

## **CHAPTER 19**

# **VALUATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

During an outbreak of FMD, it will be necessary to slaughter susceptible animals on infected premises (IPs) and those that are likely to have been exposed to the disease. It is important, from the point of view of obtaining the full co-operation and support of the farming community in managing the outbreak, that any such animals are accurately and fairly valued. This chapter details the procedures to be followed at the LDCC and at the infected premises, and the criteria for establishing a Livestock Valuation Protocol to achieve this objective.

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## 1. LEGISLATION

- 1.1 Section 17 of the Disease of Animal Acts, 1966 and 2001, provides that the Minister may slaughter or cause to be slaughtered any animals affected or suspected of being affected with a Class A Disease, or animals which appear to the Minister to have been exposed to infection with any such disease, or animals within an area which in the opinion of the Minister sufficiently defines an area where a risk of infection exists.
- 1.2 Section 17 also provides that the Minister shall, subject to Section 58 of the Act, pay compensation for animals and poultry which have been slaughtered under this section. No provision is made for the payment of income or other consequential loss.
- 1.3 Section 58 of the Disease of Animals Acts, 1966 and 2001, provides that the Minister may, by Order, make provision for the regulation and assessment of compensation payable under Section 17 of the Act. In this regard Article 22 of FMD Order, 1956 (S.I. 324 of 1956) (as amended) provides for the compensation of herd or flock owners for the loss of animals slaughtered during a FMD outbreak. Article 22 of this Order also states that valuation of animals slaughtered shall be ascertained by a person appointed by the Minister.

## 2. SITUATIONS IN WHICH COMPENSATION MAY BE REFUSED/ DEFERRED/REDUCED

- 2.1 There are circumstances, notably in relation to the investigation or prosecution of offences under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966, in which the question of compensation for animals slaughtered may be deferred, where an applicant may be disentitled to compensation, or where the amount paid to an applicant may be reduced. These are described in Chapter 10, **Financial Control**. However, the question of deferral or withholding of payment in this manner need not prevent the valuation of animals to be slaughtered.
- 2.2 When animals are slaughtered because they are infected with FMD, compensation will not be paid for animals which died prior to valuation, unless the deaths are specifically related to FMD, or have been ordered or caused in some way by the Department. When a valuation has been determined that valuation will stand, regardless of animal deaths or births after the date of valuation.

## 3. CONFIDENTIALITY

The valuation figure agreed is confidential to the parties involved – the owner and the Minister – and should not be divulged to any third party other than at the request of, or with the express written permission of, the farmer involved.

## 4. VALUATION

### 4.1 General principles

Valuation should be based on the market value of the animals immediately prior to the outbreak.

### 4.2 Market value of cattle

A system of monitoring cattle prices at marts and sales on a weekly basis already exists in the context of the Bovine TB and Brucellosis schemes. The values attributed to animals to be slaughtered during an FMD outbreak should be based on the price guidelines laid down in this existing framework.

### 4.3 Market value of sheep

A system of monitoring sheep breeding sales already exists in the context of the Scrapie Eradication programme. As far as possible, the values attributed to sheep should reflect the guideline values laid down under this system for categories and breeds of sheep.

### 4.4 Market value of pigs

Valuation of pigs should be based on actual market values.

### 4.5 Valuers

- a) A panel of valuers approved by the Department of Agriculture and Food exists in the context of the Bovine TB and Brucellosis eradication scheme. Many valuers have a particular expertise in valuing sheep.
- b) Where possible members of this panel should be used to value animals culled in the context of an FMD outbreak.
- c) If it is necessary to use valuers who are not members of the panel, such valuers should be provided with the valuation guidelines and up-to-date prices.
- d) Valuers engaged during an FMD outbreak must be advised of the absolute necessity of adhering to the biosecurity arrangements set down in Chapter 15, **Procedures for personnel biosecurity**.

## 5. MANAGEMENT OF VALUATION AND PAYMENT (AT THE LDCC AND IP)

The management of on-site valuation and processing of payments by sections within the LDCC will be in accordance with Chapter 10, Financial Control.

### 5.1 On-site valuation procedure

Valuation of livestock will arise in two situations:

- emergency slaughter on an IP
- a planned cull for precautionary or welfare reasons.

### 5.2 Emergency or planned slaughter

Valuation will take place in the following sequence of operations:

- a) The valuer will enter the IP as part of a team comprising veterinary, agricultural officers and slaughter and disposal personnel.
- b) Biosecurity procedures must be adhered to upon entry to the infected premises.
- c) The valuation of animals will be undertaken prior to the slaughter of the animals on farm.
- d) The valuer must follow the prescribed biosecurity procedures on exit.
- e) The valuer should not be permitted to visit other farm premises for a minimum period of **3 days** after contact with an infected or suspect premises. This 'stand down' period may be shortened, in the case of a precautionary cull only, if it is absolutely necessary and always subject to veterinary advice.

## ANNEX 1

### PROTOCOL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF VALUATION AT THE LDCC

#### 1. Registration of valuers

Valuers must be registered with:

- the Personnel Section at the LDCC (name, address, contact phone numbers, signature of valuer, vehicle registration number)
- the Department's Client Registration Unit.

#### 2. Identity cards

Personnel Section at the LDCC will provide valuers with identity cards.

#### 3. Briefing

The Valuation Section of the LDCC will arrange for briefing of valuers in association with Veterinary, Technical and Administration Staff in relation to:

- the Livestock Valuation Guidelines
- biosecurity measures to be taken

#### 4. Liaison with other staff

The Valuation, Slaughter and Disposal Section at the LDCC must ensure that there is liaison between Veterinary, Technical and Administration Staff in the co-ordination and allocation of work to valuers.