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archived at:

<http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/safefood/archives/animalnet-archives.htm>

DEFRA LIFTS LAST FMD INFECTED AREA

28 November 2001

DEFRA --From a Press Release

<http://www.defra.gov.uk>

The last remaining foot and mouth infected area in England will be lifted at midnight tonight.

The landmark move follows extensive blood testing of sheep and clinical examination of cattle in the Brough and Kirkby Stephen area of Cumbria. It marks the end of a massive programme of blood testing within 3km Protection Zones. The successful completion of serological testing in the last remaining 3km Protection Zones over the past few weeks has seen the release of over 17,000 farms from Infected Areas. However, animal movements

are still subject to licences from local authorities.

Today's announcement, which affects almost 1,500 farms in Cumbria, North Yorkshire and County Durham, gives farmers greater flexibility on restocking and other day to day farming activities. However, those farms that were culled out as infected premises or as dangerous contacts will remain under restrictions until they have completed the cleansing and disinfection process and restocked successfully - or until a period of twelve months has elapsed. These counties will not be eligible to become classified as FMD Free until at least 90 days after the last case there, which for Cumbria means the end of the year at the earliest.

Welcoming the news, DEFRA Minister Lord Whitty said today:

"The lifting of the last remaining Infected Area in the country is a momentous achievement and reflects a great deal of hard work by teams on the ground. I thank the farmers of Cumbria, and the wider community there, for the patience and co-operation they have demonstrated while the blood testing programme has been ongoing.

"We are not out of the woods yet. A number of counties in northern England have yet to be classified as FMD Free, pending further testing of sheep flocks in the surveillance zones. I would urge everyone to remember that strict biosecurity is as essential now as it has ever been. With the continued co-operation of everyone, we can ensure that this disease is finally eradicated."

Ray Anderson, Cumbria, regional operations director, said today: "This is the moment Cumbria has been waiting for all year. The lifting of infected area restrictions is the first step for the farming industry in Cumbria to get back to business as usual."

More details will be given at a media briefing at the Disease Control Centre, Rosehill Industrial Estate, Carlisle, tomorrow (Thurs) at 9.30am when Ray Anderson, regional operations director, and Jane Brown, Cumbria's first regional operations director, will be available for interviews. Media should report to Hadrian House at 9.20am.

Notes for editors

1. This lift follows a programme of blood testing of sheep and goats within the 3km protection zone around infected premises.
2. Blood testing continues on sheep and goats within the 10km surveillance zones as part of the process towards the reclassification of counties to At Risk and Free.
3. Cumbria, Durham and North Yorkshire are currently classified as High Risk counties, and will therefore be reclassified as At Risk from 4 December, though additional restrictions will apply to sheep, goats and camelids.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE PLANS FOR ADAMS COUNTY, WIS., CONCERNS

ENVIRONMENTALISTS

November 28, 2001

Knight-Ridder Tribune

Jo Sandin, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Adams County, where the water is so good that Perrier wants to bottle it, may soon, according to an environmental group cited in this story, get a slaughterhouse capable of killing 1,000 beef cattle a day, an ethanol plant and new feedlots fattening 25,000 head of beef cattle yearly.

Midwest Environmental Advocates, a Madison-based group that supports grass-roots environmental protection efforts, was cited as releasing the results of two open-records requests from the state Department of Natural Resources.

Based on information received as a result of the request, Andrew C. Hanson, a lawyer for the group, was cited as saying the facility would be located on 400 acres in the Town of Adams in south-central Wisconsin and that the facility, now being proposed by three beef processing firms, would include: A 1,000-head-a-day beef slaughterhouse and packing plant. A wastewater treatment system for that facility, with spray irrigation. An ethanol plant. As many as 200 acres of feedlots.

John Hay, executive director of the Adams County Rural and Industrial Development Commission, was cited as saying that a project involving a slaughterhouse had been in the works for about two years but that everything was still extremely tentative.

Hay was further cited as saying he was not at liberty to release the name of the firm that had been making inquiries, but that the company did not anticipate having to add any feedlots in the county, adding, "They would be slaughtering animals from a large portion of the United States."

Hay said though no zoning changes had been requested, any construction of a facility as large as that envisioned would require a change in zoning from agriculture to industrial.

Hanson said his organization is worried about the potential environmental impact, saying it "could be severe."

