

## Animal Health

Achieving and maintaining high health status in farmed animals is important to the welfare of the animals themselves and to the economic viability of farm businesses. Diseases that can transfer from animals to the human population (zoonoses) have also been matters of concern, particularly in recent years.

SAC's animal health research programme is concerned with understanding animal health problems, their economic consequences and possible controls; the interactions between nutrition of animals and their health; the prevalence and transmission of zoonoses. There is major emphasis on:

Epidemiologically-based research on major animal-related problems that pose a significant threat to human health:

- Occurrence and transmission of *E. coli* O157 and other verocytotoxigenic *E. coli*
- Ecology of paratuberculosis, including transmission by wildlife
- The farming systems that influence anti-microbial resistance
- Factors influencing the prevalence of campylobacter in chickens.

Endemic animal disease and possible controls

- Economic consequences of endemic disease
- Novel mechanisms for animal disease surveillance.

The interaction between nutrition and health for sustainable and organic systems

- Use of phytochemicals as natural anthelmintics and as enhancers of gastrointestinal health
- The interactions between nutrition and disease resistance across animal species
- The prediction of the consequences of infectious and environmental stresses on animal health.



**For further information contact:**

Dr Chris Low  
Animal Health Research Group Manager  
Sir Stephen Watson Building, Bush Estate, Penicuik  
EH26 0PH -  
T: 0131 535 3150  
E: Chris.Low@sac.ac.uk

