

SWG Issues Statement on Ileum

By Gisela Panzer,
SWG Secretary

Removal of the Ileum of Sheep Casings as Legal Requirement in E.U.

The E.U. legal requirement to remove the ileum of sheep casings after slaughtering has been valid since October 1, 2003; in other countries worldwide similar requirements have been or will be introduced. In light of these developments, a clear definition of the ileum in the understanding of the casing industry, backed by scientific statements has been elaborated by Philippe Leymonie and Ray Bradley. This statement is the main point of the SWG part of this issue of *The Natural Link*.

With the implementation on October 1, 2003 of the new Commission Regulation (EC) No 1139/2003 that amends Regulation (EC) No 999/01 related to classification of sheep and goat ileum as Specified Risk Material (SRM) for animals of all ages slaughtered on and after October 1, 2003, the following statement is issued in order to clarify a few points for the benefit of the natural casings industry worldwide and those responsible for risk management and enforcement of the regulations.

Anatomical Definition

At the request of the natural casing industry, three internationally recognised veterinary anatomists were consulted upon the anatomical definition of the ileum. It has been

recommended that the definition in *Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria* (NAV) be used. The official body that authorizes acceptable veterinary anatomical terms is the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists and their list of official terms is published in NAV. The NAV definition is: "**Ileum: the short terminal part of the small intestine to which the Plicae ileocaecalis is attached**". This is clearly illustrated in the drawing on page 3, which is also used in the video program produced for the industry entitled *The Production of Natural Sheep Casings: Removal of the Ileum* that shows the

methodology for removal in the gut room.

The meat industry in general and the natural casings industry in particular, have adopted a range of terms to describe various parts of the intestine, not all of which correspond with the internationally agreed veterinary anatomical terms. When legislation is adopted (as in the EU from October 1, 2003) it is essential that the industry, regulators and inspectors have a common understanding of the law and how it should be applied. It is the purpose of this statement to assist in achieving a common understanding of some

Continued on page 3

Chairman's Message

By Manfred Grundt,
INSCA Chairman

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to gather once again for our Semi-Annual meeting in Palm Beach, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the activities of your association, your chairman, vice-chairman, and your Board of Directors and its committees since the last issue of our newly redesigned newsletter, *The Natural Link*.

After an exhaustive and thorough bidding and interview process, INSCA has signed a two-year management contract with Drohan

Management Group (DMG) of Reston, Virginia. On November 1, 2003, we will officially start to work with our new management company. INSCA's contract with Fellman Business Consulting (FBC) will conclude on November 15, 2003, allowing for a smooth transition following the Palm Beach Meeting. Mr. William Drohan, Principal of DMG and Ms. April James, future Executive Secretary of INSCA will be in attendance at the Semi-Annual meeting. Please help me to warmly welcome them to INSCA! Ms. James has already begun to work closely with the Conference Committee Chairman Rick Theise on the details and program for the 2004 Annual Meeting. Due to

Continued on page 7

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Executive Secretary's Report

*By Joshua Hull,
INSCA Executive Secretary*

After a very slow start to registration for the Semi-Annual Meeting this year in Palm Beach, I am happy to report that registration for the meeting increased to the point that INSCA fulfilled its contracted room block at the Ritz-Carlton. We have increased actual registration by 30 individuals and 10 member companies over last year's meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. All of the geographical regions of INSCA will have representatives present in Palm Beach. Registration for the social events is up across the board as well, except for the Golf Tournament.

After the Palm Beach Meeting, the INSCA office will begin the task of conference wrap-up and the transition to the new management company. Effective November 1, 2003 Ms. April James of Drohan Management Group (DMG) will assume the duties of Executive Secretary. Glenn Fellman, Paul Tranvankha and myself will provide support to the new INSCA management team in an official capacity until November 15, 2003. My last act as Executive Secretary will be publishing and distributing the Board Meeting minutes from the meeting in Palm Beach. We at FBC realize that Ms. James and her colleagues at Drohan Management Group have a steep learning curve to climb, and we will be cognizant of this fact and willing to offer our advice and knowledge based on our longtime relationship with INSCA.

By now you should have received a copy of the results of the member survey on reorganization via email or fax. If you require a copy of this document, please email INSCA Headquarters at insca@aol.com.