ONTARIO PIG FARMER CONVICTED IN ANIMAL NEGLECT CASE

November 28, 2001

>From a press release

NEWMARKET, ON - On November 26, Keneth Roland Burgess of Tay Township, near Midland, was found guilty in the Ontario Court of Justice of failing to provide adequate food, water and care for his pigs.

The case against Mr. Burgess began on December 6, 2000 when the Ontario SPCA Midland Branch received a complaint stating that on Mr. Burgess' property there were three sows which appeared to be thin and weak, and with no food

available to them. The Ontario SPCA Inspector responding to the complaint found that two of the pigs were lethargic and emaciated, while the third one was skinny but mobile.

A veterinarian called to the property by the Inspector determined that two of the pigs should be euthanized on site due to their extreme emaciation and that the third pig was to be removed for proper husbandry.

Mr. Burgess's conviction included two years probation with the stipulation that he seek counseling and not be allowed to own pigs during the two-year period. He was also ordered to pay \$400 to the Ontario SPCA Midland Branch for the expenses incurred in euthanizing the two sows and caring for the third.

A word about the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Ontario SPCA): Protecting animals since 1873, the Ontario SPCA is a registered charity comprised of 26 branches and 33 affiliated humane societies and SPCAs. The Ontario SPCA is affiliated with the Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). Under the OSPCA Act, Ontario SPCA investigators have the same powers as police officers when enforcing animal cruelty laws. The Society's concern is ensuring the welfare of all animals - large and small, wild and domesticated - through cruelty investigations, animal care and rehabilitation, government and industry advocacy, and public education.

ANIMAL HANDLING EXPERT TEMPLE GRANDIN WINS 2002 KNOWLTON AWARD

November 28, 2001

Meat Marketing & Technology Press Release

Colorado State University professor is honored by Meat Marketing & Technology

magazine for her dedication and innovation in humane handling practices.

CHICAGO --Temple Grandin, an assistant professor in the animal sciences department at Colorado State University and longtime consultant to the meatpacking industry on issues of humane animal handling, has been selected to receive the prestigious 2002 Richard L. Knowlton Innovation Award from Meat Marketing & Technology magazine.

The award, named after the former chairman, president and CEO of Hormel Foods,

recognizes individuals whose work and leadership have created a lasting effect on the meat industry.

Grandin was selected by the magazine's editors for her many engineering and process innovations that have helped plant managers manage food livestock more efficiently and humanely. As consumer perceptions of food quality have evolved to include the humane treatment of animals, major food companies and fast-food chains have turned to Grandin to develop practical, pragmatic

solutions. "Seldom in any industry does a single individual affect lasting change," said Dan Murphy, editor of MMT. "Temple Grandin is just such a rarity. For more than 25 years, she has labored to improve and streamline the entire process of handling livestock. There are few meat plants in the U.S. or abroad that

haven't been affected by Temple Grandin's work."

Since 1998, the top three fast-food burger chains have been auditing their meat suppliers, and USDA officials have conducted similar audits to ensure compliance for the Humane Slaughter Act, based on criteria Grandin put together. "I've seen tremendous improvement in scores for stunning efficiency and animal handling in just the past few years," she said. "With the audits, there are measurable criteria. You can't improve what you can't measure." Equally compelling is Grandin's personal story, having overcome autism to develop a deep, intuitive understanding of animal behavior. "I credit my

visualization abilities with helping me understand the animal perspective," Grandin said. "I would kneel down and take pictures...from a cow's eye level. Using the photos I was able to figure out which things scared the cattle, such as shadows and bright spots of sunlight."

MMT is proud to present Temple Grandin with the 2002 Knowlton Innovation Award.

COURT CHALLENGE OVER ANIMAL WASTE STORAGE LICENCE

November 29, 2001

PA News

Mike Taylor

A licence granted by the UK Environment Agency for the storage of up to 20,000 tonnes of potentially BSE-infected animal waste at a depot in Lincolnshire is, according to this story, to be challenged in the High Court by a local resident.

The story says that Christopher Towriss's home in High Street, Blyton, is a few hundred metres from the hangar-like depot operated by waste disposal company pH Europe in Kirton Road.

The waste, in the form of dry meat and bone meal, is the product of rendering the carcasses of cattle over 30 months old, slaughtered under the Government's BSE eradication scheme.

It is stored to await removal by lorry to an incineration plant.

