



## NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

### **Revisions to the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep Underway**

**(Ottawa) 21 March 2011** - The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) is pleased to announce the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep is being updated through the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) Code of Practice development process.

“Renewing the Codes of Practice provides a good opportunity to ensure the Codes are based on the most current scientific literature,” states Andrew Gordanier, Chair of the Canadian Sheep Federation. “As production systems and management evolves, reviewing the Codes of Practice helps ensure they remain relevant and well-used by producers. This assures stakeholders and the public that Canadian sheep and lambs continue to be produced under sound management and welfare practices that promote the well-being of the animal.”

Codes of Practice set out national guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals. They provide recommendations and requirements for housing, management, transportation and other animal husbandry practices. The Codes are prepared with input and support of scientific experts and by consensus of diverse groups involved or interested in farm animal care and welfare. The revision work for the Code of Practice has been made possible by funding received from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agri-Flexibility program.

“Practical solutions that address farm animal welfare concerns require a commitment from everyone to work together for progress and success,” says Geoff Urton, of the BC SPCA. “NFACC's Code development process provides a forum for this level of collaboration.” The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies is an active participant in the process.

“The Codes represent our national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended best practices,” says Edouard Asnong, Chair of NFACC. He stresses that responsible farm animal care is important to everyone, from the animals themselves to the producers and consumers.

Nadine Meade has been contracted as a Code Development Secretary and will facilitate the work of the sheep Code Development Committee. Nadine has a Master of Animal Science degree. Her work experience includes facilitating interactive discussions with diverse groups; including strategic planning and consensus building sessions, and working with Boards and industry groups to develop solutions to industry issues. Nadine is also the Code Secretary for the mink and ranched fox Code development committees.

The existing sheep Code was created in 1995. The revised edition is expected to be complete in 2013. For more information on the Codes of Practice and NFACC's Code development process visit [www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca).

### **About NFACC**

NFACC is a collaborative partnership of diverse stakeholders created in 2005 to share information and work together on farm animal care and welfare. It is the national lead for farm animal care issues in Canada.

NFACC would like to acknowledge the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) for their role in securing funding for this project.

### **About CSF**

The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) is a national non-profit organization that represents all Canadian sheep producers. Established in 1990, the primary responsibility of the organization is to set national policy for the sheep industry. The mission of the CSF is to represent all producers in providing leadership aimed at cooperative work among all levels of government and industry-related organizations, both domestic and foreign, to further the viability, growth and prosperity of the Canadian sheep, wool and dairy industry.

*Code of Practice updates initiated from 2010 to 2013 are part of the project: Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare. Funding for this project is made available through the federal government's AgriFlexibility Fund, which is delivered by Canada's Economic Action Plan (EAP). The EAP focuses on strengthening the economy and securing Canada's economic future. For more information on AgriFlexibility and Canada's Economic Action Plan, please visit [www.agr.gc.ca/agriflexibility](http://www.agr.gc.ca/agriflexibility) and [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).*

- 30 -

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