



# Business

## Battle Tightened Against Foot-Mouth Disease

LONDON (AP) — Admitting it has lost control of the foot-and-mouth epidemic, Britain has announced drastic new steps to rein in the disease, including a plan to cull livestock in a "firewall" around every infected farm.

"The situation is not under control at the moment," said David King, the government's chief scientist.

Experts said the number of infected sites, now 490, could rise to 4,000 by June, and the government said it was now considering vaccinating animals, despite fears such a move would devastate trade.

All livestock within two miles of infected farms everywhere in Britain are to be killed, King said. The widened culling was initially planned only for the worst-hit ar-

reas in northern England and southern Scotland.

He said British Prime Minister

Tony Blair had asked for the so-called "firewall cull" and had told the team to speed up the killing to

24 hours from the time an infection is confirmed.

The number of infected sites could rise by 70 per day over the next two weeks, or nearly 1,000 sites, a report prepared for the Ministry of Agriculture said.

"It will grow fast in the next few weeks and continue for many months," said the report, written by a group of foot-and-mouth experts. "The number of cases will rise steeply with rapid expansion in the existing areas in spite of current controls."

Meanwhile, Ireland sent additional troops to County Louth, where the Irish Republic's first case of foot-and-mouth disease was confirmed Thursday. The aim is to prevent the disease from moving beyond the county, which borders Northern Ireland.



Thousands of farm animals are being destroyed across Britain as the government tries to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease.

## Agents Fear Mad Cow Disease in U.S.

(AP)—GREENSBORO, Vt.—Federal agents seized a Vermont farmer's flock of 234 sheep last week for fear they are infected with a version of mad cow disease — the first such action ever taken against livestock in the United States.

The U.S. Agriculture Department "has no choice but to take this deci-

sive action based on the threat the sheep pose to the health of America's livestock nationwide," said Craig Reed, administrator of USDA's animal and plant health inspection service.

The flocks consisted of sheep that were either imported from Belgium in 1996 or were descendants of those

animals. The USDA has said four sheep from the flock showed signs of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, a class of neurological diseases that includes both bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, and scrapie, a sheep disease not harmful to humans. The government said the sheep may have

been exposed through contaminated European feed.

The human version of BSE, which like the animal version has a long incubation period, has killed almost 100 people in Britain and other European countries since 1995. The scare has virtually wiped out the British beef industry.

## Muniz Named Small Business Advocate

Gov. John Kitzhaber has appointed Lydia Muniz to be the governor's new Advocate for Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business.

Muniz, who is currently the deputy advocate, will replace Al Nunez, who is retiring. "I am very pleased to have someone of Lydia's expertise and

experience heading this office," Kitzhaber said.

"She has been a proven leader in making more business opportunities available to women and minorities — an invaluable skill as Oregon's economy and population grows and diversifies."

Muniz holds a certificate of public management from Willamette University and is a founding member of the Scholarships for Oregon Latinos Board. She serves on the Executive Board of Chemeketa Community College Foundation and is involved with the Metropolitan Hispanic Chamber

of Commerce, Oregon Native America Chamber of Commerce, Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, the Philippine Chambers of Commerce and numerous other professional associations.

## Fowler Promotes Cultural Diversity



Peggy Fowler, PGE President and CEO, accepts the 2001 Governor's Arts Award from Gov. John Kitzhaber. The utility company won the award for its work with the north Portland's Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center and its program of using the arts to heighten workplace awareness of cultural diversity issues. Fowler said the company's investment in the arts is a means to strengthen the social, economic and educational fabric of our community.

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