

## ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AT ROTHAMSTED RESEARCH

Rothamsted Research supports openness regarding the essential and responsible use of animals in research under best welfare practice according to UK law.

The purpose of research that involves animals at Rothamsted is to advance our knowledge and understanding of grazing livestock (ovine and bovine) systems, to improve nutrient use efficiency in such systems and to optimise agricultural sustainability. This research may involve the trialling of novel feeding systems, and farm based testing of approaches and treatments that have the potential to improve animal health and nutrient metabolism. In some experimental designs the potential of these tests to improve the composition of animal products (e.g. meat quality) may be analysed. A strategic aim of Rothamsted Research is to develop grazing systems which will maximise the flow of nutrients from soil through to animal product and minimise pollution to the atmosphere (N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>) and to water courses. Currently, it is not possible to do the above research with alternative experimental approaches which do not use animals. Rothamsted Research supports the [principles of the 3Rs](#) - Replacement, Reduction and Refinement in animal research and we are working with the wider scientific community to continue progressing the 3Rs.

### Rothamsted Research is committed to openness

Rothamsted Research is a signatory of the [Concordat on Openness in Animal Research in the UK](#). Through the Concordat, we have made four commitments:

- **Commitment 1:** We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research.
- **Commitment 2:** We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our research using animals.
- **Commitment 3:** We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals.
- **Commitment 4:** We will report on progress annually and share our experiences.

### How is the use of animals in research regulated?

The use of animals in research and testing is strictly regulated under the [Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986](#) (ASPA). ASPA is implemented by the Home Office in England, Scotland and Wales and by the Department for Health, Social Security and Public Safety in Northern Ireland. Research involving animals at Rothamsted is carried out under three licences and according to ASPA conditions:

- a personal licence for each person carrying out procedures on animals
- a project licence for the programme of work
- an establishment licence for Rothamsted Research where the work is carried out

All applications are assessed by the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) at Rothamsted Research before an application for license is submitted to the Home Office.

Rothamsted Research offers continuous training and guidance to all staff involved in animal research.