



Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.



A DIVISION OF



NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL  
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ÉLEVAGE

## Farm Animal Council E-News Update

Welcome to the first issue of E-News from the Farm Animal Councils in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario as well as the National Farm Animal Care Council.

Our goal is to give national and provincial organizations a quick look at what may be happening in a different region in Canada. Look for this E-News Update to come out 5 times a year. For more information on a specific topic, please consult with the appropriate farm animal organization.

### BC Farm Animal Care Council

The BC Farm Animal Care Council (BCFACC) was founded in 2009. BCFACC is funded in part by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program. In 2012, BC FACC will be working on:

Working with a local stock yard and a livestock behaviour expert, we will develop a **Livestock Behaviour & Handling Training Video for Auction Yard Staff**. This video will highlight best handling, un-loading and loading practices, as well as how to identify 'problems' with animals when they arrive at an auction yard. This video will be supplemented with an educational pamphlet.

BC FACC in partnership with provincial farm animal groups will develop **BC Ferries Best Practices for Care and Handling of Livestock and Poultry** educational materials to be distributed to all levels of BC Ferries employees. These materials will ensure proper understanding of the fragile nature of animals being transported on our waters and to assist in recognizing the pressing nature of timely loading and un-loading of transport vehicles carrying livestock and poultry.

Effective response to a livestock incident in BC would be enhanced by having strategically placed emergency **response trailers** equipped with the correct equipment/supplies to effectively secure a scene and safely rescue livestock, while ensuring public safety. In 2012, we will conduct a study to determine what would be required to establish emergency response trailers in strategic transport/farming regions throughout BC.

### Alberta Farm Animal Care

**The 2012 Livestock Care Conference** will be held on March 21 & 22 at the Holiday Inn on 67<sup>th</sup> Street in Red Deer, Alberta. This year's meeting promises to be a thought-provoking discussion of local, national and international issues that affect everyone connected to animal agriculture. Visit [www.afac.ab.ca/lcc](http://www.afac.ab.ca/lcc) for more information.

A funding proposal to support the development of a **livestock handling trailer program** is under review by Growing Forward. This project aims to: 1) develop a program to effectively manage a system of livestock handling trailers in various sites across Alberta and 2) create a training program to ensure the people deployed to situations where the trailers are used are aware of the best practices and the requirements for using the trailers.

The Canadian Agriculture Adaptation Program and many stakeholders in the livestock industry are supporting the creation of a **Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) program**. In late 2011, Geraldine Auston was hired as Project Coordinator. A national Cattle Module is in the final stages of review by industry and transportation stakeholders and a study of online course delivery has been initiated. To date over 1750 livestock transporters and handlers have taken the CLT course. For more information visit: [www.livestocktransport.ca](http://www.livestocktransport.ca).

### **Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan**

As the provincial producer-driven non-profit organization advancing responsible animal care, the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan educates both consumers and those working in the agriculture industry. As we enter our 21<sup>st</sup> year, we continue to see our multi-commodity collaborative approach to animal welfare remain strong.

Commodity groups are already signing up to sponsor the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan's **2012 'We Care' billboard campaign**. The billboards introduce people travelling throughout the province to producers dedicated to responsible animal care 24/7. Since the 'We Care' campaign was launched in 1996, the collaborative effort has become the largest CBS Outdoor multi-commodity campaign in Canada.

FACS is in the process of updating the **Livestock Resource Kit**, which will be available to RCMP officers and the training depot. The information covers such topics as handling of frightened and injured livestock, and humane euthanasia of animals by firearm.

This year's **Stock Person's School**, a collaborative effort of the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, focuses on bull health and management. Several informative speakers will share their knowledge May 2, at the College on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon.

### **Ontario Farm Animal Council**

The Ontario Farm Animal Council and AGCare, two coalitions formed in 1987, amalgamated as of January, 2012 to become Farm & Food Care Ontario. **Farm & Food Care Ontario** is the first coalition of its type in Canada, bringing together tens of thousands of livestock, crop and horticulture farmers and related businesses with a mandate to provide credible information on food and farming in Ontario. To learn more visit [www.farmfoodcare.org](http://www.farmfoodcare.org)

Kristen Kelderman, a recent graduate from the University of Guelph with a degree in Animal Science has been hired to the role of **Farm Animal Care Coordinator** for Farm & Food Care Ontario.

The annual **farm creativity contest** received more than 1600 entries – up from 961 entries in 2010 and only 40 in the contest's first year – 2006. The contest encourages students to document their visit to a farm, farm exhibit or fall fair by drawing a photo and telling a story about their experience. Prizes are awarded in a variety of age categories.

### **National Farm Animal Care Council**

The mandate of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) is to provide a national coordinated approach, promoting responsible farm animal care.

**Eight Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals** are being updated and in various stages of development, including beef cattle, pigs, mink, fox, equine, sheep, poultry (meat) and poultry (layers). National commodity associations take the lead in initiating the update of their industry's Code and follow NFACC's Code development process. Visit [www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice](http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice) for details and a timeline outlining steps and progress to date.

The credibility of Codes is also tied to their implementation. NFACC is facilitating multi-party discussions on an **Animal Care Assessment Model (ACAM)**. The ACAM will establish a nationally coordinated and credible process for groups to follow when developing an animal care assessment program. The Dairy Farmers of Canada are facilitating the finalization of the ACAM by test piloting the Model. For more details visit [www.nfacc.ca/animal-care-assessment-model](http://www.nfacc.ca/animal-care-assessment-model).

**NFACC Information Updates** are circulated electronically on a quarterly basis and available from [www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca). To be added to our distribution list email [mikki@nfacc.ca](mailto:mikki@nfacc.ca).