

NEWS RELEASE



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ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP URGES FARMERS TO RETHINK EXPORT TRADE AS TB SPREADS FROM A BRITISH FARM TO EUROPE

Farm animal welfare group Compassion in World Farming is today (Wednesday 16 July) calling on British farmers to end the unnecessary export of live calves to Europe after news that the potentially devastating disease, TB, has reached Dutch veal farms.

Farmers are taking matters into their own hands and refusing to buy British calves.

The recent TB strike in Holland raises the question as to whether it is sensible for calves to be sent on long journeys to the Netherlands.

Peter Stevenson, Chief Policy Advisor for Compassion in World Farming advised, *“It has been clear for many years that live exports spread disease. It is an inhumane and unnecessary trade which must be stopped.”*

A recent Compassion in World Farming report (2008) by Mr Stevenson found that ‘Long distance transport not only increases the opportunities for animals to come in contact with diseases, but also makes them more susceptible to infection because of some degree of immuno-suppression resulting from stress during transport.’

Transporting live animals across long distances not only poses significant biosecurity risk, it is also a serious threat to animal welfare and a missed opportunity for British farmers. Recent evidence shows that Britain may face a beef shortfall within a year, which will hike price per head and beef products for consumers.

Mr Stevenson continued, "*Not only does the British farming industry need to fully embrace the Beyond Calf Exports Stakeholders Forum, but British retailers must start offering concrete incentives and encouragement to farmers to rear dairy calves in Britain and guarantee them a decent price. The farmers can't change the export industry alone.*"

For more information contact Emily Durrant on telephone 01483 521952 or email Emily@ciwf.org or 07771926005 out of hours.

Notes:

- Compassion in World Farming report: Long Distance Animal Transport in Europe: A Cruel and Unnecessary Trade, by Peter Stevenson, March 2008. Quote on pg 9. Download the full report at:
http://www.ciwf.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2008/t/transport_in_europe_report_2008.pdf
- Background on live exports visit:
http://www.ciwf.org.uk/what_we_do/calves/default.aspx
- The Beyond Calf Export Stakeholders Forum was launched in 2007 and includes representatives from across the beef and dairy industry. For more information on the forum please visit:
http://www.ciwf.org.uk/news/beef_and_dairy_farming/future_of_male_dairy_calves.aspx