You will see a new feature called "Member Spotlight" in this edition of *The Natural Link*. Company Dagesa Naturdärme of Hamburg, Germany is profiled on the occasion of their Fortieth Anniversary in the natural casing trade. We encourage the membership to submit articles or press releases to the new Executive Secretary regarding your firm's noteworthy accomplishments. In the third quarter edition of the *The Natural Link*, it was announced that advertisements would be accepted for the fourth quarter edition. I would again appeal to our membership to take ownership of *The Natural Link*. Think of your newsletter as an your firm's affordable vehicle for publicity within the industry... The newsletters are posted on the website, quite literally for the entire world to see!

As my time as INSCA Executive Secretary draws near its end, I would like to thank Past Chairman Richard Theise, as well as Chairman Manfred Grundt, Vice Chairman Mounir Shehfe, INSCA Trade and Legal Counsel Shirley Coffield and Treasurer Michael Mayo for their leadership, direction and support during my brief term. I wish our wonderful association INSCA, its Board of Directors, and most importantly its general membership at large, the very best in health and business as we move forward into 2004 and beyond.

SWG Statement

From page 1

additional terms that have lead to a degree of misunderstanding and confusion.

The following appellations are commonly used in natural casing industry :

Bell ends: found according to season and age of the animals, such special parts are usually 0.5 to 1.5 m long. Such portion is the distal part of the jejunum just before ileum.

NZ or Australian Cuts: such specific processing methodology has been widely used in those two countries and by extension adopted in many factories.

Here three cuts of the small intestine/casing are defined starting from the distal (bung) end of the small intestine:

1st Cut: From the terminal (distal) jejunum (junction with the ileum) and extending forwards between 7.5 and 12 m.

2nd Cut: The middle part of the jejunum of unspecified length.

3rd Cut: The proximal jejunum (junction with the duodenum) of unspecified length.

Every company also should take care that the removal of the ileum is part of their risk management and/or

control system and integrated into the HACCP Concept.

The careful and responsible handling of the requirements is of enormous importance in order to keep the whole intestinal tract from goat and sheep free from restrictions!

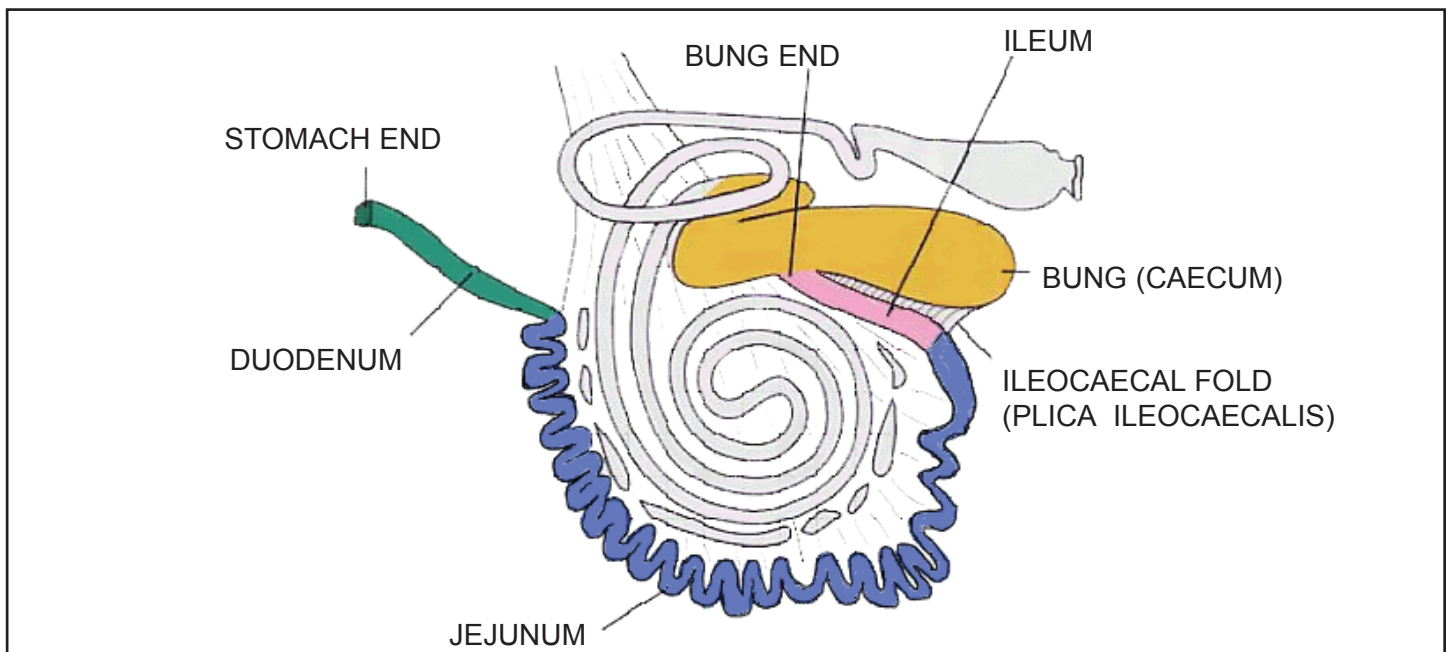
The study of P. Koolmees/University Utrecht on *"Histological Research on the Efficacy of Mechanically Versus Manually Deslimed Sheep Intestines"* is now finished and available on request at the SWG secretariat. It will be published also on the INSCA's Website "Research Papers" in due course. It has been sent to the EU authorities in GD SANCO which had requested this study, and also to the newly established European Food Safety Agency. The conclusions of Koolmees are: "With respect to the removal of aggregated lymphatic nodules (Peyer's patches), serosa, mucous and muscle tissues during the cleaning and stripping of sheep casings, no significant differences were found between manual and mechanical processing. No lymphatic nodules were found in any of the 600 histological sections examined. Both manual and mechanical processing did not yield completely clean casings; some mucous tissue and negligible amounts of muscle tissue

