



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

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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: July 22, 2009

NFACC Executive Teleconference Summary from June 1, 2009

Warren Skippon was welcomed as the new CVMA representative on NFACC's Executive committee.

NFACC's Chair, Edouard Asnong, met with ADM Steve Tierney in Ottawa on May 27th. Other participants included Susie Miller, John Ross, Adrianna Delaney and Jackie Wepruk (via teleconference). The meeting focused on identifying optimal options for NFACC to access project funding to ensure important farm animal welfare initiatives (e.g. Codes of Practice) are supported. AAFC is committed to helping NFACC meet its objectives. In kind contributions to NFACC need to be clearly stated within NFACC's budget. NFACC must also be able to demonstrate the tangible value of addressing farm animal welfare. Agri-Flexibility was identified as the appropriate venue for NFACC to access project funding. The program will be available either by the end of June, or not until September.

GRIDA Animal Welfare Law Conference, Montreal, Quebec, May 20-21st (<http://www.grida.ugam.ca/en/grida.asp>). Several attendees will provide NFACC's Coordinator with their summaries which will be synthesized into a single summary for NFACC members. Concerns were raised about the animal rights bend to this conference, the communication of errors in biological fact within some presentations, and the negative beliefs regarding the motivation of farmers. The line between animal welfare and animal rights was blurred. It was suggested that NFACC's next conference should address the distinction between animal rights and animal welfare. If another GRIDA conference is held, alternative perspectives should be presented and misinformation corrected.

FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare. This new website (www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/animal-welfare/en/) offers a one stop resource for animal welfare materials from legislation to training programs and codes. It is an opportunity to 'advertise' NFACC and Canadian initiatives in farm animal welfare. It was agreed that NFACC should sign on as a contributor of information. NFACC will not upload materials from other sources (e.g., commodity groups), but will advise groups of the availability of the FAO website and offer assistance as needed to facilitate making Canadian resources available. Only if requested will NFACC upload resources on behalf of its members. Only publicly available NFACC information will be uploaded. AAFC will be advised that NFACC is willing to facilitate the delivery of Canadian animal welfare information to the FAO website.

Welfare Quality Final Stakeholder Conference (www.welfarequality.net). The EU Welfare Quality project is coming to a close and final results will be delivered at this conference in Sweden (October 8-9th). NFACC members are encouraged to send representatives to this conference. NFACC will be sending its Coordinator and Chair.

Swine Advisory Group. This national group aims to address animal welfare slaughter in the event of a disease outbreak in pigs. The implications of animal welfare slaughter are cross-species and a serious issue for which we

have no national strategy. Emergency management initiatives have not focused on animal welfare slaughter, but it has strong potential to be the 'weak link' in any emergency management strategy. Consensus that this is a topic that needs attention and that NFACC's Coordinator should participate on the advisory group. The Coordinator has included an activity (Risk Mitigation) within NFACC's draft project outline to support action in this area.

National Farm Building Code. NFACC was copied on a joint letter to the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) written by the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals and Animal Alliance of Canada. The letter, which was circulated to NFACC members, asked for changes to the National Farm Building Code (2005). The CCBFC has indicated that a review of the Farm Building Code may be initiated. It was agreed that NFACC's Coordinator will connect with the CCBFC to advise them of NFACC and offer its availability for consultation at such time as they might be considering a revision.