Casualty Slaughter Guidelines

- The animal must be otherwise healthy and have suffered an accident that renders it unable to be transported to a slaughterhouse for welfare reasons.
- The animal is unfit to travel if it is ill, injured, infirm or fatigued.
- There is no obligation for a slaughterhouse to accept casualty animals – a willing slaughterhouse MUST be found BEFORE the animal is slaughtered.
- There must be an OV (Official Veterinarian) present at the slaughterhouse to perform a post-mortem examination – your own vet will not do!
- An ante-mortem examination must be performed by your veterinary surgeon on the farm before slaughter.
- The animal must be clean in order for the carcase to pass for human consumption.
- The animal must be accompanied by an Emergency Slaughter Declaration completed by the owner and the veterinary surgeon performing the ante-mortem inspection.
- The animal must be at the slaughterhouse within 2 hours of slaughter; if transporting the carcase to the slaughterhouse will take longer than 2 hours, then a refrigerated vehicle must be used.
- The slaughterhouse accepting the animal is not a guarantee that the animal can enter the food chain – the OV may still condemn the carcase at the post-mortem inspection.

SO:

A farmer must have:
- A slaughterhouse with an OV prepared to accept the carcase within 2 hours of slaughter, or a refrigerated vehicle for transporting the carcase.
- An animal which is otherwise healthy and has suffered an accident such that it is unable to be transported for welfare reasons.
- An animal which is clean enough to enter the human food chain.

BETORE the animal can be slaughtered on farm.

Please refer to BCVA ‘guidance for veterinary surgeons on the emergency slaughter of cattle’ booklet, copies can be found in each practice vehicle and in the FAP office.