Local people say they have filmed lorries leaking waste as they leave the warehouse.

Mr Towriss argues that, under European law, permission to use the building for the storage of controlled waste should not have been granted without a

full environmental impact assessment.

US GOVERNMENT BIOLOGIST BEHIND ANTHRAX ATTACKS: GREENPEACE; November 28, 2001

Agence France Presse English

HAMBURG, Germany -- The environmentalist organization Greenpeace was cited as saying Wednesday that a high-ranking microbiologist in the US government's biological warfare program was likely behind the current wave of anthrax attacks that has cost the lives of five people.

The story says that the Hamburg chapter of the group said in an article published in Greenpeace magazine that the sender of the letters containing anthrax spores aimed to force an increase in the US government budget for biological weapons.

Greenpeace did not name the suspect or the laboratory where he or she works. The organization cited as sources members of the US government delegation at a UN conference on biological warfare which opened November 19 in Geneva, as well as independent researchers at the meeting.

The conference, which is to end December 7, has drawn 144 member countries of the 1972 convention on biological warfare.

GLOBAL FISH CATCHES DECLINING

November 28, 2001

AP

John Heilprin

WASHINGTON -- Scientists based at the University of British Columbia at Vancouver were cited as saying that overreporting by China has masked dramatic declines in global fish catches for more than a decade, and that the amount of seafood landed each year has actually been decreasing during the 1990s by nearly 800 million pounds per year, rather than increasing by 700 million pounds annually.

The story says that the overreporting has thrown off the global fisheries statistics that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations compiles for use by all nations. The FAO relies on voluntary reporting of catches from countries to estimate the amount of fish the oceans hold.

The new studies being reported Thursday in the journal Nature call into question the veracity of FAO figures and its reporting system. Until now, the statistics had never been subjected to an exhaustive independent analysis.

Authors Reg Watson and Daniel Pauly were quoted as saying that, "FAO must

generally rely on the statistics provided by member countries, even if it is doubtful that these correspond to reality."

Moreover, by subtracting just one fish from the equation, the abundant Peruvian anchoveta, which is used only for fish meal and whose population fluctuates due to El Nino, an even more striking decrease was apparent: 1.5 billion pounds a year less seafood available for human consumption.

This new picture of the world's oceans raises serious concerns about the supply of fish and the world food supply. Some believe that aquaculture, or fish farming, can make up the difference.

However, Watson and Pauly warn that the current trends in fish farming would have to fundamentally change for it to provide a net gain.

On the Net:

Nature: <http://www.nature.com/nature>

UBC Fisheries Centre: <http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca>

GROUND BEEF TAKES OVER HALF OF BEEF SALES

November 28, 2001

Ontario Farmer

Over 50% of beef sales at retail and 75% at foodservice are ground beef, making it Canadians' favourite meat. A video news release in August explained to consumers that there has been a dramatic shift to lower fat choices. Over 70% of all ground beef purchased in Canadian grocery stores is either lean or extra lean.

Now, a new independent study shows that all types of Canadian ground beef are even lower in fat than previously thought. The maximum amount of fat allowed in ground beef is regulated by government to ensure that meat is labelled correctly. Based on testing of samples from supermarkets across Canada, extra lean ground beef has even less fat than what is required by Federal law. B.I.C.'s Pat Scarlett, managed this research.

Dietician Isabelle Huot, in the French video new release, explains that extra lean and lean ground beef also qualify for Health Check, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada educational program which makes it easier to shop for wise food choices.

A follow-up media release mailed to both health and food writers reached a circulation of 930,000 through 40 articles. Marg Thibeault, B.I.C.'s National Communications Manager, produced the releases.

OCA ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER NAMED

November 28, 2001

Ontario Farmer

Isabel Dopta has been hired as Assistant Manager for the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA). Dopta was chosen from a field of 41 candidates and brings with her both a great knowledge of environmental issues and a wide range of industry contacts - both of which will benefit OCA.

Dopta, 29, has an honours degree in Microbiology and has worked for the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) for the past two years as their program coordinator. Prior to that, she held contracts at both Sheridan College and at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

The hiring of Dopta comes as a result of the restructuring that will take place when OCA's Executive Vice President Graeme Hedley retires at the end of 2001. Mike McMorris, OCA's current Assistant Manger, will be promoted to Executive Vice President at the end of the year.