remained attached to the submucosa layer. The mean area percentages found for these remaining tissues were 9.1% and 0.7% respectively. By manually as well as mechanically processing sheep casings, a significant risk reduction of potentially infectious material occurred. Regarding remaining tissue found, there was a distinct effect of animals and locations along the intestine.

When remaining tissue was present it was concentrated in casings of certain animals and concentrated at certain locations along the intestine. The results provided a deeper insight into the degree of the removal of tissues other than submucosa by the different desliming processes. In addition, the data obtained can be used in risk analysis."

Future structure of the Scientific Working Group

At the last meeting of the SWG in Brussels on 3.9.2003 a strategy plan for the future shape of the SWG including the succession of Dr. Panzer as secretary of the SWG was extensively discussed. The final approval and follow-up presentation to the members is expected for the meeting in Palm Beach on 25.10.2003.



Government Report

*By Shirley Coffield,
INSCA Trade Counsel*

Below are updates and new issues reported since the last report in July:

BSE/TSE Issues: *Canada BSE issues:* We reported in July that Japan is now requiring certification on casings that the distal ileum be removed. Earlier there was agreement on beef casings. There is now final agreement on the certificate language for sheep, which simply requires that, "This product does not include distal ileum". This covers all sheep and goat casings from the US. Since Japan only allows these casings from NZ, Australia and the US, this requirement only covers US origin casings. No Canadian origin ruminant casings are now allowed into Japan. There is no further definition and we are pleased that authorities have agreed with the information we sent them which shows that the distal ileum is removed during the normal cleaning process. Countries continue to require certifications from countries trading with Canada that the product is not Canadian origin. In the meantime, US authorities are working with Canadian authorities on a potential new risk analysis that will differentiate the risk from countries that have one or a few cases and have sufficient investigatory competence and controls in place and place those countries in a category that would allow trade in many products. This would be along the lines of the OIE risk categories. We will report as this issue goes forward as it will impact on many other major INSCA trading countries that follow US rules.

Sheep Ileum removal in the EU:

The requirement that the ileum (distal ileum) be removed from sheep and goats of all ages has now gone into effect in the EU. (For animals slaughtered after October.

The EU now considers the ileum of sheep and goats to be Specified Risk Material (SRM) for risk of BSE. Product from all countries not on the EU Category 1 list must certify that the SRM has been removed. Category 1 countries not affected by this change are Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Iceland, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore, Swaziland, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

SWG Work: The Joint INSCA/ENSCA/NANCA Scientific Working Group has been developing a Statement on the Definition of Ileum to lessen the potential for confusion. The statement uses the anatomical definition prepared by three internationally recognized veterinary anatomists who were consulted by the SWG. The Statement is included in this publication under SWG news.

