offices issued with instructions by Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF).

26th February – further bio-security advice issued to a wide range of external bodies.

OPERATIONS

SVS establish disease control sub-centre in Llandrindod Wells following discussions with Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) at the Animal Health Office/Disease Emergency Control Centre (DECC) in Llanishen, Cardiff

23rd February - National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Departments (NAWAD), Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA), Countryside Wales (CW) stop farm visits and inspections to avoid risk of spreading disease

25th February - suspect case at Welsh Country Food Slaughterhouse, Gaerwen, Anglesey. Minister and Farming Unions informed.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

23rd February - national movement controls introduced.

Select one off movements allowed by Page Street for affected animals.

Brecon and Ross Markets contact Animal Health Office unable to move animals.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter issued to colleges of agriculture 22nd February.

23rd February - press notice issued with details of MAFF website and helpline/contact numbers in Wales.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

23rd February - Minister for Rural Affairs met farming unions.

23rd February - Foot and Mouth Disease (Controlled Area) Order 2001 No 530.

25 February - Letter issued to local authorities in Wales enclosing a copy of the controlled area Order

WEEK COMMENCING 26 FEBRUARY

POLICY

26th February - senior member of NAWAD staff sent to London to strengthen communication with MAFF on disease control and animal movements policy and feed in Welsh perspective. NAW presence strengthened from the middle of March with visits by additional staff. Two full time NAWAD staff present in London from 2nd April 2001 to attend COBR and JCC.

Memo from LACOTS asks local authorities to collect stray animals following advice from NAW.

OPERATIONS

IP1 Gaerwen, Anglesey (2001/13); IP2 Knighton, Powys (2001/19); IP3 Painscastle, Builth Wells, Powys (2001/22); and IP35 Hadnock Court, Monmouthshire (2001/490) confirmed.

26th February - Caernarfon Division establishes incident/operations room in response to suspect case in Anglesey.

27th February - first case in Wales confirmed at the slaughterhouse in Gaerwen, Anglesey

27th February - Environment Agency (EA) and Forestry Commission visits stopped on MAFF advice.

Environment Agency FMD Task Group set up to provide guidance to EA staff

State Veterinary Service DVMs agree to DECC in Llanishen adopting operations in Montgomery (an area normally falling under the North Wales Division's remit).

Disinfectant Spraying on Menai Bridges

DECC in Llanishen establishes 'Team Structure' based on disease control contingency planning and experience of classical swine fever.

28th February – National Assembly for Wales (NAW) Divisional Office at Llandrindod Wells establishes incident room

First IPs confirmed in Powys at Waen, Knighton and Bryngarth, Painscastle.

Temporary Veterinary Inspectors (TVIs) recruited from local practices.

North Wales: Daily meetings begin with SVS, NAW, EA, local authority and Police.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

27th February - Infected Area restrictions imposed around first IP on Anglesey.

Licensing system to move to slaughter livestock introduced over the weekend of 3rd-4th March. Open for applications on 5th March. First animals moved on 5th March. Liaison with MHS Wales, LACOTS in Wales, Guild of Welsh Abattoirs, farming unions to enable the system to operate effectively and to ensure that small abattoirs in Wales were covered. Welsh guidance issued to local authorities to help them run the scheme (4th March). Burden of MHS charges on small abattoirs discussed with MAFF and solution reached (6th March).

Milk producers notified of implications of licensing restrictions implications.

FMD Declaratory Order extends restrictions on livestock movements for a further 2 weeks to 16th March - permits moves of pigs, cattle, sheep from outside local authorities to slaughter.

COMMUNICATIONS

Further guidance issued to organisations on biosecurity.

26th February - Assembly establishes a combined communications and telephone helpline room in Cathays Park, Cardiff. Open 7am to 10pm weekdays and 10am to 4pm on weekends .

Anglesey IP: NAW staff inform farmers in Infected Area by letter.

26 February – letter issued to all Artificial Insemination centres on restriction of movements of semen to premises in infected areas.

27th February - Q&A material sent to farming unions.

1st March – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces £5.6million for voluntary and community groups’.

2nd March - regular FMD slot introduced on BBC Radio Wales with Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales or the Deputy Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales. (Continued until the end of June)
Other local radio stations also held appropriate interviews.

North Wales: DVM begins daily interviews with media.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

27th February – Minister for Rural Affairs makes Emergency Statement to Assembly.

28th February - Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Committee.

28th February - daily press conferences begin.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) Order 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001.

(Power granted to local authorities to close footpaths and prevent entry onto premises in controlled

areas.)

The Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001.

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WEEK COMMENCING 5 MARCH

POLICY

OPERATIONS

The following IPs confirmed: IP4 Llandaniel Fab, Anglesey (2001/101); IP5 Built Wells, Powys (2001/110); IP6 Llangaffom, Anglesey (2001/127); IP7 Llangaffo, Anglesey (2001/122); and IP8 Churchstoke, Powys (2001/142).

Tracings from Welshpool market start. 8th March - Form A served on the market.

8th March – infection confirmed at Bodlew, Llanddaniel – first farm case in Anglesey.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Major concern from farmers about the effect of the restrictions on moving livestock; urgent and desperate animal welfare problems becoming obvious in some areas. Farmers ringing Cardiff and Divisional Offices in emotional distress.

After extensive discussions with MAFF, local movement and occupational movement licenses introduced to allow livestock to be moved short distances for animal welfare reasons.

10th March - First licenses issued by NAWAD Divisional Offices under enormous pressure. Final details of the scheme were received at 9pm on 9th March, the doors opened for applications 9am on 10th March (Saturday).

Welfare problems of animals away on tack remained, as much larger distances involved, and disease risks harder to resolve.

COMMUNICATIONS

Guidance issued by the Assembly included delivery of feed to farms, relaxation of drivers hours, implications for dogs, welfare of livestock scheme, local movement scheme guidance notes and application forms, movement of animals to slaughter

5th March - NAW press release: ‘Tir Mynydd Payments – Carwyn Jones acts swiftly to help beleaguered farmers’.

6th March – NAW press release: ‘Michael German responds to concern over tourism in Wales during foot and mouth outbreak’.

9th March – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones announces partial easing of animal movement restrictions’.

9th March – NAW press release: ‘National Assembly foot and mouth disease helpline change of opening hours’.

10th March - Carmarthen Divisional office established their incident room dealing with telephone enquiries.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

5th March - meeting with farming unions.

8th March - emergency statement to Assembly.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

The Drivers’ Hours (Goods Vehicles) (Milk Collection) (Temporary Exemption) Regulations 2001 (UK Regulations).

The Community Drivers’ Hours (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Temporary Exception) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 12 MARCH

POLICY

Geographical pattern of disease in Wales remained stable, but the developing cases down the border were a particular source of concern. Origins of many of these cases unclear at the time.

14th March - Carwyn Jones met Nick Brown and Scottish and Northern Ireland Ministers in London . Minister informed of Chief Veterinary Officer's decision that all sheep traded through Welshpool market after 19th February should be culled, along with all animals they have come into contact with subsequently.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP9 Welshpool, Powys (2001/178); IP10 Hamer International Slaughterhouse, Powys (2001/215); IP11 Newtown, Powys (2001/); IP12 Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys (2001/220); IP13 Llanbadarnfynydd, Powys (2001/251); IP14 Malltraeth, Anglesey (2001/242); IP15 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/255); IP16 Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys (2001/239); IP17 Builth Wells, Powys (2001/259); IP18 Welshpool, Powys (2001/262); IP19 Pentrefoelas, Anglesey (2001/263); IP20 Grosmont, Monmouthshire (2001/272); IP21 Welshpool, Powys (2001/310); IP22 Bororgan, Anglesey (2001/298); IP23 Llangaffo, Anglesey (2001/311); IP24 Llandaniel Fab, Anglesey (2001/314).

Welshpool cull policy announced: 17th–18th March - intense pressure on Unions from farmers in the Welshpool area to reject the cull.

IP20 - first case confirmed in Monmouthshire .

Contact advice first received on IPs and purchasing.

Disease Control System (DCS) launched with significant back-capture and training implications.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

14th March - policy for dealing with animals on tack discussed by Minister for Rural Affairs with Nick Brown and Scottish and Northern Irish colleagues.

Long Distance Movement Licence scheme introduced to help deal with welfare problems of animals on tack. Details issued to Divisional Offices on Saturday 17th March. Scheme open for applications Monday 19th March.

COMMUNICATIONS

13th March – NAW press release: ‘No danger of foot and mouth being spread by animals processed at Llanidloes Abattoir, Carwyn Jones says’.

15th March – National Assembly FMD website established (first phase).

16th March – Letter to all farmers with holdings in Wales on FMD: Movement of animals for slaughter.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

15th March - statement to Assembly.

16th March - meeting with farming unions.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 3) Order 2001.

The Import and Export Restriction (Foot and Mouth Disease (No. 3) (Wales) Regulation 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 4) Order 2001

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WEEK COMMENCING 19 MARCH

POLICY

23rd March - Tanllan case, previously confirmed on clinical grounds, comes back negative from lab tests. Link to fat lamb section of Welshpool no longer proven. Decision therefore taken by SVS in Wales to limit the Welshpool cull to ewes, where the link was proven by the Felindre case.

23rd March – decision reached that pre-emptive cull should take place in SW Anglesey.

Discussions with London on cull-policy during this week. SVS Wales and NAWAD staff sceptical about the wisdom of a blanket cull of all livestock within 3 km of every case, given that the pattern of disease in much of Wales was different to that in Dumfries, Devon and Cumbria. Even so, epidemiology could

still not identify the connections and vector of infection in many cases. A selective approach to culling, therefore remained elusive so when the more moderate policy of contiguous culling was mooted, this was accepted, to prevent the disease spreading from the existing pattern of infection. Agreement that the top priority was to cull animals on farms contiguous to most recent cases.

First SOS case declared in S Wales Division – no central policy issued on classification or effects

Implementation of Provisionally Free Areas (PFAs) and At Risk Areas (ARAs)

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP25 Montgomery, Powys (2001/345); IP26 Bethesda, Anglesey (2001/376); IP27 Llangristiolus, Anglesey (2001/384); IP28 Hay on Wye, Powys (2001/395); IP29 Llangaffo, Anglesey (2001/406); IP30 Churchstoke, Montgomery, Powys (2001/433); IP31 Grosmont, Monmouthshire (2001/429); IP32 Broughrood Brest, Brecon, Powys (2001/461); IP33 Llanynis, Builth Wells, Powys (2001/465); IP34 Churchstoke, Montgomery, Powys (2001/469); IP36 Hay on Wye, Powys (2001/535); IP37 Cerrig Widdu, Llandrindod Wells, Powys (2001/528); IP38 Welshpool, Powys (2001/532); IP39 Gwalchmai, Anglesey (2001/573); IP40 Welshpool, Powys (2001/588).

23rd March - NAW Team sent to Anglesey to manage 'Pre-emptive Cull' operations.

24th March - Minister for Rural Affairs announces that 'Pre-emptive Cull' will begin on 27th March.

25th March – army officially engaged in Wales. Troops deployed to Black Mountains to assist with preventing animal movements and putting up fencing.

DECC in Llanishen, Cardiff report problems sourcing materials for burning. This leading to delays in disposal.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Longer distance licences introduced.

19th March - Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme (LWDS) introduced. Scheme set up by MAFF and the Intervention Board (IB).

COMMUNICATIONS

19th March - guidance issued to local authorities on access to countryside

19 March – guidance to wide variety of bodies on further advice on precautionary measures

19th March - Minister for Rural Affairs sends ‘open letter’ to all farmers in Powys to explain the decision to cull all sheep that had been at Welshpool market on 19th February and all sheep they had been in contact with since. Letter reproduced as NAW press release.

20th March – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones issues new guidance on visiting the countryside’.

20th March – NAW press release: ‘Minister welcomes Rural Task Force measures as important first step’.

21st March – NAW press releases: ‘Deputy First Minister launches Tourism Charter’; ‘Banks urged to go easy on Welsh businesses hit by foot and mouth’.

