

He told Dr David Clark, Opposition spokesman, that the Buckinghamshire sheep and one of the two herds of goats in that county are on the same premises.

Mr Gummer said that the present outbreak appeared to be associated with the import of goats from West Germany.

The disease was known to occur in many parts of Africa, South America, Asia, Europe, United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The Ministry continued to rely on certification by exporting countries that sheep and goats sent to the United Kingdom came from premises free from caseous lymphadenitis, and that the herd of origin had shown no clinical serological or pathological signs of the disease in the previous three years.

Animals should also be examined immediately before export. Ministry veterinary officers, local veterinary surgeons and producers had been asked to be vigilant for signs of the disease and had found infection in April in a group of sheep in post import on-farm isolation.

Europe

Purebred sheep and goats criteria

IN a series of decisions by the EC Commission on purebred sheep and goats, common European Community criteria and have been laid down for the approval of breeders' organisations and associations which establish or maintain flock books for purebred breeding sheep and goats; the criteria also govern entry in flock-books; methods for monitoring breeding performance and assessing genetic value; acceptance for breeding and the use of semen, ova or embryos, and zootechnical certificates for animals; their semen ova and embryos.

Breeders' organisations must be able to show that they have a sufficiently large flock to carry out a breed improvement programme.

However, member states will be able to refuse recognition to a new organisation if it endangers the preservation of

the breed or jeopardises the zootechnical programme of existing associations.

In the rules on monitoring performance, detailed annexes specify procedures for performance testing on stations and on farms, milk recording and assessment of genetic merit of females for milk traits and testing of progeny and, or, collaterals.

Veterinary Deer Society

International flavour at deer meeting

THE Veterinary Deer Society invited a range of overseas speakers for its annual meeting in London on May 12 and 13.

Mr Peter Wilson, president of the Deer Branch of the New Zealand Veterinary Association presented three papers, on tuberculosis in New Zealand, a preventive approach to disease in deer production and on feeding and management practices in farmed deer. Dr M. Petrak of the Game Research Institute, Bonn, discussed oo rape plant toxicity in roe deer and Dr Claudia Mendolia of the Veterinary Zootechnology Institute, Milan analysed the behaviour of park fallow deer.

Among the UK contributors were Mr R. Cameron of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate speaking on the clinician's responsibilities under the medicines licensing legislation, Mr Laurence Gibson of MAFF on TB in deer and Dr Hugh Reid of the Moredun Institute who gave a case report on the disease in a roe deer. Two further papers concentrated on nutritional problems; Mr John Round of Monarch Deer Feeds described the formulation of a commercial deer ration and Mr Richard Kock, veterinary officer at Whipsnade zoo, discussed the nutrition of reindeer.

At the AGM the international theme continued with the appointment of representatives to cooperate with sister associations in New Zealand, Australia, France, Italy and Sweden. A further five countries are involved in attempts to form an international association.

The following officers were elected for 1990-91: President - Mr Lewis Griffiths, senior vice-president - Mr Richard Kock, junior vice-president - Dr John Fletcher, secretary - Mr Thomas Alexander and treasurer - Mr Julian Peters.

News in Brief

Tail docking ban petition Over 850 veterinary surgeons have signed a petition to lobby for a ban on docking puppies' tails. The petition was organised by Ms S. P. Brown of Kinnerton, Powys, and it has been sent to Mr J. Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, and the Home Office.

Brucellosis eradication in Mediterranean countries In the wake of agreement on a slaughter policy for the eradication of brucellosis in sheep and goats in the European Community's

Mediterranean member states. France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal have been given three months to produce national eradication plans. The plans must involve notification of outbreaks, registration of holdings engaged in sheep and goat farming and identification systems to make it possible to monitor animal movements.

Cat encephalopathy A third cat has been found to have been suffering from a spongiform encephalopathy during a post mortem examination by pathologists at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge.

Veterinary students' fees The Government has had no meetings with the Universities Funding Council to discuss the Page committee report proposal that veterinary students should pay a proportion of their tuition fees, junior education minister Mr Robert Jackson said in a Commons written answer on June 5. He told Mr Archie Kirkwood (Lib Dem, Roxburgh & Berwickshire) that tuition fees were a matter for the schools themselves.

Advice to farmers The National Farmers Union is recommending to its members that they do not use animal feeds containing bovine offals which are banned for human consumption. Meanwhile the National Cattle Breeders Association is compiling a register of farmers who have agreed not to breed from calves born to BSE cases.

Salmonella report Bad hygiene in the kitchen rather than infected eggs has been responsible for the rise in the incidence of salmonella infections. So Government measures to control infected flocks have been a waste of time and money, according to a report by the right wing Institute for Economic Affairs. The report, called 'Chickengate', was written by the environmental health consultant Mr Richard North and Mrs Teresa Gorman, Conservative MP for Billericay.

Products and Services

Recall, Chorionic gonadotrophin LH 1500 and Fostim 1000 Paines & Byrne is recalling LH 1500 and Univet Chorionic Gonadotrophin batch numbers 786029 and 792012 (expiry dates June 1992 and December 1992, respectively) and Fostim 1000 batch number 784024 (expiry date May 1991). Stocks should be returned to the company for replacement. Details from Paines & Byrne, 177-179 Bilton Road, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 7HG, telephone 081 997 1143.

Animal health display 'Animals need medicine too' is the theme of a new display at Alton Towers leisure park in its Farm-a-Rama exhibition at the Britannia Building Society farm. Organised by the National Office of Animal Health the exhibit demonstrates the importance of the animal health industry in looking after the welfare of livestock.

Antiseptic cream Rybar Laboratories are now manufacturing and distributing Vesagex antiseptic cream. Details from Rybar Laboratories, Sycamore Road, Amersham Buckinghamshire HP6 5DR, telephone 0494 722741.

Mr Gary Evans has been appointed managing director of Arnolds Veterinary Products by Macarthy plc. Mr Evans joins Arnolds from Cyanamid International where he was business development manager.



At the May 19 launch of the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust, (right to left) John Gripper, chairman of the trustees, Julian Pettifer and Colin Fountain, general manager of the Cotswold Wildlife Park, admire the horn of one of the park's black rhinos. The objective of the trust is to establish a sanctuary in the safe midlands area of Zimbabwe where there will be a breeding group of black rhino which will be protected against poachers