Residues in Casings: The ongoing problem between the EU and China on residues, particularly Nitrofurans, continues, with China canceling export approvals for companies in China that have tested positive for this residue. ENSCA is following this issue closely as it has affected several EU companies. INSCA, through work with the SWG, has been working with ENSCA to help resolve this problem by using an agreeable testing procedure, but as yet this proposal has not been accepted. The Chinese Association, CNSCA, is working with Chinese authorities to develop and introduce a risk management system for raw material residue

testing. We are hopeful that this effort will be successful and lead to a resolution of this problem.

Certification Issues: *Brazil:* Brazil has requested that countries certify they are free of Classical Swine Fever (CSF) before any hog casings can be imported. Currently, the only countries Brazil considers free of CSF are Brazil, Canada, Chile, Portugal and the US. No hog casings originating in other countries can enter Brazil. Brazilian authorities are requiring that Countries show evidence before they can be listed as free of CSF.

Our information is that Holland, Denmark, Sweden have already made the first step by presenting evidences that they want to be listed. According to information from Brasília, the Brazilian Ministry sent out additional questionnaires this week asking about measures used by countries to control and defend themselves from outbreaks of CSF. After receiving official answers Brazilian authorities will decide if they will accept and allow imports from countries which apply for port to Brazil or if visits to those countries will still be necessary (same as EU, Russian, etc. commissions visit Brazil).

Poland: Poland and the US have reached agreement on a health certificate for exportation of hog casings from Poland to the US. Previously, this trade was interrupted due to new certificate requirements. This only applies to hog casings, as no ruminant casings from Poland are allowed into the US.

Scientific Working Group (SWG): The SWG met on September 3 in Brussels. The SWG voted in a new Chairman, INSCA Vice Chairman Mounir Shehfe, and planned projects for the coming

year. There was a decision to go forward with the Ozone study to determine whether Ozone can be used effectively as a way to eliminate FMD risk. NANCA is working with Texas A&M University on a project to study the usability of casings treated with Ozone. Once this is completed, and if successful, there will be further efforts made to have a live virus test done as soon as possible, either in Europe or the US. In addition, the SWG is undertaking further research on the sheep ileum removal issue, and further research on the issue of residues in casings. See also in this publication the Statement on Definition of the Distal Ileum which has been developed by the SWG. INSCA will send a complete report of the SWG meeting when it is available.

Retaliation Issues: *US/EU:* The EU list of retaliation products, which includes casings from the US, has been published. At this time the EU is waiting for the US Congress to take some action to change the US tax law which was found inconsistent with the WTO. US Congressional committees have now finished work on their proposals and it is expected that legislation will be approved in the next few weeks. Because the House of Representative and the US Senate have different proposals, they will have to be reconciled before final Congressional action is taken and there is no assurance that the final law will be completed this year. The EU has put a condition of completion this year and thus may decide to retaliate on these products if there is a slow down in the process. This is a serious matter which we are watching carefully. INSCA will make a strong statement should it appear that the retaliation will go into effect next year.

Other Issues: *US Bioterrorism Regulations:* As has been previously reported, the US Food

and Drug Administration (FDA) is implementing the new Bioterrorism law through regulations that will take effect on December 12. Under that law, the regulations of which are expected to be published this month, all importers and last step exporters to the US will have to register with the FDA and pre-notify shipments 24 hours in advance of arrival. This requirement is in addition to the US Customs Service pre-notification requirements for shipments, which is already in effect. In addition, the regulations will include significant recordkeeping requirements and other procedural rules. There has been some major criticism of the FDA proposals by members of Congress and US industry, particularly with regard to the 24 hour rule, (which they want reduced to 4-6 hours) the record keeping rules, (which are considered too burdensome) and the fact that the FDA rules to not integrate efficiently with the current US Customs rules and practices.

At Press Time: The FDA has today, October 13, 2003 published its final interim regulations requiring registration of all U.S. domestic and all last step exporters to the U.S. of product covered by the regulations and setting rules for pre-notification of imports. Because Casings are not under the Meat Act, they are covered by FDA rules, and are thus within this new regulation. An FDA Fact sheet is available from the Secretariat, which gives information about registering and facts on the new regulations. Please note that registrations can be made on line beginning October 16, 2003. This process must be completed by December 12, 2003. If you have any questions, please contact the INSCA office and we will help members get through this process. The interim rule can be viewed at <http://www.cfsan.epa.gov/>

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Member Spotlight

On August 28, 1963 the company Dagesa Naturdärme was founded and officially registered at the commercial registry in Hamburg by Detlef Saprutzki. Since the beginning, the company has had its headquarters in the abbatoir area of Hamburg. This area was transformed into the Fleischgroßmarkt Hamburg in 1993. In the beginning of 2004 a shift will be necessary in the area of the Fleischgroßmarkt due to extension needs of Hamburg Fair Ground. Dagesa will stay nearly at the same spot as before...the close range to customers will continue in new production facilities, warehouses and offices.