22nd March – NAW press releases: ‘Carwyn Jones announces Rural Task and Finish Group’; ‘International Tourism fair hears that Wales is open for business’.

Minister for Rural Affairs visits DECC in Llanishen with Secretary of State for Wales, Paul Murphy.

24th March – Carwyn Jones visited Anglesey to meet farming leaders (who are supporting the cull). Letter issued to all farmers.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

20th March – National Assembly for Wales debate.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) Order 2001

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2001

WEEK COMMENCING 26 MARCH

POLICY

27th March – Nick Brown announces details of new contiguous cull policy to House of Commons.

28th March - Carwyn Jones meets farming unions at Llandrindod Wells. Agreement reached on how farms would be assessed as contiguous. Letter prepared on 30th March for issue to all contiguous farms setting out this policy. Policy subsequently adopted by MAFF (6th April).

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP41 Grosmont, Monmouthshire (2001/642); IP42 Buttington Hall, Powys (2001/645); IP43 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/719); IP44 White Grit, Churchstoke, Powys (2001/753); IP45 Llanigon, Powys (2001/794); IP46 Raglan, Monmouthshire (2001/733); IP47 Powys (2001/836); IP48 Chepstow, Monmouthshire (2001/854); IP49 Raglan, Monmouthshire (2001/867); IP50 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/869); IP51 Llanigon, Powys (2001/877); IP52 Grosmont, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/899).

26th March - Operations Directorate established in Wales. Operations Room set up in Cathays Park. Army, Police and Environment Agency brought in.

Large backlogs in disposal of culled animals due to occurrence of 3 to 4 IP's per day and introduction of contiguous culling policy

Black Mountains bleeding plan starts.

Potential mass disposal sites looked at on Army Training Range in Epynt. Environment Agency agrees 2 sites there suitable for burning and burial. Decision taken to use sites.

Anglesey 'Pre-emptive Cull':

26th March - meeting with Anglesey Councillors regarding use of Penhesgyn landfill site.

27th March- pre-emptive cull begins.

28th March – pyre constructed at Mona Airfield Anglesey. Significant public protest and Road blockade.

29th March – series of meetings with residents, Councillors, Farmers and Landfill site managers. Use of Penhesgyn Landfill site on Anglesey secured for disposal of carcasses.

31st March - first carcasses delivered to Penhesgyn. 1st April – All pre-emptive cull processes in Anglesey fully underway

31st March/1st April – continued protest at Epynt.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Licensing to Epynt established with DECC staff on site.

COMMUNICATIONS

27th March – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces £12million support scheme for businesses affected by foot and mouth’.

28th March – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces boost for the Rural Economy’.

29th March – NAW press releases: ‘Carwyn Jones announces £1million additional help for Agri-Food Industry’; ‘All-Wales Rural helpline launched and Assembly fund to match donations to relieve rural distress’; ‘Extra help for rural businesses’.

30th March – NAW press release: ‘Mike German travels to Europe to promote Welsh Tourism Industry’.

30 March - letter all cattle AI centres on recommencing of movements of semen to restricted premises and infected areas.

Media interviews with DVM in Anglesey becoming less frequent.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

27 March - Consultation letter on the Ban on Swill Feeding Regulations 2001 issued

28th March - meeting with farming unions.

29 March 2001 – Letter issued on proposal to introduce a 20 day standstill period following movements of sheep and cattle

30th March – Minister for Rural Affairs visits slaughterhouse and landfill site in Anglesey and meets with local farmers.

Minister for Rural Affairs meets with protestors at Epynt.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) (No. 3) Order 2001

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (No. 3) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2001

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 4) (Amendment) Order 2001

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) (No. 4) Order 2001

The Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 2 APRIL

POLICY

3rd April – agreement, following discussions between the National Assembly’s Director of Agriculture and the Chief Medical Officer, that there would be no relaxation in Wales of the London policy that allowed the burial of cattle under 5 years of age. All cattle in Wales to be burned.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP53 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/926); IP54 Montgomery, Powys (2001/944); IP55 Pandy, Monmouthshire (2001/946); IP56 Llanidloes, Powys (2001/995); IP57 Grosmont, Monmouthshire (2001/916); IP58 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1055); IP59 Usk, Monmouthshire (2001/1058); IP60 Chepstow, Monmouthshire (2001/1067); IP61 Caldicot, Monmouthshire (2001/1065); IP62 Usk, Monmouthshire (2001/1107); IP63 Nelson, Caerphilly (2001/1108).

Cull operations in Anglesey in full flow.

3rd April – permanent environmental health advisor introduced to Operations Room.

5th April – permanent environmental protection advisor introduced to Operations Room.

5th April – blood test results indicate that disease confirmed to eastern part of Black Mountains. Subsequent results meant that plans to carry out a mass cull on the Mountains could be dropped.

5th April – first carcasses put into burial pit at Epynt.

Military logistics cell arrives at DECC in Llanishen to co-ordinate transport, providing contractor liaison and support for IP room.

5th April - ACVO for Wales provides senior management support for DVM in Llanishen – Senior Veterinary Meat Hygiene Advisor sent to Llandrindod Wells to develop an Operations Room. Military support also provided.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme: Letter from IB to all applicants apologising for delays in the disposal of culled animals.

COMMUNICATIONS

2nd April - Foot and Mouth Disease Communications Strategy agreed. Information Centres to be established throughout Wales along with an media advertising campaign to raise awareness of the Centres, the FMD helplines and the FMD website. Series of FMD factsheets to be produced and disseminated.

2nd April – drop-in Information Centre established at Montgomery.

2nd April – Operations Directorate presence in London bolstered. Two full time officials active from this date.

3rd April – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces emergency funding to combat foot and mouth disease’.

4th April – NAW press release: ‘Foot and mouth Information Centre opens in Montgomery’.

5th April – NAW press releases: ‘Carwyn Jones gives details on Epynt disposal site’; ‘Rhodri Morgan visits PC John Stone’; ‘Sue Essex issues updated guidance of visiting the countryside’.

6th April – NAW press releases: ‘Epynt lorries no danger, says Carwyn Jones’; ‘Minister welcomes cash-flow help to businesses hit by foot and mouth’; ‘Disposal of culled carcasses on farms not an option, says Carwyn Jones’; ‘Foot and mouth update: Information points throughout Wales’; ‘Banks and utilities ready to help businesses through foot and mouth’; ‘Minister to visit top attractions to stress that Wales is open for Easter’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

3rd April - Prime Minister visits Operations Room in Cathays Park

4th April – meeting in Cardiff with Black Mountain graziers and local farm union leaders to discuss disease control options.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 4) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 5) Order 2001.

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WEEK COMMENCING 9 APRIL

POLICY

Policy on serology and lifting Infected Area status first issued.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP64 Llanfair Caereinion, Powys (2001/1156); IP65, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1198); IP66 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1205); IP67 Powys (2001/1213);

IP68 Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1233); IP69 Castel Caereinion, Powys (2001/1242); IP70 Llwynderw, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1247); IP71 Powys (2001/1267); IP72 Welshpool, Powys (2001/1281).

9th April – local authority desk created in Operations Room.

11th April – problems with burial pit at Epynt.

12th April – new Operations Manager appointed at Epynt.

14th April – last animals put into burial pit at Epynt. Burn site in use.

14th April: Gilwern incident. Local authority marksman filmed shooting animals by local residents.

Household Cavalry Regiment deployed in Wales.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

General milk licensing starts

COMMUNICATIONS

9th April - Minister for Rural Affairs wrote to all farmers in Wales to remind them of what to do if they suspect disease and precautions they can take to help reduce disease spread. Letter also contained information on FMD Information Centres, FMD helplines and the FMD website.

10th April – NAW press release: “No let up” in Assembly fight against foot and mouth, promises Rhodri Morgan’.

11th April – NAW press release/joint message with Unions: ‘Epynt is crucial to fight against foot and mouth disease’.

11th April – NAW press release: ‘Wales is open for Easter’.

12th April – NAW press releases: ‘Michael German welcomes relaxation of tax rules for businesses hit hard by foot and mouth’; ‘Foot and mouth: Minister boosts training in rural Wales’; ‘Carwyn Jones explains use of landfill sites for disposal of Intervention Board scheme carcass disposal’; ‘Jane Davidson welcomes the opening of job centres over Easter’.

14th April – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones calls for full report from Monmouthshire County Council on Gilwern Shooting’.

15th April – ‘Keeping in touch exercise’ introduced: telephone survey of all farmers who had lost animals. This ‘PR’ exercise also used to plug information gaps on DECC and Operations Directorate databases.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

11th April – meeting with farming unions.

WEEK COMMENCING 16 APRIL

POLICY

Discussion of vaccination option. Minister for Rural Affairs puts out press release on the subject.

19th April: Comments to MAFF arguing for local flexibility for SVS re: culling of hefted flocks. Helpful response received.

Received draft Department of Health (DoH) guidance on pyres and pyre location.

Risk assessment procedures developed and implemented in Wales, taking account of the emerging DoH guidelines.

Hefted policy discussions begin

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP73 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1346); IP74 Brecon, Powys (2001/1385); IP75 Skewen, Neath and Port Talbot (2001/1426).

Disposal backlog eliminated.

'Pre-emptive Cull' and disposal in Anglesey completed. 48,177 sheep culled and buried.

IP75 in previously 'clean' area. Concern for milk fields of West Wales should the disease spread any further West.

DECC Llanishen having problems getting information to TVI's – introduced twice weekly TVI briefings.

17th April - protection zone bleeding started in Anglesey.

22nd April – last carcasses taken from farms to burn site at Epynt.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Anglesey: Licence wrongly issued for sheep to move to Plas Newydd, Llanfair P. G. (land inside the cull area). Slaughtered as DC's and sent for rendering.

COMMUNICATIONS

16th April – NAW press release: 'Carwyn Jones condemns attack on civil servant'.

17th April – all 44 Information Centres across Wales open to the public. 11 of the Centres manned.

17th April – Website Editorial Board established for phase 2 of website development.

18th April – NAW press release: 'Premature to vaccinate in Wales, says Carwyn Jones'; 'Sense of perspective needed over Anglesey sheep issue, says Carwyn Jones'.

19th April – NAW press release: 'Sue Essex calls for timetable for re-opening footpaths around Snowdonia'.

20th April – NAW press releases: 'Assembly monitoring environmental and health impacts of foot and mouth disease'; 'Carwyn Jones asks Welsh radio stations to back information Campaign'.

20th April – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales with FMD update and information on agrimonetary compensation, livestock subsidies, arrangements for movement to slaughter and the artificial insemination of cattle.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

‘Anglesey Cull objectors’ case continuing.

Injunctions by farmers refusing to have their animals culled.

Based on legal advice from MAFF it would appear that injunctions have little prospect of success.

Officials met Powys County Council regarding Cefn Golog site.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 5) Regulations 2001.

The Prescribed Waste Regulation (Wales) Regulation 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Marking of Meat and Meat Products) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment)(Wales) (No. 6) Order 2001.

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WEEK COMMENCING 23 APRIL

POLICY

26th April – Nick Brown announces refinement to contiguous cull policy. There was now to be a presumption against taking cattle unless they showed signs of disease.

28th April: revised instruction issued in Wales on contiguous cull: marginally different from England.

Minister for Rural Affairs announces that cull backlog has been cleared. No more carcasses to go to Epynt – return to on-farm disposal or, where possible, rendering.

DoH guidance on pyres finally issued.

Central advice on welfare at slaughter circulated to all involved.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP76 Brecon, Powys (2001/1456); IP77 Brecon, Powys (2001/1461); IP78 Mountain Ash, Rhondda Cynon Taf (2001/1470); IP79 Brecon, Powys (2001/1476); IP80 Brecon, Powys (2001/1479); IP81 Monmouthshire (2001/1490); IP82 Brecon, Powys (2001/1496); IP83 Newport (2001/1508).

25th April – Epynt: transfer of carcasses from burial pit to burn site for cremation begins.

26th-27th April - Operation "Wildfleece"- huge operation to flush out and gather feral sheep on the Black Mountains.

27th April – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘Important action needed to stop the spread of foot and mouth disease’.

