

Preface

Every farmer, every veterinary surgeon and indeed all those who have an interest in livestock production need to know about farm animal behaviour in order that they can carry out their jobs properly. All of these people and all consumers of farm animal products have to consider their moral stance in relation to farm animal welfare and require precise information about that welfare in order to do this. This book is a comprehensive guide to the behaviour of farm animals which provides practical information for those involved with farming and veterinary work. It also reviews the scientific information which is available concerning the assessment of animal welfare, and the evaluation of the effects on animals of different management methods and housing conditions. Such assessment necessarily involves measurement of physiology, disease state and production as well as behaviour.

Farm animals are very good subjects for behaviour studies so many important advances in our understanding of fundamental aspects of animal behaviour have come from farm animal behaviour studies. Concepts concerning social structure, behaviour development, parent-offspring relationships, sexual behaviour, and the role of behaviour in coping with adversity have depended greatly on evidence obtained from farm animal studies. If evolutionary questions are being asked the changes in the species during domestication must be taken into account, but farm animals have the same range of behaviour as wild animals. It is easy to obtain data about behaviour from farm animals; they are available in large numbers and are often genetically very similar to one another. Our understanding of farm animal behaviour and welfare, however, is much enhanced by ideas based on studies of the behaviour of wild animals, laboratory animals and man. This fact will be apparent to readers as this book refers to examples of important work on a variety of species where such information is necessary for adequate appreciation of the mechanisms underlying farm animal behaviour.

The number of research studies in progress now on the behaviour of farm animals is at least five times larger than the number which were underway when the first edition of *Farm Animal Behaviour* was published and such work is helping farming and veterinary practice in many ways. Precise scientific studies on animal welfare are now sufficient to form an important part of the evidence upon which laws can be based. In these circumstances, those who are learning about, keeping up to date with, or legislating upon livestock farming, veterinary medicine or applied biology need a source of information about the current state of our knowledge of farm animal behaviour and welfare. This text provides that information in a way which is easy for the beginner to understand but which includes discussion of complex topics and reference to the literature relevant to that area.

Hence, as well as being useful to farmers, agricultural advisors and veterinary surgeons, it is suited to a comprehensive university or college course on behaviour science applied to farm animals.

This book includes much new material which is not in the second edition of *Farm Animal Behaviour*. The first two sections are entirely new and deal with fundamental aspects of behaviour. They include a substantial chapter on describing and measuring behaviour. The next three sections concern the organisation of behaviour in the individual farm animal and the social, reproductive, developmental and parental behaviour of farm animals. The final section of twelve chapters on farm animal welfare is new and represents the most extensive review of this subject published to date. This section includes practical information on the humane control of livestock and on welfare and behaviour in relation to disease as well as details of the scientific assessment of animal welfare and comparisons of the welfare of cattle, pigs and poultry in different systems. The book is illustrated with many photographs and includes a comprehensive reference list and a glossary.

A.F. Fraser MRCVS, MVSc, FIBiol
Professor of Surgery (Veterinary),
Memorial University of Newfoundland,
Canada

D.M. Broom MA, PhD, FIBiol
Colleen Macleod Professor of Animal Welfare,
Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine,
University of Cambridge,
U.K.