For forty years the company Dagesa has offered a wide range of natural casings. In 1992, the E.U. Veterinary Registration Number - EV 11-025 C was given to the company by authorities.

In addition to his duties as the head of Company Dagesa, Detlef Saprutzki is also engaged in all areas of the professional politics of the casing trade. Since 1987 Mr. Saprutzki has served as Board Member of Zentralverband Naturdärm e.V., and has since that time been an active member of INSCA as well.

Mr. Saprutzki is officially registered as an expert for natural casings at the Chamber of Commerce Hamburg, and he is also Supervisory Board member of RKW (Board of Trustees of Rationalisation in Economy) and of Pro Natura Marketing and Werbung GmbH (owned by Zentralverband Naturdärme for organizing marketing and public relations activities).

The junior partner and successor, Norbert Saprutzki, has been active within the company since 1992. After passing the German High School degree

"Abitur," he passed a butcher training program specially designed for sausage making, followed by training in business administration for foreign trade and wholesale. Further, natural casing specific training took place during stays at Company Henil in Montevideo and Company DAT in Denmark, among others.

The future - based on solid professional know-how and 40 years successful experience in the past - is secured. INSCA wishes continued success to the Saprutzki family and Company Dagesa!

Also celebrating milestone anniversaries this year are longtime INSCA members Marian Litwak GmbH (20 years) and Hanno-Darm GmbH (30 years). INSCA congratulates our members. We encourage you to update us on your firm's noteworthy activities and milestones!



Norbert Saprutzki and Detlef Saprutzki of Dagesa GmbH

Chairman's Message

From page 1

pricing and vacancy issues at the desired hotel property, the 2004 meeting originally planned for Barcelona, Spain, has been moved to London. There will be more information available to our members on the 39th Annual Meeting in 2004 and future meetings after the conclusion of the meeting in Palm Beach.

As we prepare to transition from one management company to another, I say, Thank you Glenn and Lisa, Josh and Paul, and all the people at FBC what supported us for many years, and welcome to the INSCA family, Bill and April, I wish you success for the benefit of us all!

The results of the INSCA/ENSCA survey have already been reported to the Board of Directors and the membership at large in September. Mr. Jan Roelsgaard, Reorganization Committee Chairman, will give a report at the General Session in Palm Beach on the current state and next steps of the re-organization process. I must stress, however, that the results of the survey are not a binding vote. It is merely a tool for the board to understand better the wishes of the INSCA membership we serve.

I would be remiss if I did not at this point recognize and thank Ms. Shirley Coffield, INSCA Legal and Trade counsel for her invaluable contributions to the management hiring process and tabulation and interpretation of the re-organization survey results. Shirley, we appreciate your valuable contributions to our wonderful association. Thank you.

At the time of this writing, there are 115 registrants from 45 member companies representing 12 countries, and all of the geographical regions of INSCA scheduled to attend the Semi-Annual meeting in Florida. This is a modest increase from last year's meeting in Arizona, when the attendance was 85 representatives

from 35 member companies. Mr. Thiese will be reporting on the future of the Semi-Annual meeting at the general session, as the general declining trend in attendance puts the future of the North American INSCA meeting in question.

It is no secret that INSCA needs new members to continue to effectively deal with the various scientific and trade issues that currently affect our industry. We welcomed our newest member, MARCHAND S.R.L. and General Manager, Mr. Paul Predusel of Bucharest, Romania to INSCA on September 20. I traveled to Tokyo, Japan, September 26 through 29 at my own cost to meet with the leaders and members of the Japan Sheep Casing Importers Association (JNSCA). This was a very productive meeting that may garner up to five new members for INSCA. Copies of market reports from this meeting are available; please contact the Executive Secretary for a faxed copy. Please continue to send referrals for prospective members of INSCA to Headquarters. INSCA staff will promptly follow up on the lead, and coordinate with the Membership Committee regarding any potential membership.