Buttington Hall – leachate problems from buried sheep. Discussions about disposal options. Risk assessment suggests no open pyre. Contractual arrangement to secure mobile air curtain incinerator instigated.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) visited Epynt – remedial work done.

27th April - re-opening of specific footpaths on Snowdon approved following risk assessment.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

23rd April – NAW press release: ‘Contiguous cull backlog cleared, says Carwyn Jones’.

23rd April - first meeting of North-West Wales Taskforce. Membership includes local authorities, Farming Unions, Tourist Organisations, and DVM in North Wales.

24th April – new FMD website ‘goes live’.

25th April – NAW press release: ‘Health Minister visits rural stress helpline’; ‘Carwyn Jones meets with Cardiff County Council to discuss Welfare Scheme’.

26th April – NAW press release: ‘Success of contiguous cull means new policy can be adopted, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Anglesey cull injunction fell.

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WEEK COMMENCING 30 APRIL

POLICY

3rd May – PM’s speech saying "no new pyres after today".

Policy on licensing of Collection Centres for cattle to slaughter LWDS policy made public.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP84 Wentloog, Newport (2001/1544); IP85 Wentloog, Newport (2001/1554).

30th April - IB staff leave Operations Room after only a few days to manage LWDS for Wales from Reading.

Continued negotiation on the need for a cross loading possibility after Prime Ministers speech that there would be no new pyres.

Negotiation on the use of Newport landfill site as a transfer point failed because of local authority concerns.

Mobile incinerator installed at Buttington Hall. This was a successful development.

First concerns about large pig farm near Cardiff.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Licensing for slaughter for human consumption starts in Infected Areas.

COMMUNICATIONS

30th April – NAW press release: ‘Incineration to begin at Buttington Hall’.

North Wales: DVM meets with Denbigh Eisteddfod organisers.

2nd May – NAW press releases: ‘More help on CAP schemes for farmers affected by foot and mouth disease and flooding’; ‘Carwyn Jones announces free farm business reviews’.

3rd May – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘Foot and mouth - Important information about your IACS application’.

4th May – NAW press releases: ‘Assembly Agriculture Division bans feeding of catering waste containing meat to livestock as swill’; ‘Snowdon back on map, says Sue Essex’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

North Wales: DVM meets with Dafydd Wigley MP/AM and local authorities regarding opening footpaths.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Marking of meat, meat products, minced meat and meat preparations) (Wales) Regulation 2001.

The Animal By-products (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001.

The Products of Animal Origin (Import and Export) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulation 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 7 MAY

POLICY

First discussions on ash disposal.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP86 Brecon, Powys (2001/1565); IP87 Brecon, Powys (2001/1570); IP88 Brecon, Powys (2001/1580); IP89 Brecon, Powys (2001/1584).

Last of the carcasses went onto Epynt burn site (from the burial pit). Start of backfilling the pit.

Disposal of ash first discussed. Raised issues with JCC.

Problems getting rendering trucks to small farms. Secured agreement to use 8-wheelers after skip lorries found to be useless.

First refusal on contiguous cull - Pentre Sollars.

Serology team established in DECC, Llanishen, Cardiff.

11th May – Anglesey: first Form A premise restocked.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

8th May – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones emphasises help available to assist recovery from foot and mouth’.

10th May – NAW press release: ‘More help on CAP schemes for farmers affected by foot and mouth disease and flooding’.

11th May – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all IACS registered farms: ‘Foot and Mouth: Important information about your AAPS claim’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 6) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Marking of Meat, Meat Products, Minced Meat and Meat Preparations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 7) Order 2001.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (No. 6) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 14 MAY

POLICY

OPERATIONS

IP90 Brecon, Powys (2001/1596) confirmed.

Decided on category of "DCP" i.e. DC where seropositives would be treated as if IPs for handling and disposal purposes.

Considerable problems with the Pentre Sollars case. Police confiscated farmer's guns. Local protest groups.

At Epynt – northern cell of pit filled in; work started on southern cell.

Serology began at Chepstow and Neath clusters.

Protection zone bleeding completed in Anglesey.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Occupational licences introduced.

Local authorities to be responsible for licensing of collection centres and movement of all animals to and from slaughter.

COMMUNICATIONS

14th May – NAW press releases: ‘Expert help offered to foot and mouth hit businesses’; ‘Sue Essex issues guidelines for Councils to establish priorities for opening up the Countryside’.

16th May – Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales writes to all farmers in the Brecon area: ‘Foot and mouth disease – Urgent advice for cattle and sheep farmers (measures to help reduce the risk of disease spread)’.

18th May – Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales writes to all previously uncontacted farms: ‘Information for farms not contacted by helpline staff’.

Considerable press and media interest in Pentre Sollars case – front page news every day.

Advice supplied to farmers re: shearing. Arrangements made for a new shearing licence. Update also supplied on AI / Cattle breeding in IA’s.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (No. 7) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 21 MAY

POLICY

25th May - Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG) created in Wales. National Assembly, Operations Directorate, local authorities and Environment Agency all represented.

OPERATIONS

IP91 Glasbury on Wye, Powys (2001/1621) confirmed.

Proposed injunction (Pentre Sollars) fell.

Environment Agency presence in Operations room downgraded on weekends to 'on call' status.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Commons licences began.

COMMUNICATIONS

North Wales: DVM provides advice to organisers of Denbigh and Flint agriculture Show.

21st May – NAW press release: 'Foot and mouth disease helpline – revised hours'.

23rd May – NAW press release: 'Sue Essex urges Councils to reopen countryside'.

25th May – NAW press release: 'Sue Essex reopens North Wales woodlands'.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

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WEEK COMMENCING 28 MAY

POLICY

2nd June - Infected area status in Anglesey and the northern part of Gwynedd lifted.

OPERATIONS

IP92 Caerphilly (2001/1657) confirmed.

Problems with cattle in woods near farm in South Wales. Marksman brought in.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Shearing licences issued locally as needed.

COMMUNICATIONS

30th May – NAW press releases: ‘Support for tourism businesses reaffirmed’; ‘Tir Mynydd 2001 element 2 payments’.

31st May – NAW press release: ‘Rumours of a cull in South Powys are completely unfounded’.

2nd June – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes lifting of Infected Area status from Anglesey’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 4 JUNE

POLICY

8th June – PM announced the creation of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Margaret Beckett becomes Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

OPERATIONS

8th June - Operations Room moves from Cathays Park to DECC in Llanishen, Cardiff. Work in North Wales winding down, so move sensible for communication reasons.

Internal discussions on burn and burial strategy in Wales.

Meeting with contractor to discuss proposals for ash disposal.

A farmer, for the first time, refuses to have his animals serology tested.

Security alert in NAWAD offices at Llandrindod Wells – farmers were looking for blood test results.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

6th June – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones pays tribute to those involved in tackling foot and mouth disease’.

6th June - Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘Foot and Mouth: IACS update’.

7th June – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales who have had livestock culled as a consequence of foot and mouth disease.

North Wales: DVM meets with Denbigh Eisteddfod organisers.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

General Election.

WEEK COMMENCING 11 JUNE

POLICY

Still no answer from London on ash disposal.

13th June – Welsh ‘Disposal Risk Assessment Group’ meets for the first time.

Rumours within farming community of mass cull policy in Powys after general election.

OPERATIONS

Reviewed level of military support required when Household Cavalry Regiment withdrew. Decided Territorial Army involvement was ideal. Also developed re-call arrangements.

Rumours that contamination of private water supply caused by Epynt Site – tests show there is no proof for this.

Discussions and disagreement with JCC regarding extinguishing of pyre at Epynt.

Staff moved from North Powys to South Powys to help with serology and C&D.

Serology began at Berriew and Brecon clusters.

8 sero positives in a single flock in North Powys.

Another farmer refused serology testing for his animals. Seeking to use persuasion rather than injunction.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

11th June - North West Wales Taskforce meeting.

12th June – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones urges caution over video livestock auction’.

13th June – NAW press release: ‘Co-operation the key to the future of Welsh agriculture, says Carwyn Jones.’

15th June – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales with IACS update and information

about sheep dipping and Farming Connect.

17th June – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones thanks the army for their support during the foot and mouth crisis’.

Minister assures locals that ash will be removed from hill in Epynt.

National press coverage about suicides in Powys.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Minister gives assurances that the ash will be removed from the Epynt.

WEEK COMMENCING 18 JUNE

POLICY

Vaccination lobby gaining momentum.

Autumn stock movements discussion – decision to establish task force.

OPERATIONS

IP93 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1779) confirmed.

Household Cavalry Regiment replaced by Territorial Army personnel.

Meeting with Environment Agency and others regarding continued sampling and result monitoring at Epynt.

20th June - JCC appoint director of ash removal.

Rumours of FMD for sale – Police investigate but nothing substantiated.

Problems with reduction in serology testing capacity.

23rd June - IP93 first of the Libanus outbreak IPs. First case in Wales in 4 weeks. Brecon footpaths and visitor centre closed again - reports that shearing is to blame.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

First Infected Area restrictions lifted in South Wales.

COMMUNICATIONS

20th June – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces extension of the Bellwin foot and mouth scheme and £12million special grant’.

22nd June – NAW press release: ‘Positive developments in Welsh agriculture, despite foot and mouth, says Carwyn Jones’.

Mass public meeting in Builth Wells. ACVO and ROD addressed 650 farmers and answered questions - mostly to allay unfounded fears of mass cull.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 8) Order 2001

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 8) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 25 JUNE

POLICY

Pressure groups approaching contiguous farms to persuade them to refuse to comply with the cull policy.

More pressure from vaccination lobby.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP94 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1789); IP95 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1796); IP96 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1801).

30th June – Brecon Control Area imposed.

Problems with leaky lorries – discussions with JCC about use of 8-wheelers.

Ash disposal meeting.

Bio-security campaign launched. DEFRA start biosecurity hotspots blitz campaign. NAW already has plans for Brecon/Libanus area.

Meetings with graziers to identify hefts for tests started. Agreed strategy on Beacons involving gathering, penning testing. Gained graziers support for it.

Serology – authority received to lift Chepstow and Wentloog clusters.

Delays in serology and restrictions administration due to lack of administrative staff and slow agency replacement.

Restocking team introduced and restocking started.

Divisional Office staff from NAW assist in Brecon Operations room.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

30th June - special movement restriction in Brecon area.

COMMUNICATIONS

Minister of Rural Affairs attended public meeting to tell local farming community what is being done to

identify hefts in the Beacons.

28th June – NAW press release: ‘Mike German visits Brecon to hear concerns of rural businesses following outbreak’.

29th June – NAW press releases: ‘Carwyn Jones launches ‘Stamp it Out’ foot and mouth disease campaign’; ‘Now is a time to consider an organic future, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Considerable pressure from vaccination lobby now in light of developing Beacons situation.

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WEEK COMMENCING 2 JULY

Use of FMD vaccines PROHIBITED.

Shearing licensing policy implemented.

OPERATIONS

IP97 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1806) confirmed.

6th July - Operations Room established at Army barracks in Brecon to manage the Beacons situation.

Operational strategy agreed for penning, testing and feeding on the Beacons while waiting for test results.

First fence goes up on Beacons.

Discussions start on ‘wether lambs’; should they be culled or not? Much discussion with graziers and DEFRA on this.

Trialled cooling of ash at Epynt.

Meetings with Brecon graziers, their co-operation gained.

Re-stocking team introduced and restocking started.

Serology – authority to lift Builth cluster, work begins with Churchstoke cluster

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Gathering licences issued with effect from 5th July.

COMMUNICATIONS

3rd July – Minister of Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales regarding ‘Stamp it Out’ biosecurity campaign.

4th July – NAW press release: ‘Initial Brecon blood test results promising, says Carwyn Jones’.

Meetings and discussions with graziers on the Beacons. Co-operation gained.

Lord Lieutenant visited operations room.

Bio-security meeting for public in Brecon.

Public meeting in Brecon on biosecurity. Included demonstrations to local firms/businesses who may have needed to visit farms.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Foot and Mouth Disease (Prohibition of Vaccination) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 9 JULY

POLICY

DEFRA agree to cull of 'wether lambs'.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP98 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1846); IP99 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1848); IP100 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1849); IP101 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1852).

