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compliance. Before any of these staff have been allowed to resume their duties, they have undergone retraining.

16. In addition, many local authorities check beef in retail outlets. For example, Birmingham Environmental Health Department recently carried out an audit of all 350 retail butcher outlets in Birmingham to check on compliance with SBM controls. A small number of alleged cases of non compliance were found, although further investigations failed to substantiate most of the allegations.

17. Research is being undertaken to identify a method of beef carcass dressing without opening the vertebral canal and exposing the spinal cord. Some progress has been made but further development work is necessary to develop a practical dressing method.

Testing of animal feed

18. On 5 February 1996, as required by Commission Decision 95/27, the Government commenced random sampling in feed mills to check that mammalian protein was not being used as an ingredient in mammalian feed. Up to 24 May 1551 samples had been taken at 745 visits. Twelve of the samples were positive for mammalian protein and have been investigated. Approximately 160 large commercial mills, categorised as category A mills and producing feed for both monogastric animals and ruminants, were being visited and sampled prior to 29 March 1996. Since 29 March, when the mammalian protein ban was extended to feed for all farmed animals, horses and fish, the programme has been augmented and around 200 feed mills are now visited on a monthly basis, including around 40 feed mills which appear from epidemiological reports to be associated with a higher than average number of BSE cases born in 1991 or later. These inspections cover large commercial mills producing feed for both ruminants and other farmed animals. Inspections also cover 729 farms where both BSE has been confirmed and animal feed appears to have been prepared on farm. On average, the State Veterinary Service has been carrying out around 240 inspection visits per week since the ban.

Prohibition on the use of meat and bonemeal

19. Legislation, which took effect on 4 April, made it illegal for feed containing mammalian meat and bone meal to be fed to farm livestock, including poultry, fish and equine animals. Legislation which took effect

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Update on operation of controls

24. There have been no further changes to legislation on controls on feed since the last Progress Report.

Disposal of Meat and Bone Meal from Feed Recall Scheme

25. In 1996 10,000 tonnes of feed containing meat and bone meal (MBM) were collected from premises as a result of the Feed Recall Scheme. This material is still stored securely awaiting safe disposal.

Testing of Animal Feed

26. To monitor compliance with the feed controls, the Government has put in place a feed sampling programme which fulfils the requirements of EC Commission Decision 95/287. This covers mills identified in 1995/96 as having the greatest potential to produce 'contaminated' feed. The results of this programme are encouraging. So far less than 1% of the 9,082 samples tested under the feed sampling programme up to the end of May 1997 have tested positive for mammalian protein, and these are subject to further investigation. It is important to note that the ELISA test can only detect mammalian protein, and that the incorporation of mammalian protein other than MBM in non-ruminant feed is permitted. The majority of positive results, from investigations which have been completed, have been attributed to the legal presence of mammalian protein in feed intended for non-ruminant animals. No samples of ruminant feed have tested positive for mammalian protein since June 1996. Full details of test results feature in fortnightly reports to the Commission and are published in the monthly BSE Enforcement Bulletin (see paragraph 9).

Support for the Rendering Industry

27. The economic effect of the ban on the use of MBM in farmed animal feed and fertilisers spread on agricultural land was one of the factors contributing to the decision to give the rendering industry

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Disposal of Meat and Bone Meal from Feed Recall Scheme

40. In 1996 10,000 tonnes of feed containing mammalian meat and bonemeal (MMBM) were collected from premises as a result of the Feed Recall Scheme. This has now been disposed of to landfill.

Testing of Animal Feed

41. To monitor compliance with the feed controls, the Government has in place a feed sampling programme which fulfils the requirements of EC Commission Decision 95/287/EC. A feed sampling programme, conducted by the SVS between February 1996 and July 1997, covered feed mills, farms using on-farm feed mixers and any site where feed, or ingredients for feed, are produced or stored. On 1 August 1997 the programme was extended to cover more premises and will result in more feed samples being tested for prohibited material.

42. The results of these programmes are encouraging. Up to 7 January 1998, just 0.32% of the 15,784 routine samples taken and tested with the compound feed ELISA test for the presence of mammalian protein had positive or inconclusive results. After investigation of these, the majority have been attributed to the legitimate presence of mammalian protein (i.e. in forms other than MMBM) in feed intended for non-ruminant animals. Full details of these test results and any enforcement are published in the monthly BSE Enforcement Bulletin (see paragraph 23).

Selective Cull (Accelerated Slaughter Scheme)

43. The selective cull is one of the five pre-conditions set out in the Florence Agreement for lifting the export ban on UK beef (see paragraph 57). The aim of the cull is to produce a step reduction in the number of future cases of BSE by identifying and slaughtering, before they develop the clinical disease, those animals considered to be most at risk of being infected. The scheme targets groups of animals (so-called 'cohorts') believed to have shared the same contaminated feed as confirmed BSE cases in the first six months of life. The scheme covers animals born

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41. One of the pre-conditions endorsed at the Florence Council for the lifting of the export ban, was that legislation should provide for the removal of mammalian meat and bonemeal (MBM) from feed mills and farms, and subsequent cleansing of the premises and equipment concerned (see paragraph 45). The European Commission inspected the arrangements in respect of animal feed (including the Feed Recall Scheme) and mammalian MBM on 26-29 July 1996 and confirmed that it was content. That position was confirmed in discussion with the Standing Veterinary Committee on 10-11 September 1996 and in subsequent Commission inspection missions - the most recent one took place during July 1998.

Testing of animal feed

42. To monitor compliance with the feed controls, the Government has in place a feed sampling programme which fulfils the requirements of Commission Decision 95/287/EC. The feed sampling programme, conducted by the State Veterinary Service since February 1996, now covers all premises known to make, use or store feed or feed ingredients.

