

amended in 1974 as the Animal Disease and Protection Act.

In preparing this legislation Agriculture Canada has consulted more than 40 groups including representatives from all the agriculture sectors, provincial departments of agriculture, regulated areas such as semen production, embryo transfer, exporters and importers, and the animal welfare movement.

There must be consensus among all the players if the agriculture industry is to continue to compete and survive in today's complex market-place while adequately addressing the present environmental and food safety concerns.

Bill C-66 confirms the government's authority to prevent animal diseases that threaten animal and human health from getting into Canada.

The legislation will strengthen programs that work toward the prevention of food-producing animals becoming contaminated with diseases that can affect human health. Salmonella is an example of such a disease.

The bill authorizes the government to control animals and animal products that have been exposed to or contaminated by toxic materials and prevent their entry into the animal and human food chains.

The legislation would permit the Governor in Council to regulate the movement of people, animals and vehicles where an area was affected by a serious animal disease.

A national identification system for animals will enable identification of animals suspected of harbouring disease-causing agents. This is essential in controlling and eradicating diseases.

The bill will also empower the government to assist other countries in their efforts to control or eradicate animal diseases. This new authority would allow Agriculture Canada to provide financial and technical help to foreign countries to reduce the risk of those diseases spreading to Canada.

The legislation we are discussing provides for cost recovery or designation of responsibility for costs of some of the services provided by the government. The bill will allow qualified people, other than public servants, to carry out the duties and functions of inspectors on behalf of the government. This will allow for privat-

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ization of such things as laboratory services, inspection and testing for animal diseases.

The legislation enables Agriculture Canada to obtain facilities needed to administer the act. At international ports of entry such as airports, harbours, bridges, tunnels, roads and so on, the minister may require that space for inspection and enforcement be provided.

Control of genetic diseases of animals is also addressed in the health of animals bill. The new definition of "disease" includes genetic diseases, as well as diseases of humans that can be transmitted by animals. Many insects, so-called vectors, spread disease from one animal to another. The department will be able to control imports to prevent their release into the environment.

In addition, the authority for the department to collect information and statistics on animal diseases will be enhanced. This information is crucial to our success in negotiating conditions for the export of animals and animal products.

Many Canadians are concerned about the welfare of animals—how animals are reared under intensive modern farming conditions. The legislation provides new powers to regulate the way animals are kept to ensure that they are treated humanely.

In addition, the power to control what is fed to animals has been expanded to include all animals. The power to prohibit feeding of materials that might be suspected of spreading disease or toxic substances has been added.

I have outlined the major changes found in the health of animals bill. Now I would like to highlight some of the provisions that will continue to be in force under this new legislation.

Agriculture Canada's powers to control an outbreak of a severe disease or a toxic substance spill remain intact. Compensation will continue to be paid for any animal ordered destroyed under the health of animals bill or for one that is injured in the course of being tested by an inspector and must be destroyed.

The amount of compensation paid to a producer will continue to be the market value of the animal, minus the value received for its carcass. Maximum values may be set for all types of animals under the program. Producers will also have their costs covered in cases where the