Progress made on building holding pens on the Beacons.

Delays with blood test results – concern over welfare of penned animals.

Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme – concern expressed by Wrexham Borough Council who are determined that no more carcasses should go to Rossett.

Biosecurity around Beacons and Crickhowell started.

Positive result from the Libanus outbreak. Animals slaughtered as a dangerous contact on advice from Page Street.

Initial consultations starting for restocking.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

9th July – NAW press release: 'Edwina Hart reaffirms Assembly's commitment to businesses hit by foot and mouth disease'.

11th July – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farms in Wales that have not had foot and mouth disease about biosecurity. Gate poster included with letter.

15th July – NAW press release: 'Public trust in Welsh produce must be rebuilt, says Carwyn Jones'.

On-going discussions with graziers.

Lobbying from vaccination people.

Meeting about communications strategy for the removal of ash – involved letters to locals and press release.

POLITICAL HANDING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 9) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 16 JULY

POLICY

Sunday 22nd July – announcement that all secondary ‘cleansing and disinfecting’ (C&D) work should stop.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP102 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1857); IP103 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1860); IP104 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1861); IP105 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1868); IP106 Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1869); IP107 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1881).

Brecon Beacons serology support unit set up as part of main serology team.

Biosecurity plan around Brecon and Crickhowell implemented.

Gathering of sheep on Beacons following construction of pens.

Revised restocking chapter introduced - clarification sought on starting restocking while protection zone in force - RVO agree to the practice.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

16th July - extension of special movement area to Crickhowell.

Problems regarding movements of animals out of restricted areas.

COMMUNICATIONS

20th July – NAW press releases: ‘Ash to be removed from Welsh pyre sites, Assembly Agriculture Department announces’; ‘Computer initiative will help young farmers learn new skills’.

BBC went onto IP without permission. Army intervened. Protested to BBC.

20th July – Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales writes to all households in Brecon area re: ‘Removal of ash from Mynydd Epynt’.

POLITICAL HANDING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Marking of Meat, Meat Products, Minced Meat and Meat Preparations) (Wales) (No. 2) Regulations 2001.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 9) (Amendment) Regulations 2001.

The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Wales) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 23 JULY

POLICY

Discussions with DEFRA over method of dealing with sheep on Beacons.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP108 Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1889); IP109 Brecon Beacons, Powys, heft 5 (2001/1891); IP110 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1896); IP111 Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1897); IP112 Llangattock, Powys (2001/1901).

Secondary C&D suspended.

Bleeding of gathered sheep on Beacons.

Positive results coming back from testing on the Beacons. Infected hefts continue to be culled.

26th July - ash removal programme starts at Epynt.

Further fencing started on western edge of Beacons.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

25th July – NAW press release: ‘Brecon Beacons tests show significant number of positive results’.

26th July – NAW press release: ‘Assembly Ministers announce £65million for rural recovery’.

27th July – NAW press release: ‘Culling (on Beacons) the right approach, says Carwyn Jones’.

Meetings with Powys and Monmouthshire about their hedge-cutting and bio-security arrangements.

Meeting with Transco about bio-security.

Meeting with Prime Minister regarding C&D, biosecurity and general foot and mouth disease issues.

Letter sent to all households in Sennybridge/Epynt area regarding removal of ash from burn site.

Vaccination lobby make clear their objections.

POLITICAL HANDING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 30 JULY

POLICY

3rd August – Prime Minister agreed that secondary C&D could resume subject to conditions. Team meetings held and guidance issued.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP113, Brecon Beacons, Powys, hefts 1b, 2, 3, 4 (2001/1907); IP114 hefted flock on Sugar Loaf, Powys (2001/1908).

Gathering continues on the Beacons, arrangements made for blood samples

to be taken away over weekend (sampling expected to take 8-10 weeks).

Biosecurity zone implemented in the Crickhowell/Llangenny and Libanus areas. 17 disinfection sites set up - some manned, some mats. Milk tankers accompanied by DEFRA personnel in the Crickhowell and Libanus areas - some farmer opposition. Local authorities started patrols.

Temporary ash removal suspension from Epynt due to breakdown of essential unloading equipment at landfill site. Removal recommenced two days later.

Restrictions lifted on approximately 111 farms in the area.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

31st July – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones announces re-opening of OTMS in Wales’.

2nd August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes proposals for easing restrictions on livestock trading’; ‘Bring on Brecon Jazz, says Jenny Randerson’.

3rd August– NAW press release: ‘Better news on the Brecon Beacons’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) (No. 5) Order 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No.9) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 6 AUGUST

POLICY

Ash removal. Request from JCC for ash containers to be taken to Cardiff and dispatched to an alternative site, Sunday to Thursday, by rail. Grundens will still be used Wednesday to Saturday. (This should relieve some pressure on Grundens and reduce cost).

UK Government announces 3 independent inquiries into FMD

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP115 Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1938); IP116 Brecon Beacons, Powys, heft 1a (2001/1939); IP117 Brecon Beacons, Powys, hefts 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d (2001/1940); IP118 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1945).

Concern expressed by Page Street that IP118 had not been taken earlier with the rest of the Crickhowell cluster.

Rate of ash removal from Epynt increased.

Sampling of Berriew and Churchstoke protection zone clusters completed.

Health and Safety Audit carried out.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

Discussions with graziers regarding blood sampling on commons adjacent to the Beacons.

7th August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes resumption of farm cleansing and disinfecting’.

8th August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones announces £250,000 for young farmers’ clubs in Wales’.

9th August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes Independent Inquiry on foot and mouth disease’.

10th August – NAW press release: ‘Carmarthenshire leading the way in hosting agriculture festival, says John Griffiths’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 13 AUGUST

POLICY

OPERATIONS

Gathering, testing, culling of hefts on the Beacons continues despite some bad weather difficulties.

Temporary closure of A4059 to support this work.

Work on C&D restart continues following appropriate planning and team meetings (farmers have first refusal to undertake the work on a contractual basis, otherwise contractors invited to tender).

Removal of ash from farm sites at Cross Ash, Abergavenny.

Further potential bio-security sites have been investigated following the outbreaks in the Sugar Loaf area.

Negative results received for some hefts on Beacons. These hefts released.

Bio-security memo issued to all Beacons bleeders.

Licensing for ash removal introduced.

Protection zone restrictions lifted around the Chibury, Welshpool, Newbridge, and St. Weonards clusters.

Form D restrictions lifted on approximately 350 farms.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Special Beacons heft gathering licenses introduced locally.

COMMUNICATIONS

13th August – NAW press release: ‘Haskins’ writ does not run in Wales, says Carwyn Jones’.

14th August – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all graziers in the Brecon Beacons: ‘Strategy for dealing with foot and mouth disease on the Brecon Beacons’.

17th August – NAW press release: ‘Blood tests offer hope for Beacons, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Proposed injunction against the contiguous cull to be heard in open court 21st August.

WEEK COMMENCING 20 AUGUST

POLICY

OPERATIONS

Gathering and culling of stragglers on Beacons.

More negative results back from Beacons as operations continue.

EU Commission visit.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Revised Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme - Intervention Board issue information on main changes.
LWDS announcement on criteria for Light lamb scheme

COMMUNICATIONS

Meeting with Environment Agency and local authorities raises issues on what information is available on what has been buried as part of the C&D process.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Contiguous cull injunction case heard in open court. Decision in favour of DEFRA/NAW.

WEEK COMMENCING 27 AUGUST

POLICY

OPERATIONS

More negative results on Beacons.

31st August - first new C&D contracts issued after considerable discussion of contractual obligation.

Concern in Powys that a discoloured private water supply is due to C&D work on the farm.

Astbury landfill site, Llay, Wrexham, receives its final delivery of animal carcasses under the Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

28th August – NAW press release: ‘Options for the disposal of autumn lamb cull carcasses to be identified, Carwyn Jones announces’.

30th August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones announces extension to Rural Hardship Fund’.

Farmers expressed concern over the changing of C&D rules.

DEFRA C&D conference in London.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 10) Order 2001.

FMD Order select shooting parties allowed – sales of animals (2 or more persons) prohibited without

license issued by Minister.

WEEK COMMENCING 3 SEPTEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

9th September – NAW press release: ‘Young farmers will play a significant role in rebuilding Welsh Agriculture, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

LWDS extended – light lamb scheme until 31st of December, last application 26/10/01.

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WEEK COMMENCING 10 SEPTEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

The Ten Bio-security Commandments sent out to the Farmers.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

11th September – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones criticises foot and mouth disease status for Powys’.

13th September – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones issues bio-security commandments’.

14th September – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘The Ten Bio-security Commandments’.

14th September – NAW press release: ‘Farmers face new priorities in the wake of foot and mouth, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 11) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 17 SEPTEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

19th September – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones outlines timetable for FMD status for North Powys’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 24 SEPTEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Autumn Movement Licences (AMLS) available for cattle.

COMMUNICATIONS

Last meeting of North West Wales Task Force.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 9) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 1 OCTOBER

POLICY

Restocking policy on hefts requested.

Autumn movement licences instructions – unreasonable in number and complexity.

OPERATIONS

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LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

AMLS available for sheep.

COMMUNICATIONS

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POLITICAL HANDLING / LEGISLATION

The Prescribed Waste (Wales) (No. 2) Regulations 2001.

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WEEK COMMENCING 8 OCTOBER

POLICY

ROD exit strategy announced. Monthly return visits of absent stakeholders across the board agreed.

OPERATIONS

12th October – all Army personnel stood down.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Sole Occupancy Licensing (SOL) begin.

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COMMUNICATIONS

11th October – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces further support for rural businesses.’

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POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

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WEEK COMMENCING 15 OCTOBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

North Powys County status change.

COMMUNICATIONS

19th October – NAW press release: ‘Back Welsh tourism over half term holiday urges Rhodri Morgan’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/ LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 22 OCTOBER

POLICY

Policy on hunting / risk assessments requested.

Short-term response contingency (roles/responsibilities) established until Christmas.

LWDS Light Lamb Scheme applications close.

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

AMLS County status change posing significant administrative and technical delays.

LWDS Light Lamb Scheme applications close.

COMMUNICATIONS

22nd October – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes the lifting of FMD restrictions in Powys and South Wales’.

23rd October – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces boost for small rural businesses’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 10) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 29 OCTOBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

1st November – NAW press release: ‘Sue Essex looks forward to the next 50 years of National Parks’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 10) (Fees) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 5 NOVEMBER

POLICY

Revised slaughter licences issued.

OPERATIONS

Operations room and all contacts leave DECC – finance and C&D remain.

DCS validation meeting announces needs.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

5th November – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘Foot and mouth disease: Impact on livestock subsidy payments’.

6th November – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes resumption of Welsh sheep meat exports’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 11) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 12 NOVEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

NAW meet with epidemiologists to discuss restocking of hefts.

Advice from Page Street received on the 16th that restocking of hefts is considered a risk, and should not proceed.

Environment Agency requests specific details of burial sites.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

14th November – NAW press release: ‘Europe clears way for meat exports from Wales’.

15th November – NAW press release: ‘Controls on hunting with dogs to be relaxed’.

POLITICAL HANDLING

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 12) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 12) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 19 NOVEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

23rd November – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes the further relaxation of restrictions on Welsh sheep meat exports’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 26 NOVEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

30th November – C&D completed in Wales.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

28th November – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones issues challenge to auctioneers’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 3 DECEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

3rd December – NAW press release: ‘Foot and mouth disease free status for Wales’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 13) Regulations 2001.

Annex 2: FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE TIMELINE

WEEK COMMENCING 19 FEBRUARY

POLICY

20th February – National Assembly Ministers informed of first foot and mouth disease (FMD) case at Cheales in Essex. State Veterinary Service (SVS) from outset followed identical disease control procedures in Wales to rest of Great Britain.

22nd February - Letter issued on Foot and Mouth Precautions to wide range of bodies including farming unions, local authorities, markets agencies and other government departments

Animal Health Offices issued with instructions by Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF).