43. The results of the feed sampling programme are encouraging and indicate wide compliance with the feed controls. Up to 11 January 1999, less than 0.4% of the 33,939 routine samples taken and tested with the compound feed Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for the presence of mammalian protein had positive or inconclusive results. After investigation of these, the majority have been attributed to the legitimate presence of mammalian protein (i.e. in forms other than mammalian MBM) in feed intended for non-ruminant animals. Full details of these test results and any enforcement activity are published on the Internet and in the monthly BSE Enforcement Bulletin (see paragraph 14).

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36. One of the pre-conditions endorsed at the Florence Council for the lifting of the export ban (see paragraph 41), was that legislation should provide for the removal of mammalian meat and bonemeal (MBM) from feed mills and farms, and subsequent cleansing of the premises and equipment concerned. The European Commission inspected the arrangements in respect of animal feed (including the Feed Recall Scheme) and mammalian MBM on 26-29 July 1996 and confirmed that it was content. That position was confirmed in discussion with the Standing Veterinary Committee on 10-11 September 1996 and in subsequent Commission inspection missions - the most recent one took place during July 1998.

Testing of animal feed

37. To monitor compliance with the feed controls, the Government has in place a feed sampling programme which fulfils the requirements of EC Commission Decision 95/287/EC. The feed sampling programme has been conducted by the State Veterinary Service since February 1996, and currently covers feed mills, on-farm mixers and other premises handling livestock feed.

38. The results of the feed sampling programme are encouraging, and indicate wide compliance with the feed controls. Up to 7 June 1999, 0.31% of the 42,465 samples taken and tested with the compound feed Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for the presence of mammalian protein had positive or inconclusive results. After investigation of these, the majority have been attributed to the legitimate presence of mammalian protein (i.e. in forms other than mammalian MBM) in feed intended for non-ruminant animals. Full details of these test results and any enforcement activity are published on the Internet and in the monthly BSE Enforcement Bulletin (see paragraph 13).

New BSE-related legislation on feed controls and surveillance

39. Following consultation with the farming industry, two pieces of BSE-related animal health legislation came into force on 15 April 1999 to

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36. One of the pre-conditions endorsed at the Florence Council for the lifting of the export ban was that legislation should provide for the removal of mammalian meat and bone meal (MBM) from feed mills and farms, and subsequent cleansing of the premises and equipment concerned. A voluntary Feed Recall Scheme was completed by 1 August 1996. The European Commission inspected the arrangements in respect of animal feed (including the Feed Recall Scheme) and mammalian MBM on 26-29 July 1996 and confirmed that it was content. That position was confirmed in discussion with the Standing Veterinary Committee on 10-11 September 1996 and in subsequent Commission inspection missions - the most recent one took place during October 1999.

Testing of Animal Feed

37. To monitor compliance with the feed controls, the Government has in place a feed sampling programme which fulfils the requirements of EC Commission Decision 95/287/EC. The feed sampling programme has been conducted by the State Veterinary Service since February 1996, and currently covers feed mills, on-farm mixers and other premises handling livestock feed.

38. The results of the feed sampling programme are encouraging, and indicate wide compliance with the feed controls. Up to 6 June, 0.29% of the total 60,000 samples taken and tested with the compound feed Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for the presence of mammalian protein had positive or inconclusive results. After investigation of these, the majority have been attributed to the legitimate presence of mammalian protein (i.e. in forms other than mammalian MBM) in feed intended for non-ruminant animals. No case of mammalian MBM in ruminant feed has been detected since August 1996. Full details of these test results and any enforcement activity are

published on the Internet and in the monthly BSE Enforcement Bulletin (see paragraph 16). The Internet address is:

<http://www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/bse/bse-publications/bse-publications-index.html>

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45. One of the pre-conditions endorsed at the Florence Council for the lifting of the export ban was that legislation should provide for the removal of mammalian meat and bonemeal (MBM) from feed mills and farms; and subsequent cleansing of the premises and equipment concerned. A Feed Recall Scheme was successfully completed by 1 August 1996. The European Commission inspected the arrangements in respect of animal feed (including the Feed Recall Scheme) and mammalian MBM on 26-29 July 1996 and confirmed that it was content. That position was confirmed in discussion with the Standing Veterinary Committee on 10-11 September 1996 and in subsequent Commission inspection missions.

Testing of Animal Feed

46. To monitor compliance with the feed controls, the Government has in place a feed sampling programme which fulfils the requirements of EC Commission Decision 95/287/EC. The feed sampling programme has been conducted by the State Veterinary Service since February 1996, and currently covers feed mills, on-farm mixers and other premises handling livestock feed.

47. The results of the feed sampling programme are encouraging, and indicate wide compliance with the feed controls. Up to the end of December 2000 0.25% of the total 71,321 samples taken and tested with the compound feed Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for the presence of mammalian protein had positive or inconclusive results. After investigation of these, the majority have been attributed to the legitimate presence of mammalian protein (i.e. in forms other than mammalian MBM) in feed intended for non-ruminant animals. No case of mammalian MBM in ruminant feed has been detected since August 1996. Full details of these test results and any enforcement activity are

published on the Internet and in the monthly BSE Enforcement Bulletin (see paragraph 21).

New wider EC controls on animal feed

48. Recently, in the face of a sharp increase in the number of cases of BSE being reported elsewhere in Europe, and of the first homebred cases in Spain and Germany, an EU Decision (2000/766/EC) was taken by the Council of Agriculture Ministers on 4 December which considered the measures necessary to combat BSE on an EU wide basis. The Council Decision goes beyond current UK requirements (see paragraphs 68 to 70). The Decision also requires that prohibited feed is removed from the market, distribution channels, and farms.