



Environment and Rural Affairs Department
Food and Agriculture Group

Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh EH14 1TY

To: Interested parties, organisations etc in Scotland

Telephone: 0131-244 6412
Fax: 0131-244 4755
martin.morgan@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

Your ref:
Our ref:

28 August 2003

Dear Sir/Madam

IMPLEMENTATION IN SCOTLAND OF THE EU ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS REGULATION : REMOTE AREA DEFINITION

I refer to my letter of 19 March seeking your views on the Executive's proposed definition of the "remote area" when bringing this EU Regulation into effect in Scotland. Our thanks to everyone who took the time and trouble to respond.

A number of interesting comments and suggestions were received. These points have been referred to the Rural Development Minister, Ross Finnie, for consideration. I am writing to advise you all of the Minister's decision on how we should define the remote area in Scotland. The Minister has accepted the point raised by many replies that many parts of Scotland, notably the former crofting counties, can be difficult to access, especially at certain times of the year. Mr Finnie is also aware that collection of fallen stock from the more extensive farms can be problematic and the neighbouring farms of differing sizes should not necessarily be uniformly grouped together. The Executive is however constrained by the terms of the EU Regulation which does not allow for holdings to be individually assessed as remote. The Executive is also committed to helping the livestock industry move forward for a sustainable, environmentally beneficial future.

Consequently we intend to proceed with our original proposals modified to encompass most of the Scottish islands (including the Orkney mainland and Arran), the Kintyre peninsular, the eastern parishes of Caithness and Sutherland, Easter Ross, as well as the Black Isle, as remote areas. A revised map of the remote area is attached for information.

[Areas in Scotland to be Classified as Remote for the Purposes of the EU Animal By-Products Regulation](#)

I must stress however that classification as a remote area should not however be regarded as allowing on-farm burial in all circumstances. In particular, the collection of fallen bovine stock over 24 months of age for BSE surveillance purposes will remain unchanged. Also, under the Groundwater Regulations, any proposed burial site on-farm will require the prior approval of SEPA. It should also be noted that the disposal options prescribed in the EU Regulation are or may become available in

due course. If so, livestock keepers must observe the EU requirements. Furthermore if on-farm burial is to be used as a disposal method for fallen stock certain safeguard measures will have to be observed in full to ensure public, animal and environmental health considerations are properly protected before burial or burning on site can be permitted. If producers are in any doubt they should seek guidance from SEPA or the Executive's local office.

Some respondents also expressed some concern about the scope for disease transmission due to collection vehicles travelling larger distances, impact on the tourist industry and birds of prey, as well as safety concerns when retrieving fallen animals from inaccessible locations or partially decomposed carcasses. These issues and other related matters will be covered by guidance notes for enforcement officials.

It remains our intention to bring Scottish legislation into effect by 1 October this year to implement fully the provisions of the EU Regulation.

Yours faithfully

Martin Morgan
Beef Exports, BSE & Animal Waste Branch