25th February – bio-security advice issued to all National Assembly for Wales field officers/staff.

OPERATIONS

SVS establish disease control sub-centre in Llandrindod Wells following discussions with Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) at the Animal Health Office/Disease Emergency Control Centre (DECC) in Llanishen, Cardiff

23rd February - National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Departments (NAWAD), Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA), Countryside Wales (CW) stop farm visits and inspections to avoid risk of spreading disease

SVS North Wales Division reviews FMD Contingency plan following first confirmed case in England

25th February - suspect case at Welsh Country Food Slaughterhouse, Gaerwen, Anglesey. Minister and Farming Unions informed.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

23rd February - national movement controls introduced.

Select one off movements allowed by Page Street for affected animals.

Brecon and Ross Markets contact Animal Health Office unable to move animals.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter issued to colleges of agriculture 22nd February.

23rd February - press notice issued with details of MAFF website and helpline/contact numbers in Wales.

25th February - guidance issued to NAWAD Divisional Offices, FRCA and all Agricultural Colleges in Wales on precautions to be taken on biosecurity when staff visit farms, parallel guidance issued to local authorities.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

23rd February - Minister for Rural Affairs met farming unions.

23rd February - Foot and Mouth Disease (Controlled Area) Order 2001 No 530.

25 February - Letter issued to local authorities in Wales enclosing a copy of the controlled area Order

WEEK COMMENCING 26 FEBRUARY

POLICY

26th February - senior member of NAWAD staff sent to London to strengthen communication with MAFF on disease control and animal movements policy and feed in Welsh perspective. NAW presence strengthened from the middle of March with visits by additional staff. Two full time NAWAD staff present in London from 2nd April 2001 to attend COBR and JCC.

Memo from LACOTS asks local authorities to collect stray animals following advice from NAW.

OPERATIONS

IP1 Gaerwen, Anglesey (2001/13); IP2 Knighton, Powys (2001/19); IP3 Painscastle, Builth Wells, Powys (2001/22); and IP35 Hadnock Court, Monmouthshire (2001/490) confirmed.

26th February - Caernarfon Division establishes incident/operations room in response to suspect case in Anglesey.

27th February - first case in Wales confirmed at the slaughterhouse in Gaerwen, Anglesey

27th February - Environment Agency (EA) and Forestry Commission visits stopped on MAFF advice. Environment Agency FMD Task Group set up to provide guidance to EA staff

State Veterinary Service DVMs agree to DECC in Llanishen adopting operations in Montgomery (an area normally falling under the North Wales Division's remit).

Disinfectant Spraying on Menai Bridges

DECC in Llanishen establishes 'Team Structure' based on disease control contingency planning and experience of classical swine fever.

28th February – National Assembly for Wales (NAW) Divisional Office at Llandrindod Wells establishes incident room

First IPs confirmed in Powys at Waen, Knighton and Bryngarth, Painscastle.

Temporary Veterinary Inspectors (TVIs) recruited from local practices.

North Wales: Daily meetings begin with SVS, NAW, EA, local authority and Police.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

27th February - Infected Area restrictions imposed around first IP on Anglesey.

Licensing system to move to slaughter livestock introduced over the weekend of 3rd-4th March. Open for applications on 5th March. First animals moved on 5th March. Liaison with MHS Wales, LACOTS in Wales, Guild of Welsh Abattoirs, farming unions to enable the system to operate effectively and to ensure that small abattoirs in Wales were covered. Welsh guidance issued to local authorities to help them run the scheme (4th March). Burden of MHS charges on small abattoirs discussed with MAFF and solution reached (6th March).

Milk producers notified of implications of licensing restrictions implications.

FMD Declaratory Order extends restrictions on livestock movements for a further 2 weeks to 16th March - permits moves of pigs, cattle, sheep from outside local authorities to slaughter.

COMMUNICATIONS

Further guidance issued to organisations on biosecurity.

26th February - Assembly establishes a combined communications and telephone helpline room in Cathays Park, Cardiff. Open 7am to 10pm weekdays and 10am to 4pm on weekends .

Anglesey IP: NAW staff inform farmers in Infected Area by letter.

26 February – letter issued to all Artificial Insemination centres on restriction of movements of semen to premises in infected areas.

27th February - Q&A material sent to farming unions.

1st March – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces £5.6million for voluntary and community groups’.

2nd March - regular FMD slot introduced on BBC Radio Wales with Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales or the Deputy Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales. (Continued until the end of June) Other local radio stations also held appropriate interviews.

North Wales: DVM begins daily interviews with media.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

27th February – Minister for Rural Affairs makes Emergency Statement to Assembly.

28th February - Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Committee.

28th February - daily press conferences begin.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) Order 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001.

(Power granted to local authorities to close footpaths and prevent entry onto premises in controlled areas.)

The Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 5 MARCH

POLICY

OPERATIONS

The following IPs confirmed: IP4 Llandaniel Fab, Anglesey (2001/101); IP5 Bultth Wells, Powys (2001/110); IP6 Llangaffom, Anglesey (2001/127); IP7 Llangaffo, Anglesey (2001/122); and IP8 Churchstoke, Powys (2001/142).

Tracings from Welshpool market start. 8th March - Form A served on the market.

8th March – infection confirmed at Bodlew, Llanddaniel – first farm case in Anglesey.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Major concern from farmers about the effect of the restrictions on moving livestock; urgent and desperate animal welfare problems becoming obvious in some areas. Farmers ringing Cardiff and Divisional Offices in emotional distress.

After extensive discussions with MAFF, local movement and occupational movement licenses introduced to allow livestock to be moved short distances for animal welfare reasons.

10th March - First licenses issued by NAWAD Divisional Offices under enormous pressure. Final details of the scheme were received at 9pm on 9th March, the doors opened for applications 9am on 10th March (Saturday).

Welfare problems of animals away on tack remained, as much larger distances involved, and disease risks harder to resolve.

COMMUNICATIONS

Guidance issued by the Assembly included delivery of feed to farms, relaxation of drivers hours, implications for dogs, welfare of livestock scheme, local movement scheme guidance notes and application forms, movement of animals to slaughter

5th March - NAW press release: ‘Tir Mynydd Payments – Carwyn Jones acts swiftly to help beleaguered farmers’.

6th March – NAW press release: ‘Michael German responds to concern over tourism in Wales during foot and mouth outbreak’.

9th March – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones announces partial easing of animal movement restrictions’.

9th March – NAW press release: ‘National Assembly foot and mouth disease helpline change of opening hours’.

10th March - Carmarthen Divisional office established their incident room dealing with telephone enquiries.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

5th March - meeting with farming unions.

8th March - emergency statement to Assembly.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

The Drivers’ Hours (Goods Vehicles) (Milk Collection) (Temporary Exemption) Regulations 2001 (UK Regulations).

The Community Drivers’ Hours (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Temporary Exception) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 12 MARCH

POLICY

Geographical pattern of disease in Wales remained stable, but the developing cases down the border were a particular source of concern. Origins of many of these cases unclear at the time.

14th March - Carwyn Jones met Nick Brown and Scottish and Northern Ireland Ministers in London . Minister informed of Chief Veterinary Officer’s decision that all sheep traded through

Welshpool market after 19th February should be culled, along with all animals they have come into contact with subsequently.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP9 Welshpool, Powys (2001/178); IP10 Hamer International Slaughterhouse, Powys (2001/215); IP11 Newtown, Powys (2001/); IP12 Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys (2001/220); IP13 Llanbadarnfynydd, Powys (2001/251); IP14 Malltraeth, Anglesey (2001/242); IP15 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/255); IP16 Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys (2001/239); IP17 Builth Wells, Powys (2001/259); IP18 Welshpool, Powys (2001/262); IP19 Pentrefoelas, Anglesey (2001/263); IP20 Grosmont, Monmouthshire (2001/272); IP21 Welshpool, Powys (2001/310); IP22 Bororgan, Anglesey (2001/298); IP23 Llangaffo, Anglesey (2001/311); IP24 Llandaniel Fab, Anglesey (2001/314).

Welshpool cull policy announced: 17th–18th March - intense pressure on Unions from farmers in the Welshpool area to reject the cull.

IP20 - first case confirmed in Monmouthshire .

Contact advice first received on IPs and purchasing.

Disease Control System (DCS) launched with significant back-capture and training implications.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

14th March - policy for dealing with animals on tack discussed by Minister for Rural Affairs with Nick Brown and Scottish and Northern Irish colleagues.

Long Distance Movement Licence scheme introduced to help deal with welfare problems of animals on tack. Details issued to Divisional Offices on Saturday 17th March. Scheme open for applications Monday 19th March.

COMMUNICATIONS

13th March – NAW press release: ‘No danger of foot and mouth being spread by animals

processed at Llanidloes Abattoir, Carwyn Jones says’.

15th March – National Assembly FMD website established (first phase).

16th March – Letter to all farmers with holdings in Wales on FMD: Movement of animals for slaughter.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

15th March - statement to Assembly.

16th March - meeting with farming unions.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 3) Order 2001.

The Import and Export Restriction (Foot and Mouth Disease (No. 3) (Wales) Regulation 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 4) Order 2001

WEEK COMMENCING 19 MARCH

POLICY

23rd March - Tanllan case, previously confirmed on clinical grounds, comes back negative from lab tests. Link to fat lamb section of Welshpool no longer proven. Decision therefore taken by SVS in Wales to limit the Welshpool cull to ewes, where the link was proven by the Felindre case.

23rd March – decision reached that pre-emptive cull should take place in SW Anglesey.

Discussions with London on cull-policy during this week. SVS Wales and NAWAD staff sceptical about the wisdom of a blanket cull of all livestock within 3 km of every case, given that the pattern of disease in much of Wales was different to that in Dumfries, Devon and Cumbria. Even so, epidemiology could still not identify the connections and vector of infection in many cases. A selective approach to culling, therefore remained elusive so when the more moderate policy of contiguous culling was mooted, this was accepted, to prevent the disease spreading from the existing pattern of infection. Agreement that the top priority was to cull animals on farms contiguous to most recent cases.

First SOS case declared in S Wales Division – no central policy issued on classification or effects

Implementation of Provisionally Free Areas (PFAs) and At Risk Areas (ARAs)

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP25 Montgomery, Powys (2001/345); IP26 Bethesda, Anglesey (2001/376); IP27 Llangristiolus, Anglesey (2001/384); IP28 Hay on Wye, Powys (2001/395); IP29 Llangaffo, Anglesey (2001/406); IP30 Churchstoke, Montgomery, Powys (2001/433); IP31 Grosmont, Monmouthshire (2001/429); IP32 Broughood Brest, Brecon, Powys (2001/461); IP33 Llanynis, Builth Wells, Powys (2001/465); IP34 Churchstoke, Montgomery, Powys (2001/469); IP36 Hay on Wye, Powys (2001/535); IP37 Cerrig Widdu, Llandrindod Wells, Powys (2001/528); IP38 Welshpool, Powys (2001/532); IP39 Gwalchmai, Anglesey (2001/573); IP40 Welshpool, Powys (2001/588).

23rd March - NAW Team sent to Anglesey to manage ‘Pre-emptive Cull’ operations.

24th March - Minister for Rural Affairs announces that ‘Pre-emptive Cull’ will begin on 27th March.

25th March – army officially engaged in Wales. Troops deployed to Black Mountains to assist with preventing animal movements and putting up fencing.

DECC in Llanishen, Cardiff report problems sourcing materials for burning. This leading to delays in disposal.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Longer distance licences introduced.

19th March - Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme (LWDS) introduced. Scheme set up by MAFF and the Intervention Board (IB).

COMMUNICATIONS

19th March - guidance issued to local authorities on access to countryside

19 March – guidance to wide variety of bodies on further advice on precautionary measures

19th March - Minister for Rural Affairs sends ‘open letter’ to all farmers in Powys to explain the decision to cull all sheep that had been at Welshpool market on 19th February and all sheep they had been in contact with since. Letter reproduced as NAW press release.

20th March – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones issues new guidance on visiting the countryside’.

20th March – NAW press release: ‘Minister welcomes Rural Task Force measures as important first step’.

