



February (Summer) 2009, 1 page

## **UK: HOSPITALS WILL TAKE MEAT OFF MENUS IN BID TO CUT CARBON**

**By Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation**

26 January 2009. Last week, the German federal environment agency went further, advising people to eat meat only on special occasions.

The plan to offer patients menus that would have no meat options is part of a strategy to be published tomorrow that will cover proposals ranging from more phone-in GP surgeries to closing outpatient departments and instead asking surgeons to visit people at their local doctor's surgery.

Among the most talked-about is likely to be the suggestion that hospitals could cut carbon emissions from food and drink by offering fewer meat and dairy products.

Dr David Pencheon, director of the NHS sustainable development unit, said the move would cut the relatively high carbon emissions from rearing animals and poultry, and improve health.

*Research that has been done into the health benefits of low fat, high iron venison should be made more public. A balanced and nutritious diet is essential for a speedy recover – Editor comment.*