

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**

**INFORMATION PAPER**

**Rural Economy and Land Use Programme - Reducing *Escherichia coli* O157 risk in rural communities**

At its September 2009 meeting the ACMSF were requested to advise on the recommendation from the Public Inquiry into the South Wales *E.coli* O157 outbreak that super-shedders should be explored as a mechanism for spreading *E. coli* O157. The Committee requested a review of recent research on this topic<sup>1</sup> and this was presented by Dr Chris Low at the December 2009 ACMSF meeting. A summary of recently completed and on-going research projects funded by Defra and the FSA with relevance to the supershedding of *E.coli* by cattle and other ruminants was also provided<sup>2</sup>.

The review included information on the Rural Economy and Land Use Programme (RELU) being led at the University of Aberdeen. This project brings together geography, sociology, economics, medicine, microbiology, ecology and food science to research reducing the risk of human *E.coli* O157 infection in UK rural communities.

Dr Norval Strachan, School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, will brief the Committee via presentation ACM/1010a on findings from the RELU programme in relation to reducing the *E. coli* O157 risk in rural communities focussing on microbial persistence, public awareness, immunity, risk assessment, cost of infection and acceptability of interventions.

Members are invited to comment on the presentation.

**Secretariat  
January 2011**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfmeets/acmsf2009/acmsf240909/acmsfmin240909>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/committee/acm964ukresearch.pdf>