21st March – NAW press releases: ‘Deputy First Minister launches Tourism Charter’; ‘Banks urged to go easy on Welsh businesses hit by foot and mouth’.

22nd March – NAW press releases: ‘Carwyn Jones announces Rural Task and Finish Group’; ‘International Tourism fair hears that Wales is open for business’.

Minister for Rural Affairs visits DECC in Llanishen with Secretary of State for Wales, Paul Murphy.

24th March – Carwyn Jones visited Anglesey to meet farming leaders (who are supporting the cull). Letter issued to all farmers.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

20th March – National Assembly for Wales debate.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) Order 2001

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2001

WEEK COMMENCING 26 MARCH

POLICY

27th March – Nick Brown announces details of new contiguous cull policy to House of Commons.

28th March - Carwyn Jones meets farming unions at Llandrindod Wells. Agreement reached on how farms would be assessed as contiguous. Letter prepared on 30th March for issue to all contiguous farms setting out this policy. Policy subsequently adopted by MAFF (6th April).

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP41 Grosmont, Monmouthshire (2001/642); IP42 Buttington Hall, Powys (2001/645); IP43 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/719); IP44 White Grit, Churchstoke, Powys (2001/753); IP45 Llanigon, Powys (2001/794); IP46 Raglan, Monmouthshire (2001/733); IP47 Powys (2001/836); IP48 Chepstow, Monmouthshire (2001/854); IP49 Raglan, Monmouthshire (2001/867); IP50 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/869); IP51 Llanigon, Powys (2001/877); IP52 Grosmont, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/899).

26th March - Operations Directorate established in Wales. Operations Room set up in Cathays Park. Army, Police and Environment Agency brought in.

Large backlogs in disposal of culled animals due to occurrence of 3 to 4 IP's per day and introduction of contiguous culling policy

Black Mountains bleeding plan starts.

Potential mass disposal sites looked at on Army Training Range in Epynt. Environment Agency agrees 2 sites there suitable for burning and burial. Decision taken to use sites.

Anglesey 'Pre-emptive Cull':

26th March - meeting with Anglesey Councillors regarding use of Penhesgyn landfill site.

27th March- pre-emptive cull begins.

28th March – pyre constructed at Mona Airfield Anglesey. Significant public protest and Road blockade.

29th March – series of meetings with residents, Councillors, Farmers and Landfill site managers. Use of Penhesgyn Landfill site on Anglesey secured for disposal of carcasses.

31st March - first carcasses delivered to Penhesgyn.1st April – All pre-emptive cull processes in Anglesey fully underway

31st March/1st April – continued protest at Epynt.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Licensing to Epynt established with DECC staff on site.

COMMUNICATIONS

27th March – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces £12million support scheme for businesses affected by foot and mouth’.

28th March – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces boost for the Rural Economy’.

29th March – NAW press releases: ‘Carwyn Jones announces £1million additional help for Agri-Food Industry’; ‘All-Wales Rural helpline launched and Assembly fund to match donations to relieve rural distress’; ‘Extra help for rural businesses’.

30th March – NAW press release: ‘Mike German travels to Europe to promote Welsh Tourism Industry’.

30 March - letter all cattle AI centres on recommencing of movements of semen to restricted premises and infected areas.

Media interviews with DVM in Anglesey becoming less frequent.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

27 March - Consultation letter on the Ban on Swill Feeding Regulations 2001 issued

28th March - meeting with farming unions.

29 March 2001 – Letter issued on proposal to introduce a 20 day standstill period following movements of sheep and cattle

30th March – Minister for Rural Affairs visits slaughterhouse and landfill site in Anglesey and meets with local farmers.

Minister for Rural Affairs meets with protestors at Epynt.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) (No. 3) Order 2001

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (No. 3) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2001

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 4) (Amendment) Order 2001

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) (No. 4) Order 2001

The Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 2 APRIL

POLICY

3rd April – agreement, following discussions between the National Assembly’s Director of Agriculture and the Chief Medical Officer, that there would be no relaxation in Wales of the London policy that allowed the burial of cattle under 5 years of age. All cattle in Wales to be burned.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP53 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/926); IP54 Montgomery, Powys (2001/944); IP55 Pandy, Monmouthshire (2001/946); IP56 Llanidloes, Powys (2001/995); IP57 Grosmont, Monmouthshire (2001/916); IP58 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1055); IP59 Usk, Monmouthshire (2001/1058); IP60 Chepstow, Monmouthshire (2001/1067); IP61 Caldicot, Monmouthshire (2001/1065); IP62 Usk, Monmouthshire (2001/1107); IP63 Nelson,

Caerphilly (2001/1108).

Cull operations in Anglesey in full flow.

3rd April – permanent environmental health advisor introduced to Operations Room.

5th April – permanent environmental protection advisor introduced to Operations Room.

5th April – blood test results indicate that disease confirmed to eastern part of Black Mountains. Subsequent results meant that plans to carry out a mass cull on the Mountains could be dropped.

5th April – first carcasses put into burial pit at Epynt.

Military logistics cell arrives at DECC in Llanishen to co-ordinate transport, providing contractor liaison and support for IP room.

5th April - ACVO for Wales provides senior management support for DVM in Llanishen – Senior Veterinary Meat Hygiene Advisor sent to Llandrindod Wells to develop an Operations Room. Military support also provided.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme: Letter from IB to all applicants apologising for delays in the disposal of culled animals.

COMMUNICATIONS

2nd April - Foot and Mouth Disease Communications Strategy agreed. Information Centres to be established throughout Wales along with an media advertising campaign to raise awareness of the Centres, the FMD helplines and the FMD website. Series of FMD factsheets to be produced and disseminated.

2nd April – drop-in Information Centre established at Montgomery.

2nd April – Operations Directorate presence in London bolstered. Two full time officials active from this date.

3rd April – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces emergency funding to combat foot and mouth disease’.

4th April – NAW press release: ‘Foot and mouth Information Centre opens in Montgomery’.

5th April – NAW press releases: ‘Carwyn Jones gives details on Epynt disposal site’; ‘Rhodri Morgan visits PC John Stone’; ‘Sue Essex issues updated guidance of visiting the countryside’.

6th April – NAW press releases: ‘Epynt lorries no danger, says Carwyn Jones’; ‘Minister welcomes cash-flow help to businesses hit by foot and mouth’; ‘Disposal of culled carcasses on farms not an option, says Carwyn Jones’; ‘Foot and mouth update: Information points throughout Wales’; ‘Banks and utilities ready to help businesses through foot and mouth’; ‘Minister to visit top attractions to stress that Wales is open for Easter’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

3rd April - Prime Minister visits Operations Room in Cathays Park

4th April – meeting in Cardiff with Black Mountain graziers and local farm union leaders to discuss disease control options.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 4) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 5) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 9 APRIL

POLICY

Policy on serology and lifting Infected Area status first issued.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP64 Llanfair Caereinion, Powys (2001/1156); IP65, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1198); IP66 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1205); IP67 Powys (2001/1213); IP68 Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1233); IP69 Castel Caereinion, Powys (2001/1242); IP70 Llwynderw, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1247); IP71 Powys (2001/1267); IP72 Welshpool, Powys (2001/1281).

9th April – local authority desk created in Operations Room.

11th April – problems with burial pit at Epynt.

12th April – new Operations Manager appointed at Epynt.

14th April – last animals put into burial pit at Epynt. Burn site in use.

14th April: Gilwern incident. Local authority marksman filmed shooting animals by local residents.

Household Cavalry Regiment deployed in Wales.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

General milk licensing starts

COMMUNICATIONS

9th April - Minister for Rural Affairs wrote to all farmers in Wales to remind them of what to do if they suspect disease and precautions they can take to help reduce disease spread. Letter also contained information on FMD Information Centres, FMD helplines and the FMD website.

10th April – NAW press release: “No let up” in Assembly fight against foot and mouth, promises Rhodri Morgan’.

11th April – NAW press release/joint message with Unions: ‘Epynt is crucial to fight against foot and mouth disease’.

11th April – NAW press release: ‘Wales is open for Easter’.

12th April – NAW press releases: ‘Michael German welcomes relaxation of tax rules for businesses

hit hard by foot and mouth’; ‘Foot and mouth: Minister boosts training in rural Wales’; ‘Carwyn Jones explains use of landfill sites for disposal of Intervention Board scheme carcass disposal’; ‘Jane Davidson welcomes the opening of job centres over Easter’.

14th April – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones calls for full report from Monmouthshire County Council on Gilwern Shooting’.

15th April – ‘Keeping in touch exercise’ introduced: telephone survey of all farmers who had lost animals. This ‘PR’ exercise also used to plug information gaps on DECC and Operations Directorate databases.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

11th April – meeting with farming unions.

WEEK COMMENCING 16 APRIL

POLICY

Discussion of vaccination option. Minister for Rural Affairs puts out press release on the subject.

19th April: Comments to MAFF arguing for local flexibility for SVS re: culling of hefted flocks. Helpful response received.

Received draft Department of Health (DoH) guidance on pyres and pyre location.

Risk assessment procedures developed and implemented in Wales, taking account of the emerging DoH guidelines.

Hefted policy discussions begin

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP73 Berriew, Welshpool, Powys (2001/1346); IP74 Brecon, Powys (2001/1385); IP75 Skewen, Neath and Port Talbot (2001/1426).

Disposal backlog eliminated.

‘Pre-emptive Cull’ and disposal in Anglesey completed. 48,177 sheep culled and buried.

IP75 in previously ‘clean’ area. Concern for milk fields of West Wales should the disease spread any further West.

DECC Llanishen having problems getting information to TVI’s – introduced twice weekly TVI briefings.

17th April - protection zone bleeding started in Anglesey.

22nd April – last carcasses taken from farms to burn site at Epynt.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Anglesey: Licence wrongly issued for sheep to move to Plas Newydd, Llanfair P. G. (land inside the cull area). Slaughtered as DC’s and sent for rendering.

COMMUNICATIONS

16th April – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones condemns attack on civil servant’.

17th April – all 44 Information Centres across Wales open to the public. 11 of the Centres manned.

17th April – Website Editorial Board established for phase 2 of website development.

18th April – NAW press release: ‘Premature to vaccinate in Wales, says Carwyn Jones’; ‘Sense of perspective needed over Anglesey sheep issue, says Carwyn Jones’.

19th April – NAW press release: ‘Sue Essex calls for timetable for re-opening footpaths around Snowdonia’.

20th April – NAW press releases: ‘Assembly monitoring environmental and health impacts of foot and mouth disease’; ‘Carwyn Jones asks Welsh radio stations to back information Campaign’.

20th April – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales with FMD update and information on agrimonetary compensation, livestock subsidies, arrangements for movement to slaughter and the artificial insemination of cattle.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

‘Anglesey Cull objectors’ case continuing.

Injunctions by farmers refusing to have their animals culled.

Based on legal advice from MAFF it would appear that injunctions have little prospect of success.

Officials met Powys County Council regarding Cefn Golog site.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 5) Regulations 2001.

The Prescribed Waste Regulation (Wales) Regulation 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Marking of Meat and Meat Products) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment)(Wales) (No. 6) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 23 APRIL

POLICY

26th April – Nick Brown announces refinement to contiguous cull policy. There was now to be a presumption against taking cattle unless they showed signs of disease.

28th April: revised instruction issued in Wales on contiguous cull: marginally different from England.

Minister for Rural Affairs announces that cull backlog has been cleared. No more carcasses to go to Epynt – return to on-farm disposal or, where possible, rendering.

DoH guidance on pyres finally issued.

Central advice on welfare at slaughter circulated to all involved.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP76 Brecon, Powys (2001/1456); IP77 Brecon, Powys (2001/1461); IP78 Mountain Ash, Rhondda Cynon Taf (2001/1470); IP79 Brecon, Powys (2001/1476); IP80 Brecon, Powys (2001/1479); IP81 Monmouthshire (2001/1490); IP82 Brecon, Powys (2001/1496); IP83 Newport (2001/1508).

25th April – Epynt: transfer of carcasses from burial pit to burn site for cremation begins.

