

livestock. More than ever producers and consumers are concerned about the dangers to people from tainted animals and animal products. Many animal diseases such as salmonellosis in poultry, trichinosis in pork, and rabies can cause serious human illness. The act has been amended to prevent, control, and eliminate animal diseases that can harm the public.

A second substantial change in the act prevents the introduction and spread of toxic substances. Increasing consumer concerns about residues in food prompted this revision. The authority to deal with animals in relation to pesticides, hormones, and antibiotics is currently embodied in a separate piece of legislation: the Meat Hygiene Act.

The Meat Hygiene Act applies only to animals after they arrive at a registered slaughterhouse. Provisions in the Animal Disease and Protection Act that deal with the importation, movement, disposal, and control of diseased animals will also refer to animals and animal products contaminated with toxins.

One of the provisions of this new act will provide for cost recovery mechanisms by Agriculture Canada. The cost of conducting inspections, taking samples, issuing permits to those who import animals, isolating animals at quarantine stations, and providing other services under the Health of Animals Act will be eligible for recovery.

Industries are demanding more assistance from the department and, where appropriate, these costs will be borne by the industry and importers who seek the department's services or those who, by their negligence, jeopardize the health of people or livestock. The public purse will not be obligated to pay for facilities to inspect for animal disease. New provisions will provide the minister with the authority to require operators of air, road, rail, and sea terminals to allocate at no cost to the Crown space and facilities for the administration of the act.

The revisions I have mentioned so far address urgent matters, but the bill before the House also addresses other important areas. The cumbersome system that now compensates producers when diseased animals are destroyed has been replaced by a more flexible and equitable system. Cost to producers will be recovered in cases

### *Government Orders*

where the government decides that affected animals should be treated rather than destroyed.

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In addition to the new compensation system, the Health of Animals Act will make it easier for producers to comply with quarantines and other orders issued by Agriculture Canada. These modifications remove the obligation of an inspector to declare any premises "infected" where the inspector finds or suspects disease. This obligation causes hardships for producers who must comply with the strict requirements imposed on infected places.

Clarification of the compensation system is another improvement. Under the previous act appeal procedures for compensating producers when the department orders their animals or animal products destroyed were vague or referred to in other legislation. The Pesticide Residue Compensation Act and procedures to appeal compensation claims are now provided in the new act.

A new section in the act authorizes the department to provide financial and technical expertise to foreign countries. The current acts force the government to bide its time, waiting for the problem to reach Canadian shores. This new provision, however, will allow Canada to assist another country to eradicate serious animal diseases before they arrive and jeopardize the health of our domestic animal populations.

Under the current mandate inspectors cannot stop and search vehicles on the highway, even when they have reason to suspect that they carry animals that may be diseased or otherwise pose health problems. The lack of authority is rectified in the revised act, and there are other amendments specific to the act.

The department's powers to seize or detain animals and animal products have been extended to close loopholes. Currently inspectors may only order the return of animals or products if they are removed from an infected place. They may not, however, seize and detain animals and/or their products.

This legal gap seriously hampers the inspectors' efforts to control disease, and a new section will authorize officials to seize anything that contravenes the act or its regulations. Another amendment establishes a new national identification system for animals. This system will identify an animal's most recent owner and location. When a diseased animal is found it can be quickly traced back to a specific farm, helping the department to ensure