**INTRODUCTION TO THE CAE MONITORED HERD SCHEME**

**General Information**

The Monitored Herd Scheme provides goatkeepers with a standardised regime for testing their herd for the presence of **CAE** infection. Regular whole-herd testing gives goat owners a high degree of confidence that their stock is **CAE**-free, including young stock too young to have been tested themselves. Being designated a **CAE** Monitored Herd indicates the health status of the herd to others in a more convincing way than unsystematic testing and reliance on ambiguous phrase such as "**CAE** tested".

The Monitored Herd Scheme differs from the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) Animal Health Scheme (which used to be the Ministry Maedi-Visna/**CAE** Accreditation Scheme) primarily in that no restrictions on animal movements are on herds participating in the BGS scheme, it being up to the herd owner to decide how he/she will minimise the risk of introducing the disease into the herd in the knowledge that Monitored Herd Status will be lost if tests reveal the presence of infection.

All goats in the herd (or on the premises) must be included in the scheme. Goats visiting the herd for 30 days or more (eg on loan or boarders) have to be considered as part of the herd. Goats such as Angoras, English, Ferals, Pygmies etc., need not be registered with the British Goat Society, but they are considered as part of the herd and they must have an identification mark which is acceptable to the BGS and DEFRA. Kids bred within the herd need not be tested until the first herd test after their first birthday.

To ensure that no goat goes untested, participants must supply information on the composition of the herd (including kids), and all changes such as births, deaths, sales and purchases etc. Adult goats entering the herd should be tested within 30 days of entry. In the case of bought in kids, the kid must be tested at six months old and then again routinely on herd test days. Entry tests are not required if the animal comes from either a Monitored or Accredited herd, provided that evidence of the vendor's herd status is included with papers submitted to the scheme's organiser. Temporary absences of 30 days or more mean that the goat concerned must be tested on re-entry (see Reg.26(4)).

To ensure that no goat is consistently absent from the herd on test days, participants must supply information on all movements on and off the premises. eg. for showing, mating, boarding, veterinary purposes etc. A photocopy of the livestock movement book is acceptable provided animals are individually identified; alternatively the details may be entered on a separate form.

Tests are performed on blood samples. Your veterinary surgeon will take the samples and send them to a Veterinary Investigation Centre for analysis. Tests based on samples taken by the owners of the goats are not acceptable. Goats from several herds may be taken to a single location for blood sampling, in order to share veterinary charges, local clubs might be able to arrange this. Goats from different herds should, of course be kept separate to avoid the spread of any infection that might be present. All paperwork, including test certificates, must be completely separate for each herd. In the case of small herds, veterinary charges could be reduced by taking the goats to the vet's premises.

**Joining the Monitored Herd Scheme**

 To qualify for C.A.E. Monitored status, three consecutive whole herd qualifying CAE tests are needed on all goats using one of the following test regimes:

A. (i ) the first two tests are separated by not less than six and no more than eight months, the third test to be between eight and twelve months after the second.

B. (ii ) each of the three tests is separated by an interval of twelve months

For both regimes, records as described in Reg. 26 (11) are to be supplied for the interval between the second and third tests.

C. A C.A.E. Accredited Herd may be designated a B. G. S. Monitored herd without the three qualifying tests provided that not more than two years have elapsed between tests.

D. A herd may become C.A.E. Monitored without three qualifying entry tests if the herd is newly established on premises where there have been no goats for three months, all stock came to those premises directly from a Monitored or Accredited herd and the stock must have been part of either of these types of herd for an unbroken period of at least twelve months, or the whole of the animal's life. The first renewal date will be twelve months after the first goats came on the premises.

**Note: All goats in a Monitored Herd must have their routine CAE tests carried out within the first 4 months of the year.**

If all the results from these three qualifying tests are negative, and other conditions are met, your herd is eligible for Monitored Herd Status. The application form should be completed and sent in, together with test certificates, record of all movements that occurred within the period spanned by the second and third qualifying tests and the current fee.

Certificates for test results have been designed in consultation with members of the veterinary profession and the authorities who manage the testing laboratories. These are obtainable from the BGS Office and should be used. They will show the date of test, identities of individual animals tested and results of tests. Never send your only copy of either test results or movements as things do occasionally get lost in the post. Photocopies are acceptable.

Once Monitored Herd Status is granted, your goats need only be tested annually. For every other year testing see regulation 26 (18). There is a one calendar month period of grace, prior to the expiry date, during which the renewal test may be taken, while maintaining the original renewal date. Early renewals will be renewed as of the date of the test. Late renewals are not permitted. On receipt of test certificates from their vet, participants are required to send details of all movements on and off the premises, and a record of all changes in herd composition since the previous tests. There is no restriction on owners having additional **CAE** tests carried out on their goats, but the results of all tests must be sent to the office. Similarly it is permissible to test kids should owners so wish.

**Applications for Monitored Herd Status, and other enquiries about the scheme should be addressed to:**

**Mrs Rachel Fox, 42 Manse Way, Swanley, Kent BR8 8DD**

**Tel: 01322 611767 Email: admin@britishgoatsociety.com**

**These notes are for guidance only, Regulation 26 is definitive.** January 2004