

Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION)

R.A. Baxter, Louvain -La- Neuve

DATE

9th. April 1974

CC:

SUBJECT

REPORT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

REFERENCE

RAB/CDR

TO :

REPORT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH

Mr. D.R.Allen
Veterinary Investigation Office
M.A.F.F.
Cardiff

Tel. : Cardiff 757971

SUBJECT : CATTLE DEATHS AT BROFISKIN

I contacted Mr. Allen after been given his name by MAFF, Aberystwyth. Mr.Allen had carried out post mortems on the three cattle which had recently died at Brofiskin farm. I offered Monsanto help in anlysis for toxic substances following the exchange of correspondence with Douglas Gowan where we said we would do this. Mr.Allen was very glad of our offer and was prepared to discuss the affair quite frankly.

The following points emerged :

1. Allen was aware of the general background and principle actors in the Brofiskin and Maendy quarry situation. He implied that various parties were interested in making the most of the affair in financial terms but that the Ministry of Agriculture was unbiased and wished to establish the facts.
2. Some 10 animals have now died over the past 2 years at Brofiskin but the causes of death have not been established.
3. Post mortems signs when animals die from metabolic disturbances such as hypercalcaemia are very difficult to interpret. He needed blood samples from living animals to investigate this aspect.

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4. Identification of toxic substances which might be responsible was also very difficult when they had no idea what they were looking for.
5. Although PCBs had been mentioned Allen thought it very unlikely that they could be responsible since the amounts which had been found were very small. He was aware of toxicity studies on PCBs and the levels needed to produce toxic symptoms.
6. The last cow to die had been examined by Prof. Clarke (Gowan's scientific advisor). It was carrying twin calves and was very dehydrated but otherwise they could see no certain cause of death.
7. Allen had sent samples from this 3rd cow, of brain, muscle, fat, kidney and liver to Weybridge for examination for toxic metals (lead and arsenic). He had also sent samples to Dr. Bailey of Ministry of Agriculture, Tolworth for PCB analyses.
8. He agreed to give us similar samples and I suggested that we would arrange to collect these from our Newport factory. He will contact D.B. Shearn regarding collection of the samples.
9. I said that we would discuss with him any useful results which we were able to obtain and that we felt that it was in everyone's interest to resolve this affair as speedily as possible.


R.A. Baxter

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