26th-27th April - Operation "Wildfleece"- huge operation to flush out and gather feral sheep on the Black Mountains.

27th April – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘Important action needed to stop the spread of foot and mouth disease’.

Buttington Hall – leachate problems from buried sheep. Discussions about disposal options. Risk assessment suggests no open pyre. Contractual arrangement to secure mobile air curtain incinerator instigated.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) visited Epynt – remedial work done.

27th April - re-opening of specific footpaths on Snowdon approved following risk assessment.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

23rd April – NAW press release: ‘Contiguous cull backlog cleared, says Carwyn Jones’.

23rd April - first meeting of North-West Wales Taskforce. Membership includes local authorities, Farming Unions, Tourist Organisations, and DVM in North Wales.

24th April – new FMD website ‘goes live’.

25th April – NAW press release: ‘Health Minister visits rural stress helpline’; ‘Carwyn Jones meets with Cardiff County Council to discuss Welfare Scheme’.

26th April – NAW press release: ‘Success of contiguous cull means new policy can be adopted, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Anglesey cull injunction fell.

WEEK COMMENCING 30 APRIL

POLICY

3rd May – PM’s speech saying "no new pyres after today".

Policy on licensing of Collection Centres for cattle to slaughter LWDS policy made public.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP84 Wentloog, Newport (2001/1544); IP85 Wentloog, Newport (2001/1554).

30th April - IB staff leave Operations Room after only a few days to manage LWDS for Wales from Reading.

Continued negotiation on the need for a cross loading possibility after Prime Ministers speech that there would be no new pyres.

Negotiation on the use of Newport landfill site as a transfer point failed because of local authority concerns.

Mobile incinerator installed at Buttington Hall. This was a successful development.

First concerns about large pig farm near Cardiff.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Licensing for slaughter for human consumption starts in Infected Areas.

COMMUNICATIONS

30th April – NAW press release: ‘Incineration to begin at Buttington Hall’.

North Wales: DVM meets with Denbigh Eisteddfod organisers.

2nd May – NAW press releases: ‘More help on CAP schemes for farmers affected by foot and mouth disease and flooding’; ‘Carwyn Jones announces free farm business reviews’.

3rd May – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘Foot and mouth - Important information about your IACS application’.

4th May – NAW press releases: ‘Assembly Agriculture Division bans feeding of catering waste containing meat to livestock as swill’; ‘Snowdon back on map, says Sue Essex’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

North Wales: DVM meets with Dafydd Wigley MP/AM and local authorities regarding opening footpaths.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Marking of meat, meat products, minced meat and meat preparations) (Wales) Regulation 2001.

The Animal By-products (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001.

The Products of Animal Origin (Import and Export) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulation 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 7 MAY

POLICY

First discussions on ash disposal.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP86 Brecon, Powys (2001/1565); IP87 Brecon, Powys (2001/1570); IP88 Brecon, Powys (2001/1580); IP89 Brecon, Powys (2001/1584).

Last of the carcasses went onto Epynt burn site (from the burial pit). Start of backfilling the pit.

Disposal of ash first discussed. Raised issues with JCC.

Problems getting rendering trucks to small farms. Secured agreement to use 8-wheelers after skip lorries found to be useless.

First refusal on contiguous cull - Pentre Sollars.

Serology team established in DECC, Llanishen, Cardiff.

11th May – Anglesey: first Form A premise restocked.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

8th May – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones emphasises help available to assist recovery from foot and mouth’.

10th May – NAW press release: ‘More help on CAP schemes for farmers affected by foot and

mouth disease and flooding’.

11th May – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all IACS registered farms: ‘Foot and Mouth: Important information about your AAPS claim’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 6) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Marking of Meat, Meat Products, Minced Meat and Meat Preparations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 7) Order 2001.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (No. 6) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 14 MAY

POLICY

OPERATIONS

IP90 Brecon, Powys (2001/1596) confirmed.

Decided on category of "DCP" i.e. DC where seropositives would be treated as if IPs for handling and disposal purposes.

Considerable problems with the Pentre Sollars case. Police confiscated farmer’s guns. Local protest groups.

At Epynt – northern cell of pit filled in; work started on southern cell.

Serology began at Chepstow and Neath clusters.

Protection zone bleeding completed in Anglesey.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Occupational licences introduced.

Local authorities to be responsible for licensing of collection centres and movement of all animals to and from slaughter.

COMMUNICATIONS

14th May – NAW press releases: ‘Expert help offered to foot and mouth hit businesses’; ‘Sue Essex issues guidelines for Councils to establish priorities for opening up the Countryside’.

16th May – Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales writes to all farmers in the Brecon area: ‘Foot and mouth disease – Urgent advice for cattle and sheep farmers (measures to help reduce the risk of disease spread).

18th May – Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales writes to all previously uncontacted farms: ‘Information for farms not contacted by helpline staff’.

Considerable press and media interest in Pentre Sollars case – front page news every day.

Advice supplied to farmers re: shearing. Arrangements made for a new shearing licence. Update also supplied on AI / Cattle breeding in IA’s.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (No. 7) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 21 MAY

POLICY

25th May - Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG) created in Wales. National Assembly, Operations Directorate, local authorities and Environment Agency all represented.

OPERATIONS

IP91 Glasbury on Wye, Powys (2001/1621) confirmed.

Proposed injunction (Pentre Sollars) fell.

Environment Agency presence in Operations room downgraded on weekends to 'on call' status.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Commons licences began.

COMMUNICATIONS

North Wales: DVM provides advice to organisers of Denbigh and Flint agriculture Show.

21st May – NAW press release: 'Foot and mouth disease helpline – revised hours'.

23rd May – NAW press release: 'Sue Essex urges Councils to reopen countryside'.

25th May – NAW press release: 'Sue Essex reopens North Wales woodlands'.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 28 MAY

POLICY

2nd June - Infected area status in Anglesey and the northern part of Gwynedd lifted.

OPERATIONS

IP92 Caerphilly (2001/1657) confirmed.

Problems with missing cattle in woods near farm in South Wales. Marksman brought in.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Shearing licences issued locally as needed.

COMMUNICATIONS

30th May – NAW press releases: ‘Support for tourism businesses reaffirmed’; ‘Tir Mynydd 2001 element 2 payments’.

31st May – NAW press release: ‘Rumours of a cull in South Powys are completely unfounded’.

2nd June – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes lifting of Infected Area status from Anglesey’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 4 JUNE

POLICY

8th June – PM announced the creation of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Margaret Beckett becomes Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural

Affairs.

OPERATIONS

8th June - Operations Room moves from Cathays Park to DECC in Llanishen, Cardiff. Work in North Wales winding down, so move sensible for communication reasons.

Internal discussions on burn and burial strategy in Wales.

Meeting with contractor to discuss proposals for ash disposal.

A farmer, for the first time, refuses to have his animals serology tested.

Security alert in Llandrindod –farmers were looking for blood test results.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

6th June – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones pays tribute to those involved in tackling foot and mouth disease’.

6th June - Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘Foot and Mouth: IACS update’.

7th June – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales who have had livestock culled as a consequence of foot and mouth disease.

North Wales: DVM meets with Denbigh Eisteddfod organisers.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

General Election.

WEEK COMMENCING 11 JUNE

POLICY

Still no answer from London on ash disposal.

13th June – Welsh ‘Disposal Risk Assessment Group’ meets for the first time.

Rumours within farming community of mass cull policy in Powys after general election.

OPERATIONS

Reviewed level of military support required when Household Cavalry Regiment withdrew. Decided Territorial Army involvement was ideal. Also developed re-call arrangements.

Rumours that contamination of private water supply caused by Epynt Site – tests show there is no proof for this.

Discussions and disagreement with JCC regarding extinguishing of pyre at Epynt.

Staff moved from North Powys to South Powys to help with serology and C&D.

Serology began at Berriew and Brecon clusters.

8 sero positives in a single flock in North Powys.

Another farmer refused serology testing for his animals. Seeking to use persuasion rather than injunction.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

11th June - North West Wales Taskforce meeting.

12th June – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones urges caution over video livestock auction’.

13th June – NAW press release: ‘Co-operation the key to the future of Welsh agriculture, says Carwyn Jones.

15th June – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales with IACS update and information about sheep dipping and Farming Connect.

17th June – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones thanks the army for their support during the foot and mouth crisis’.

Minister assures locals that ash will be removed from hill in Epynt.

National press coverage about suicides in Powys.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Minister gives assurances that the ash will be removed from the Epynt.

WEEK COMMENCING 18 JUNE

POLICY

Vaccination lobby gaining momentum.

Autumn stock movements discussion – decision to establish task force.

OPERATIONS

IP93 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1779) confirmed.

Household Cavalry Regiment replaced by Territorial Army personnel.

Meeting with Environment Agency and others regarding continued sampling and result monitoring at Epynt.

20th June - JCC appoint director of ash removal.

Rumours of FMD for sale – Police investigate but nothing substantiated.

Problems with reduction in serology testing capacity.

23rd June - IP93 first of the Libanus outbreak IPs. First case in Wales in 4 weeks. Brecon footpaths and visitor centre closed again - reports that shearing is to blame.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

First Infected Area restrictions lifted in South Wales.

COMMUNICATIONS

20th June – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces extension of the Bellwin foot and mouth scheme and £12million special grant’.

22nd June – NAW press release: ‘Positive developments in Welsh agriculture, despite foot and mouth, says Carwyn Jones’.

Mass public meeting in Builth Wells. ACVO and ROD addressed 650 farmers and answered questions - mostly to allay unfounded fears of mass cull.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 8) Order 2001

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 8) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 25 JUNE

POLICY

Pressure groups approaching contiguous farms to persuade them to refuse to comply with the cull policy.

More pressure from vaccination lobby.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP94 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1789); IP95 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1796); IP96 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1801).

30th June – Brecon Control Area imposed.

Problems with leaky lorries – discussions with JCC about use of 8-wheelers.

Ash disposal meeting.

Bio-security campaign launched. DEFRA start biosecurity hotspots blitz campaign. NAW already has plans for Brecon/Libanus area.

Meetings with graziers to identify hefts for tests started. Agreed strategy on Beacons involving gathering, penning testing. Gained graziers support for it.

Serology – authority received to lift Chepstow and Wentloog clusters.

Delays in serology and restrictions administration due to lack of administrative staff and slow agency replacement.

Restocking team introduced and restocking started.

Divisional Office staff from NAW assist in Brecon Operations room.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

30th June - special movement restriction in Brecon area.

COMMUNICATIONS

Minister of Rural Affairs attended public meeting to tell local farming community what is being done to identify hefts in the Beacons.

28th June – NAW press release: ‘Mike German visits Brecon to hear concerns of rural businesses following outbreak’.

29th June – NAW press releases: ‘Carwyn Jones launches ‘Stamp it Out’ foot and mouth disease campaign’; ‘Now is a time to consider an organic future, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Considerable pressure from vaccination lobby now in light of developing Beacons situation.

WEEK COMMENCING 2 JULY

Use of FMD vaccines PROHIBITED.

Shearing licensing policy implemented.

OPERATIONS

IP97 Libanus, Brecon, Powys (2001/1806) confirmed.

6th July - Operations Room established at Army barracks in Brecon to manage the Beacons situation.

Operational strategy agreed for penning, testing and feeding on the Beacons while waiting for test results.

First fence goes up on Beacons.

Discussions start on ‘wether lambs’; should they be culled or not? Much discussion with graziers and DEFRA on this.

Trialled cooling of ash at Epynt.

Meetings with Brecon graziers, their co-operation gained.

Re-stocking team introduced and restocking started.

Serology – authority to lift Builth cluster, work begins with Churchstoke cluster

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Gathering licences issued with effect from 5th July.

COMMUNICATIONS

3rd July – Minister of Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales regarding ‘Stamp it Out’ biosecurity campaign.

4th July – NAW press release: ‘Initial Brecon blood test results promising, says Carwyn Jones’.

Meetings and discussions with graziers on the Beacons. Co-operation gained.

Lord Lieutenant visited.

Bio-security meeting for public in Brecon.

