



The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) provides a forum for communication and collaboration among all partners in Canadian animal agriculture, focusing on responsible farm animal care.

Website: www.nfacc.ca

August 2009 - In this issue: Summary of July 17th & August 4th NFACC Executive teleconference

Organizations Represented on NFACC

Agriculture & Agri-Food Portfolio (AAFC & CFIA)

Canada Mink Breeders Association
Canadian Bison Association
Canadian Cattlemen's Association
Canadian Cervid Alliance
Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
Canadian Meat Council
Canadian Poultry & Egg Processors Council
Canadian Pork Council
Canadian Restaurant and Food Services

Association

Canadian Sheep Federation
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Chicken Farmers of Canada
Coalition of Provincial SPCA's responsible for animal welfare law enforcement (BC, SK, ON)

Dairy Farmers of Canada
Egg Farmers of Canada
Equine Canada
Ontario Trucking Association, Livestock Haulers Division
Provincial Agriculture Departments
Provincial Farm Animal Councils (OFAC, MFAC, FACS, AFAC)

Researcher, University of British Columbia
Turkey Farmers of Canada

NFACC Information Update: August 2009

NFACC Executive Teleconference Summary from July 17th & August 4th, 2009

Project Funding Update – The Agricultural Flexibility Fund has been announced (<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1247082294164&lang=eng>). NFACC's Coordinator will draft a project application that will allow NFACC to meet its Business Plan objectives and performance measures. NFACC's Executive will review the application before it is submitted.

The next NFACC meeting has been set for September 29th in Ottawa. The NFACC Executive will be meeting on September 9th in Ottawa.

Animal Agriculture Alliance conference, May 12 & 13th, Washington, DC

There were approximately 175 participants at the conference, with 10 from Canada. The success of California's Proposition 2 has caused great concern. Speakers at the conference covered EU initiatives, the American situation, the use of state ballot initiatives, and a comparative study of animal welfare issues with the impact of environmental regulatory changes on the logging industry from a logger's perspective. Industry updates on animal care initiatives were presented (e.g., new beef quality assessment program, concept of a dairy animal care manual with 3rd party assessment). A new US beef animal well-being group has been organized. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association has been invited to participate. The committee includes researchers, producers and processing plants.

EconWelfare Project

(<http://www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/en/oi/nod/onderzoek/OND1331061/>)

The EconWelfare project is an EU funded project that aims to identify "the policy instruments needed to achieve the aims of the EU Action Plan on Animal Welfare". The project is divided up into different work packages, one of which is the identification and analysis of current animal welfare standards and initiatives. The project's coordinators were referred to NFACC, and asked for NFACC participation in answering a very comprehensive questionnaire on Canadian animal welfare initiatives, standards, policy instruments (e.g., regulations, labelling), and opinions regarding how animal welfare is managed in Canada. Given that Canada and the EU are currently in free trade negotiations, NFACC's Chair wrote to the AAFC Minister advising him of the EconWelfare project. Due to time and resource constraints, NFACC is not able to coordinate a comprehensive response to the questionnaire. NFACC's Coordinator also advised EconWelfare project coordinators that some questions were best addressed by the Canadian government (e.g., legislation and export related questions). However, NFACC's Executive determined that a focussed response on what NFACC is doing, and providing a few examples of recent initiatives, would be appropriate. This action is being followed up on by NFACC's Coordinator.

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) conference – "Swimming with the Tide-Animal Welfare in Veterinary Medical Education and Research," November 9-11, 2009 in Lansing, Michigan (www.avma.org/awsymposium). NFACC's Coordinator will be attending.

Organic Agriculture Task Force - NFACC has been asked to sit on two Organic Agriculture Task Force Committees (one for poultry and one for pork). The Committees will be working to address several outstanding challenges regarding implementation of the organic standards under the Organic Products Regulations which came into effect June 11, 2009. Industry stakeholder groups and the Canadian General Standards Board, which is responsible for administration of the organic standards, have identified a number of technical issues that are hampering implementation. Many of the difficulties are considered to have animal welfare implications (e.g., outdoor housing). It is expected that the respective commodity associations would have their own representatives on the Task Forces. The Executive agrees that given its central role in respect of animal care issues in Canada, NFACC should be represented on the Committees, but with clear guidelines. NFACC's input should only relate to the science behind welfare topics and its role in Code development (to avoid 2 sets of national animal welfare standards and ensure a consistent approach). An NFACC representative(s) has not been named, but will be someone who is aware of all the issues and able to bring them back to NFACC members in an objective fashion.