

6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CATTLE DISEASES

The AABP and the National Mastitis Council will host the World Association for Buiatrics August 17-20, 1970 at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This will be the 1970 AABP meeting and should be the most outstanding cattle disease meeting ever held in the U.S. The themes of the meeting will be Diseases of the Udder and Diseases of the Reproductive Tract. Dr. Guy Morse is chairman of the udder section and Dr. Richard McFeely is chairman of the reproductive section. They are both located on the scene in Philadelphia and have truly outstanding committees working with them. Instant translation will be provided into English, French and German. Drs. Mark Allam, Robert Marshak and Sam Sheidy have been assisting with local arrangements.

We are presently planning for an attendance of 750 people. It is hoped that at least 200 foreign veterinarians will attend.

This meeting will provide you with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share ideas with foreign veterinarians of

similar interests and hear outstanding foreign speakers present the latest information on two of the more troublesome aspects of bovine practices.

We plan to have a tour of Longwood Gardens, New Bolton Center, and internationally known dairy and beef herds on Sunday, August 16. A president's reception will be held Monday evening and a banquet on Wednesday evening.

Begin now to make plans to attend this meeting. I think it is a *must* for anyone interested in bovine practice.

A limited number of free papers dealing with other cattle diseases will be accepted. Titles of proposed papers and a 200 word summary in English must be submitted to the Organizing Committee before January 1, 1970. Final papers will be limited to 1,500 words.

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Britain Retains F&M Slaughter Policy

As a result of the disastrous outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Britain during the winter of 1968, the Minister of Agriculture appointed a Committee of Inquiry on Foot-and-Mouth Disease with the Duke of Northumberland as its chairman.

The Northumberland Report was issued in May, 1969, which included the following recommendations:

- I. The slaughter policy should be continued, since it is considered to be the best method of eradicating foot-and-mouth disease when it occurs in Britain. This policy by itself should only be adopted if the conditions of meat import policy are such as to reduce substantially the risk of primary outbreaks occurring. If such conditions are not put in force, it is recommended that the slaughter policy should be reinforced by a ring vaccination scheme.
- II. The conditions of meat import policy which are necessary to enable the slaughter policy by itself to be continued and which are recommended include:
 - (a) (i) The ban on imports of mutton, lamb and pigmeat from countries or areas of countries where foot-and-mouth disease is endemic should continue.
 - (ii) Imports of mutton and lamb offal and pig offal from countries or from areas of countries where foot-and-mouth disease is endemic should be limited to offal processed in such a manner as to destroy foot-and-mouth disease virus.
 - (b) Alternatively if for social, political or commercial

reasons disease into Great Britain by importing carcase beef and beef offal from countries or from areas of countries where foot-and-mouth disease is endemic, on strictly animal health grounds there should be a complete ban on all such imports.

- (c) Alternatively if for social, political or commercial reasons the recommendation in (b) is not accepted, imports of carcase beef and beef offal from countries or from areas of countries where foot-and-mouth disease is endemic should be limited to:
 - (i) boned-out beef; and
 - (ii) beef offal processed in such a manner as to destroy foot-and-mouth disease virus.

It was further recommended that contingency plans for the application of ring vaccination should be kept in constant readiness. It was estimated that a ring vaccination policy would cost about 2½ million dollars. If outbreaks of the past provided any pattern for the future, it appeared that the cost of a slaughter policy together with ring vaccination would not be different from the cost of slaughter alone. It was noted that the vaccines presently available were not as effective in pigs as in cattle; the main problem in pigs was the tissue reaction at the injection site.

The British Veterinary Association generally welcomed the report. The Association had previously advocated meat import restrictions and the essential role of the slaughter policy. The BVA, however, has reservations about ring vaccination.

Reference: *Vet. Rec.*, 1969, 84, pp. 471-473.