



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.

www.nfacc.ca

NFACC Partners:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Portfolio (AAFC, CFIA)
- Canada Fox Breeders Assoc.
- Canada Mink Breeders Assoc.
- Canadian Bison Association
- Canadian Cattlemen's Assoc.
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
- Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
- Canadian Meat Council
- Canadian Poultry and 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 SPCAs (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, FACS, AFAC, BCFAAC)
- Research Community
- Turkey Farmers of Canada

NFACC Information Update: July 2011

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AGRI-FLEXIBILITY PROJECT

Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare – a project made possible through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agri-Flexibility program funding.

NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE CONFERENCE

Advancing Animal Care and Addressing Market Expectations

October 5- 6, 2011

Hilton Garden Inn Ottawa Airport, Ottawa, Ontario

Register now for the **National Farm Animal Care Conference**.

Stay current on animal care issues and NFACC's commitment to animal care. Hear from and interact with retailers, farmers, humane society representatives, researchers and others.

One of our featured speakers is Kathleen Plowman, General Manager Policy with Australia Pork. Her presentation will be 'Market Demand Impacts on Code Development: an Australian case study'. She will explain Australia's code development process and recent market changes that resulted in an industry decision to move to gestation stall free production.

Kathleen's department is the key point of contact with industry stakeholders. She will outline the challenges for Australia Pork in balancing the impact of regulatory shifts, changes to government policy, and the compliance requirements in its markets, while ensuring producers and the industry remain competitive and sustainable.

Visit www.nfacc.ca/conferences for the full agenda, to register and to read the invitation to food industry partners by Edouard Asnong, Chairman NFACC. The one and a half day conference at the Hilton Garden Inn, Ottawa, ON begins at noon on Wednesday, October 5.

CODES OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF FARM ANIMALS

Revisions to the Codes of Practice are progressing according to project schedule. Following is a summary of each Code under revision:

Beef Cattle – the Code Development Committee (CDC) has had three in-person meetings. The Scientists' Committee (SC) has submitted the painful procedures section of its report to the CDC for its review.

Mink and Ranched Fox – the majority of the members on the mink and ranched fox Codes committees represent both industries so meetings are scheduled consecutively. The CDCs have had three in-person meetings. They are approximately halfway through the first drafts of the Codes. The SCs are working on their reports; they are in the process of arranging a meeting with European representatives who will be attending an international conference in Guelph. The completion date for the SC report has been moved to August.

Equine – the CDC has had three in-person meetings to discuss and review its Code. The CDC has completed approximately half of the first draft of the Code. The next meeting is planned for November. The SC is moving forward with its report on the priority welfare issues, and has completed its chapter on ‘training and handling’. This chapter provided a summary of the different forms of learning relevant to horse training and handling, and how correct application of positive and negative reinforcement can enhance horse welfare. The CDC reviews the SC report as chapters become available. The SC’s next chapter will be on research related to facilities and housing.

Pigs – the CDC has had three face-to-face meetings. The first draft of the revised Code is complete and under review by the CDC. The pig SC has completed the first draft of the scientific literature review for its report. The SC will then review the full draft report before it is presented to the CDC later this fall.

Sheep – the inaugural CDC meeting was held in May. The CDC and SC have completed the priority welfare issues list. The SC is reviewing and summarizing the literature for its report. The next meeting is planned for October.

Poultry – the Turkey Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers have requested that NFACC initiate the process to update the Recommended Code of Practice for Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant. A media release with more details will be available soon.

Visit www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice for more details on the Codes, the Code Development guidelines and a timeline on where each Code is in the revision process.

Surveys

Stakeholder buy-in for the Codes of Practice is vital. One way to achieve this is by providing the opportunity for input through online surveys. Surveys will be developed for each Code under revision. An initial general survey will gather attitudes and opinions about the Codes of Practice. Subsequent surveys will collect opinions and attitudes about elements within the Code.

The equine industry is piloting the Code survey concept. The first survey is online at www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/equine.

ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCT ASSURANCE

An Animal Care Assessment Model (ACAM) Steering Committee has been formed to provide active guidance and support in revising and finalizing the ACAM. The original draft Model was developed through NFACC in 2009.

The ACAM aims to:

- facilitate the development of animal care assessment programs by providing an informed framework and useful resources,
- enhance the transparency, legitimacy and credibility of assessment programs,
- facilitate communication along the value chain regarding how animal care assessment is conducted in Canada,
- balance the need for consistency but also flexibility between animal care assessment programs,
- incorporate scientific concepts in animal welfare assessment,
- facilitate and accelerate technology transfer on farms.

Animal Care Assessment Programs (ACAP) developed through the Model would be based on the Code of Practice. The programs will provide farmers with a concrete measurable tool to provide assurances on animal welfare and demonstrate adoption of the Codes. The Dairy Farmers of Canada will facilitate the finalization of the ACAM by test piloting the Model.

A stakeholder workshop is organized for August to review the draft ACAM. Progress on the ACAM will be posted at www.nfacc.ca/animal-care-assessment-model.

NFACC COMMUNICATION PLAN

NFACC has developed a communication strategy and action plan to increase awareness and understanding of the Codes of Practice. Resources have been developed to assist NFACC partners in promoting the Codes of Practice and the Code development process.

Communication initiatives include a brochure, poster, a booth display, a standardized PowerPoint presentation and key messages and speaking notes. Contact Jackie at nfacc@xplor.net or Mikki at declercq@shaw.ca for these resources.

Through this plan we developed a NFACC / Codes of Practice Communications Style Guide that will be used internally to ensure consistency of style between Code materials and resources. We are also working on an historical piece that will chronicle progress to date and showcase NFACC's activities and achievements.

NFACC LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

A facilitated planning session was held at NFACC's April board meeting to create alignment around a sustainable future for NFACC. The goal is to develop a long-term sustainability plan that will take NFACC beyond 2013.

Participants were tasked with identifying the top aspects from NFACC's past including what they are proud of, what regrets they have, and what they saw as the likely threats and opportunities for the organization. They were also asked, relative to NFACC's history, what would they do again and what would they avoid.

Key directional priorities were identified, with small working groups assigned to further flesh out actions needed to address the priorities. A final report will be available soon, including recommendations for action by NFACC's Executive.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit NFACC.ca for links to the following events.

- ✓ **45th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)** • Jul 31 - Aug 4, 2011 • Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A.
- ✓ **5th International Workshop on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level** • Aug 8 - 11, 2011 • Guelph, ON
- ✓ **National Farm Animal Care Conference** • October 5-6, 2011 • Ottawa, ON
- ✓ **Feeding a Hungry World: A Summit for Animal Agriculture** • Oct 17-18, 2011 • Ottawa, ON