Public meeting in Brecon on biosecurity. Included demonstrations to local firms/businesses who may have needed to visit farms.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Foot and Mouth Disease (Prohibition of Vaccination) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 9 JULY

POLICY

DEFRA agree to cull of 'wether lambs'.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP98 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1846); IP99 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1848); IP100 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1849); IP101 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1852).

Progress made on building holding pens on the Beacons.

Delays with blood test results – concern over welfare of penned animals.

Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme – concern expressed by Wrexham Borough Council who are determined that no more carcasses should go to Rossett.

Biosecurity around Beacons and Crickhowell started.

Positive result from the Libanus outbreak. Animals slaughtered as a dangerous contact on advice from Page Street.

Initial consultations starting for restocking.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

9th July – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart reaffirms Assembly’s commitment to businesses hit by foot and mouth disease’.

11th July – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farms in Wales that have not had foot and mouth disease about biosecurity. Gate poster included with letter.

15th July – NAW press release: ‘Public trust in Welsh produce must be rebuilt, says Carwyn Jones’.

On-going discussions with graziers.

Lobbying from vaccination people.

Meeting about communications strategy for the removal of ash – involved letters to locals and press release.

POLITICAL HANDING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 9) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 16 JULY

POLICY

Sunday 22nd July – announcement that all secondary ‘cleansing and disinfecting’ (C&D) work should stop.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP102 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1857); IP103 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1860); IP104 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1861); IP105 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1868); IP106 Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1869); IP107 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1881).

Brecon Beacons serology support unit set up as part of main serology team.

Biosecurity plan around Brecon and Crickhowell implemented.

Gathering of sheep on Beacons following construction of pens.

Revised restocking chapter introduced - clarification sought on starting restocking while protection zone in force - RVO agree to the practice.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

16th July - extension of special movement area to Crickhowell.

Problems regarding movements of animals out of restricted areas.

COMMUNICATIONS

20th July – NAW press releases: ‘Ash to be removed from Welsh pyre sites, Assembly Agriculture Department announces’; ‘Computer initiative will help young farmers learn new skills’.

BBC went onto IP without permission. Army intervened. Protested to BBC.

20th July – Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales writes to all households in Brecon area re: ‘Removal of ash from Mynydd Epynt’.

POLITICAL HANDING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Marking of Meat, Meat Products, Minced Meat and Meat Preparations) (Wales) (No. 2) Regulations 2001.

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 9) (Amendment) Regulations 2001.

The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Wales) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 23 JULY

POLICY

Discussions with DEFRA over method of dealing with sheep on Beacons.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP108 Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1889); IP109 Brecon Beacons, Powys, heft 5 (2001/1891); IP110 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1896); IP111 Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1897); IP112 Llangattock, Powys (2001/1901).

Secondary C&D suspended.

Bleeding of gathered sheep on Beacons.

Positive results coming back from testing on the Beacons. Infected hefts continue to be culled.

26th July - ash removal programme starts at Epynt.

Further fencing started on western edge of Beacons.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

25th July – NAW press release: ‘Brecon Beacons tests show significant number of positive results’.

26th July – NAW press release: ‘Assembly Ministers announce £65million for rural recovery’.

27th July – NAW press release: ‘Culling (on Beacons) the right approach, says Carwyn Jones’.

Meetings with Powys and Monmouthshire about their hedge-cutting and bio-security arrangements.

Meeting with Transco about bio-security.

Meeting with Prime Minister regarding C&D, biosecurity and general foot and mouth disease issues.

Letter sent to all households in Sennybridge/Epynt area regarding removal of ash from burn site.

Vaccination lobby make clear their objections.

POLITICAL HANDING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 30 JULY

POLICY

3rd August – Prime Minister agreed that secondary C&D could resume subject to conditions. Team meetings held and guidance issued.

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP113, Brecon Beacons, Powys, hefts 1b, 2, 3, 4 (2001/1907); IP114 hefted flock on Sugar Loaf, Powys (2001/1908).

Gathering continues on the Beacons, arrangements made for blood samples

to be taken away over weekend (sampling expected to take 8-10 weeks).

Biosecurity zone implemented in the Crickhowell/Llangenny and Libanus areas. 17 disinfection sites set up - some manned, some mats. Milk tankers accompanied by DEFRA personnel in the Crickhowell and Libanus areas - some farmer opposition. Local authorities started patrols.

Temporary ash removal suspension from Epynt due to breakdown of essential unloading equipment at landfill site. Removal recommenced two days later.

Restrictions lifted on approximately 111 farms in the area.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

31st July – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones announces re-opening of OTMS in Wales’.

2nd August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes proposals for easing restrictions on livestock trading’; ‘Bring on Brecon Jazz, says Jenny Randerson’.

3rd August– NAW press release: ‘Better news on the Brecon Beacons’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Ascertainment of Value) (Wales) (No. 5) Order 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No.9) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 6 AUGUST

POLICY

Ash removal. Request from JCC for ash containers to be taken to Cardiff and dispatched to an alternative site, Sunday to Thursday, by rail. Grundens will still be used Wednesday to Saturday. (This should relieve some pressure on Grundens and reduce cost).

UK Government announces 3 independent inquiries into FMD

OPERATIONS

The following IPs were confirmed: IP115 Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (2001/1938): IP116 Brecon Beacons, Powys, heft 1a (2001/1939); IP117 Brecon Beacons, Powys, hefts 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d (2001/1940); IP118 Crickhowell, Powys (2001/1945).

Concern expressed by Page Street that IP118 had not been taken earlier with the rest of the Crickhowell cluster.

Rate of ash removal from Epynt increased.

Sampling of Berriew and Churchstoke protection zone clusters completed.

Health and Safety Audit carried out.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

Discussions with graziers regarding blood sampling on commons adjacent to the Beacons.

7th August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes resumption of farm cleansing and disinfecting’.

8th August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones announces £250,000 for young farmers’ clubs in Wales’.

9th August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes Independent Inquiry on foot and mouth disease’.

10th August – NAW press release: ‘Carmarthenshire leading the way in hosting agriculture festival, says John Griffiths’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 13 AUGUST

POLICY

OPERATIONS

Gathering, testing, culling of hefts on the Beacons continues despite some bad weather difficulties. Temporary closure of A4059 to support this work.

Work on C&D restart continues following appropriate planning and team meetings (farmers have first refusal to undertake the work on a contractual basis, otherwise contractors invited to tender).

Removal of ash from farm sites at Cross Ash, Abergavenny.

Further potential bio-security sites have been investigated following the outbreaks in the Sugar Loaf area.

Negative results received for some hefts on Beacons. These hefts released.

Bio-security memo issued to all Beacons bleeders.

Licensing for ash removal introduced.

Protection zone restrictions lifted around the Chibury, Welshpool, Newbridge, and St. Weonards clusters.

Form D restrictions lifted on approximately 350 farms.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Special Beacons heft gathering licenses introduced locally.

COMMUNICATIONS

13th August – NAW press release: ‘Haskins’ writ does not run in Wales, says Carwyn Jones’.

14th August – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all graziers in the Brecon Beacons: ‘Strategy for dealing with foot and mouth disease on the Brecon Beacons’.

17th August – NAW press release: ‘Blood tests offer hope for Beacons, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Proposed injunction against the contiguous cull to be heard in open court 21st August.

WEEK COMMENCING 20 AUGUST

POLICY

OPERATIONS

Gathering and culling of stragglers on Beacons.

More negative results back from Beacons as operations continue.

EU Commission visit.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Revised Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme - Intervention Board issue information on main

changes. LWDS announcement on criteria for Light lamb scheme

COMMUNICATIONS

Meeting with Environment Agency and local authorities raises issues on what information is available on what has been buried as part of the C&D process.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

Contiguous cull injunction case heard in open court. Decision in favour of DEFRA/NAW.

WEEK COMMENCING 27 AUGUST

POLICY

OPERATIONS

More negative results on Beacons.

31st August - first new C&D contracts issued after considerable discussion of contractual obligation.

Concern in Powys that a discoloured private water supply is due to C&D work on the farm.

Astbury landfill site, Llay, Wrexham, receives its final delivery of animal carcasses under the Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

28th August – NAW press release: ‘Options for the disposal of autumn lamb cull carcasses to be identified, Carwyn Jones announces’.

30th August – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones announces extension to Rural Hardship Fund’.

Farmers expressed concern over the changing of C&D rules.

DEFRA C&D conference in London.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 10) Order 2001.

FMD Order select shooting parties allowed – sales of animals (2 or more persons) prohibited without license issued by Minister.

WEEK COMMENCING 3 SEPTEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

9th September – NAW press release: ‘Young farmers will play a significant role in rebuilding Welsh Agriculture, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

LWDS extended – light lamb scheme until 31st of December, last application 26/10/01.

WEEK COMMENCING 10 SEPTEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

The Ten Bio-security Commandments sent out to the Farmers.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

11th September – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones criticises foot and mouth disease status for Powys’.

13th September – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones issues bio-security commandments’.

14th September – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘The Ten Bio-security Commandments’.

14th September – NAW press release: ‘Farmers face new priorities in the wake of foot and mouth, says Carwyn Jones’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 11) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 17 SEPTEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

19th September – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones outlines timetable for FMD status for North Powys’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 24 SEPTEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Autumn Movement Licences (AMLS) available for cattle.

COMMUNICATIONS

Last meeting of North West Wales Task Force.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 9) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 1 OCTOBER

POLICY

Restocking policy on hefts requested.

Autumn movement licences instructions – unreasonable in number and complexity.

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

AMLS available for sheep.

COMMUNICATIONS

POLITICAL HANDLING / LEGISLATION

The Prescribed Waste (Wales) (No. 2) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 8 OCTOBER

POLICY

ROD exit strategy announced. Monthly return visits of absent stakeholders across the board agreed.

OPERATIONS

12th October – all Army personnel stood down.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

Sole Occupancy Licensing (SOL) begin.

COMMUNICATIONS

11th October – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces further support for rural businesses.’

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 15 OCTOBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

North Powys County status change.

COMMUNICATIONS

19th October – NAW press release: ‘Back Welsh tourism over half term holiday urges Rhodri Morgan’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/ LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 22 OCTOBER

POLICY

Policy on hunting / risk assessments requested.

Short-term response contingency (roles/responsibilities) established until Christmas.

LWDS Light Lamb Scheme applications close.

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

AMLS County status change posing significant administrative and technical delays.

LWDS Light Lamb Scheme applications close.

COMMUNICATIONS

22nd October – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes the lifting of FMD restrictions in Powys and South Wales’.

23rd October – NAW press release: ‘Edwina Hart announces boost for small rural businesses’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 10) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 29 OCTOBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

1st November – NAW press release: ‘Sue Essex looks forward to the next 50 years of National

Parks’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 10) (Fees) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 5 NOVEMBER

POLICY

Revised slaughter licences issued.

OPERATIONS

Operations room and all contacts leave DECC – finance and C&D remain.

DCS validation meeting announces needs.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

5th November – Minister for Rural Affairs writes to all farmers in Wales: ‘Foot and mouth disease: Impact on livestock subsidy payments’.

6th November – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes resumption of Welsh sheep meat exports’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 11) Regulations 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 12 NOVEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

NAW meet with epidemiologists to discuss restocking of hefts.

Advice from Page Street received on the 16th that restocking of hefts is considered a risk, and should not proceed.

Environment Agency requests specific details of burial sites.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

14th November – NAW press release: ‘Europe clears way for meat exports from Wales’.

15th November – NAW press release: ‘Controls on hunting with dogs to be relaxed’.

POLITICAL HANDLING

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 12) Regulations 2001.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 12) Order 2001.

WEEK COMMENCING 19 NOVEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

23rd November – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones welcomes the further relaxation of restrictions on Welsh sheep meat exports’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 26 NOVEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

30th November – C&D completed in Wales.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

28th November – NAW press release: ‘Carwyn Jones issues challenge to auctioneers’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

WEEK COMMENCING 3 DECEMBER

POLICY

OPERATIONS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

3rd December – NAW press release: ‘Foot and mouth disease free status for Wales’.

POLITICAL HANDLING/LEGISLATION

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Wales) (No. 13) Regulations 2001.