

June 2004

PRESS NOTICE

**NEW STANDING COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ANIMAL WELFARE
IMPLICATIONS OF GENETIC MODIFICATION AND OTHER BREEDING
TECHNOLOGIES IN COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE – RECOMMENDED
BY FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL.**

The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) launches its Report on the Welfare Implications of Animal Breeding and Breeding Technologies in Commercial Agriculture today.

The commercial application of new breeding technologies, including the current acceleration of conventional breeding strategies through new technologies, has the potential to influence animal welfare in both a positive and negative way. The Report addresses both of these influences, although it is the latter with which the Council is most concerned.

In addition, public and consumer concern relating to genetic modification of food producing animals has the potential to impact significantly on the production industries. FAWC makes a small number of highly targeted recommendations to Government that addresses this issue.

Most notably, the Council recommends that **a Standing Committee be established** to evaluate the use of new and existing breeding technologies in commercial agriculture. In addition to acting as a channel for public information and opinion, it is proposed that this expert Committee should provide independent advice to Government and to the industry.

Dr Judy MacArthur Clark, Chairwoman of FAWC, said “The proposed Committee’s remit will include consideration of ethical, welfare and legislative issues relating to animal breeding and breeding technologies, including genetic modification, and the effective surveillance of new breed types or technologies being introduced into UK commercial agriculture”.

She continued “We have discussed our concerns widely with stakeholders both among producers and consumers, and in the welfare community, and we believe we have widespread support for our recommendations from all sides. This is an emerging, real issue and we believe our report offers a balanced, realistic and progressive solution”.

Copies of the Report are available from the following address:

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Notes for Editors

1. The Farm Animal Welfare Council was established by Government in 1979 to keep under review the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit, and at the place of slaughter; and to advise Government of any legislative or other changes that may be necessary. This remit has been extended to include developments in the European Union.
2. All members serve in a personal capacity and do not represent any organisation with which they may be associated.
3. Copies of FAWC publications are available from the FAWC Secretariat at the following address:

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