McMorris said, "I'm very excited to welcome Isabel to the OCA staff team. With training in microbiology and animal science and an active interest in environmental issues, she will help OCA to meet the challenges facing the beef industry."

ALBERTA PORK PRODUCERS TACKLE INDUSTRY ISSUES AT UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING

November 28, 2001

Alberta Pork Press Release

www.albertapork.com

Edmonton, Alberta, Nov. 28, 2001. Alberta pork producers are urged to attend the Alberta Pork Annual General Meeting, December 5 and 6, 2001 to learn more about the challenges and opportunities affecting their livelihood today. The meeting will be held at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre in Edmonton.

Alberta Pork, which represents approximately 2,000 producers in the province, will present speakers on the environment, food quality and safety, animal health and care as well as producer prosperity. "We are bringing in nine, top-notch industry professionals to address each of these four areas, which are also the cornerstones of Alberta Pork's mission and objectives," says Paul Hodgman, Assistant General Manager. "We want to increase producer awareness, show them what is on the horizon and what is happening specifically in Alberta."

Two speakers of particular interest are Hon. Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier and Minister of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and Dr. Gord Surgeoner, President, Ontario Agri-Food Technologies, Guelph, Ontario.

Minister McClellan is expected to discuss the future of agriculture in Alberta

including the proposed legislation regulating Confined Feeding Operations

(CFOs). Dr. Surgeoner will discuss consumer pressures on agricultural issues such as the situation of genetically modified foods and the effects of population trends titled "The Challenge of Abundance."

The Annual Meeting will also celebrate excellence in the industry and provide an opportunity for the industry to give back to the community. At its banquet, Alberta Pork will honour three individuals for their contributions to the industry. As well, the proceeds of a silent auction will be donated to Edmonton's Youth Emergency Shelter Society.

"We will recognize key individuals by granting the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Friend of the Industry Award and the Environmental Stewardship Award," says Hodgman. "We will also donate to a very deserving youth charity, a gift of fresh Alberta pork."

The pork industry contributes about \$5 billion dollars to the Alberta economy. About 3.5 million hogs are produced in the province each year. Agriculture is directly and indirectly responsible for generating one out of four jobs in this province.

Producers who wish to participate in the Alberta Pork Annual Meeting must register in advance. Please contact Cheryl Hill toll free at 1-877-247-7675.

Alberta Pork Annual Meeting Agenda

Wednesday - December 5, 2001

9:30 - 10:30 am Coffee and Welcome

10:40 - 11:45 am

"The Challenge of Abundance"

Dr. Gord Surgeoner, President, Ontario Agri-Food Technologies, Guelph

12:00 - 1:15 pm Lunch

"Chairman's Address"

New Alberta Pork Chairman

"The National Perspective"

Fred Olthuis, Vice President Canadian Pork Council

1:30 - 3:00 pm

"Alberta's New Approval & Regulatory Process for ILO's"

Brian Bietz, Chairman, Natural Resources Conservation Board

"Can the Industry Prosper in the New Regulatory Climate - Where do we go from Here"

Keith Wilson, Wilson Law Office, St. Albert, and Ron Axelson, Manager, Alberta

Cattle Feeders Assoc., Calgary

3:00 - 3:30 pm Coffee

3:30 - 4:30 pm

"Quality Assurance - Are We Doing Enough"

Bernard Peet, Pig Industry Consultant, Lacombe, Alberta

5:30 - 7:00 pm Meet the Industry Reception

7:00 pm Banquet

Thursday - December 6, 2001

7:30 - 8:30 am Breakfast

8:30 - 10:00 am

"Do Animal Care Issues Really Affect Consumers"

Dr. Harold Gonyou, Prairie Swine Centre, Saskatoon

"New Initiatives in Alberta"

Susan Church, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Animal Care, Calgary

10:00 am -10:30 am Coffee

10:30 am - 12:00

"Today & tomorrow in the Retail Market - Will Pork be a Player"

Ken Clark, General Manager Meat, Overwaita Food Group, Vancouver

"Usage and Attitude Study - 2001"

Maureen McCaw, President, Criterion Research Corp., Edmonton, and Roy Kruse, Consumer Services Manager, Alberta Pork

12:00 -1:00 pm Lunch

"Minister's Address"

Honourable Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture

1:00 - 3:30 pm Business Meeting

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