

do not necessarily represent one hundred percent of the milk supply from every state.

The following is a short summary of the survey results. During the period October 1, 1993, to September 30, 1994, there were **4,179,108** milk samples analyzed for animal drug residues. Of these samples, **3,693** tested positive for a residue. A total of **4,589,085** tests were reported on the samples representing 14 different groups or families of individual drugs. Forty separate testing methods were used to analyze the samples for residues. Detailed information is available from CVM by calling (301) 594-5902.

### Conclusion

CVM is in the process of implementing many changes. We realize that whatever changes are made must be scientifically relevant and legally sound if we

are to maintain confidence in the drug approval process and, ultimately, the safety of milk, meat, and eggs. We are 100% committed to improving the availability of approved new animal drugs, but we all must realize that it will take cooperation among everyone associated with the use of animal drugs to bring about beneficial changes. CVM can be the catalyst to bring all the appropriate parties together and to coordinate their actions.

**I want to convey to you our commitment to improve drug availability and improve communication between industry and the Agency. From pre-approval conferences with pharmaceutical firms, to adverse drug experience reporting, we hope to work more closely with our various constituencies to meet all our goals. We would like to hear your thoughts on these issues.**

## Abstract

### Control of BSE: MAFF tightens up on feed production

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The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), United Kingdom has announced 'a strengthening of the rules' for preventing tissue potentially infected with the BSE agent from entering the cattle feed chain. It also says that there is 'room for improvement' in the application of existing rules in some slaughterhouses, and that further action is under way to deal with this.

In answer to a written parliamentary question from Mr. Edward Garnier (Con; Harborough) on July 19, Mr. Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, said that the ruminant feed ban introduced in July 1988 had been successful in bringing the epidemic under control, as there were now 44.6 per cent fewer suspect cases being reported compared with the same period last year. How-

ever, he continued, there had still been cases of BSE in animals born after the ban, which suggested 'some continued leakage of BSE infective material into animal feed'. To date, 20,219 cases of BSE have been confirmed in cattle born after the feed ban, and MAFF attributes these cases to a food-borne source of infection.

At a press conference on the same day, the Chief Veterinary Officer, Mr. Keith Meldrum, said that MAFF's investigations had so far shown no evidence of maternal transmission of BSE. However, MAFF had found, when its Meat Hygiene Service took over control of slaughterhouses in April this year, that some 'fine tuning' of controls in slaughterhouses and processing plants was needed to prevent potentially infected material finding its way into cattle feed.