INSCA, ENSCA and NANCA's Scientific Working Group (SWG) has two new INSCA delegates. Mr. Philippe Leymonie remains the SWG Vice Chairman and our Immediate Past Chairman Rick Theise replaces Mr. Lex van Hessen. The new chairman is INSCA's Vice Chairman Mounir Shehfe, who assumes the permanent seat of the INSCA Chairman.

In addition to the efforts of our joint SWG committee, Mr. Li Xizhong and the CNSCA is working very hard in conjunction with the SWG to combat problems associated with chemical residues such as Nitrofurans and CAP. Mr. Xizhong will report on the Chinese Market and CNSCA activities at the General

Session in Palm Beach.

I would like to take this opportunity to recall fondly those dear friends what passed away since our last Semi-Annual meeting. In this time, we have lost several great friends to our industry. Please keep Mr. Robert Geallad (December 25, 2002), Mr. Eddy Flomen (January 8, 2003), Mr. Louie Schwartz (June 29, 2003) and Mrs. Lee Theise (October 9, 2003) and their families in your thoughts and prayers as we approach another turn of the calendar.

As you can see INSCA has many challenges facing it. But we have far more talented people working closely toward a common goal...the very preservation of our natural casing industry! So let's go work hard together for our wonderful Association, INSCA!

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SWG Quarterly Report

By Gisela Panzer,
SWG Secretary

1. Residues in Chinese Casings

At the meeting on 3.9.2003 the activities of the CNSCA in cooperation with Chinese authorities have been presented. It is expected that Mr. Li Xizhong of CNSCA will report on newest developments and achievements in China at the INSCA meeting in Palm Beach.

The SWG of CNSCA has been informed about sampling methods and also risks to be discussed on the HACCP introduction with the EU Inspection delegation due to the fact that a HACCP Concept is one of the conditions for getting an EU approval number.

On the 6.9.2003 ENSCA received from EU Commission/GD Health and Consumer Protection a letter stating that the handling of the residue problem for casings coming from China are fully in line with EU legislation. Even the risk assessment procedures on which the legislation is based is not under discussion. This is somewhat contradictory to the information from the newly established EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY (EFSA) that has in the Scientific Panel on Contaminants already during the first meeting established a special working group dealing with new approaches for undesirable substances - but progress here is a long-term process.

Prof. Fink-Gremmels was appointed as chairman of this special working group in the frame of the Scientific Panel Contaminants of the EFSA. It is of great importance to have available for argumentation consumption figures of sausages in natural skins worldwide in order to demonstrate the low exposure of consumers to casings which might be contaminated with residues so that specific regulations for casings could be justified. With respect to probable removal of residues by physical or chemical procedures we have taken up the matter with an institute in Holland recommended by Prof. Fink-Gremmels. Hopefully first proposals could be presented during the meeting on 22.10.2003.

2. Inactivation of MKS virus in casings

Dr. Haas/Insel Riems is prepared to go into the research with live animals to investigate the inactivation of FMD virus in casings after alkaline treatment. But no contract has been signed up to now. On the proposal of Dr. Haas there should be as preparatory test an investigation on the usability of the casings which have been treated by Ozone. It is foreseen to integrate in the investigations at Insel Riems also Ozone treatment as possible mean for inactivation of FMD virus in the same line as this has already been performed for the use of acid and alkaline treatment at TNO/Zeist/Verkleij. A draft budget from TEXAS A&M/Dr. Keeton for this study will be decided on 22.10.2003. The offer of TNO Zeist/Verkleij to investigate left samples that have been stored for more than 30 days has been rejected. The study of University Utrecht/Houben on *"Residues of Curing agents in Natural Casings previously subjected to anti-viral treatments"* will be published in the international issue of the paper *"Fleischwirtschaft"* in November 2003; also in November 2003 a German translation (prepared by the secretariat of SWG) will be published. At the meeting of 22.10.2003, the transmission of the papers to regulatory authorities and academic publications will be discussed.

3. Different items

In the frame of the study "Monitoring for the presence of Salmonella spp. and Listeria monocytogenes in salted natural casings" the results of clostridia are missing for the time being before deciding on further use as to publish it. The Bundesanstalt für Fleischforschung Kulmbach has been asked for a written statement concerning the effects of dry salting on microbial status of casings versus brine solution. Verbally it has already been confirmed that there is no difference in the effective curing in case of using saturated brine solution.

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