

Book review

Risk analysis, animal health and trade. *OIE Scientific and Technical Review*, volume 12, no. 4, 448 pp., US\$40, ISBN 92-9044-341-3.

A valuable decision-making tool is now being used in the field of animal health. This issue of the *Scientific and Technical Review* introduces that tool—risk analysis.

The objective of this issue is to present the definitions and methods currently used in animal health risk assessment with a view to stimulating interest, discussion and the further development of this tool. Although the international movement of animals and animal products represents the main theme, this issue will interest not only import regulatory officers but also anyone involved in decision-making in animal health and international trade.

Appropriately, the preface and introduction present the impetus and rationale for the use of risk assessment in animal health. One article is devoted to definitions and,

for comparison, another article elaborates the definitions and use of risk assessment in meat hygiene. A third article summarizes the historical relationship between risk assessment and international trade. Twelve papers present quantitative and qualitative methods. Most of the methods are illustrated with examples of animal-health activities, particularly with regard to the movement of animals and animal products. In addition, papers are included on two necessary inputs to any risk assessment: the assessment of surveillance and animal health monitoring systems, and the assessment of Veterinary Services.

This issue is being presented at the exciting developmental phase of risk assessment in animal health. It is expected to make a dramatic contribution.