



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 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, BC FACC)
Research Community
Turkey Farmers of Canada

NFACC Information Update: February 2010

Update on NFACC's Agri-Flexibility application

NFACC has received approval in principle for the project, *Addressing domestic and international market expectations relative to farm animal welfare*, submitted through the Canadian Animal Health Coalition. Funding is conditional on the signing of a contribution agreement and the re-development of the work plan to address concerns raised during the application review. A steering committee has been established to finalize the work plan and provide active guidance and support throughout the project.

NFACC's Chair and Coordinator will participate on the Steering Committee, along with representatives from AAFC and CFIA.

The project covers:

- Updating Codes of Practice, including the beef cattle, pigs, equine and mink Codes
- Finalizing an animal care assessment model
- Promoting Canada's approach to farm animal care and fostering alliances
- Identifying gaps and mitigating risks relative to animal welfare in the event of market collapse (i.e., welfare slaughter).

A contribution agreement is anticipated to be in place by March 2010.

Update on the National Farmed Animal Health & Welfare Strategy (NFAHWS)

NFACC is represented on the Steering Committee that is charged with developing recommendations for the operation and funding of the proposed national farmed animal health and welfare council/advisory body.

In November 2009 the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Deputy Ministers approved in principle to establish a NFAHWS Council, and to cost share it as per the Steering Committee's recommendations. That report was distributed to NFACC members on November 23, 2009.

Further work was requested by the FPT DM's before giving final approval for a Council. The Steering Committee has been addressing this request, which included a review and update of the draft Terms of Reference for the Council, further clarification of the funding arrangement by government and industry and accountabilities of the Council.

The draft documents produced by the Steering Committee should be available for stakeholder review by February 19th. One of the Co-chairs of the Steering Committee will be available at NFACC's meeting on March 30th to discuss the proposed direction forward. How animal welfare and NFACC are to be addressed within the Council will be of particular interest to NFACC members.

Legitimacy & Canadian Farm Animal Welfare Standards Development: The Case of the National Farm Animal Care Council

A review of NFACC and the new Code of Practice development process has been published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*,

February 2010 by Andrea Bradley and Rod MacRae of York University in Toronto.

From the abstract, "The aim of this paper is to catalogue factors that influence legitimacy in farm animal welfare standard-setting, including which narratives of animal welfare are emphasized by standard-setters. Drawing upon the example of the baseline Canadian standards, and the National Farm Animal Care Council, the paper will present a theoretical and methodological framework for analyzing legitimacy in the context of animal welfare standards-development and discuss associated policy considerations."

Interviews for the article appear to have been conducted in 2007, prior to the Code of Practice for the care and handling of dairy cattle and the Code of Practice development process being finalized.

The full article can be accessed and/or purchased on-line from
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/17161140u181j25j/>.

Upcoming Events

American Meat Institute Animal Care and Handling Conference, Kansas City, MI – **March 25 – 26, 2010**
(<http://www.meatami.com/ht/d/sp/i/11948/pid/11948>)

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Association Livestock Care Conference, Red Deer, AB – **March 26, 2010**
(www.afac.ab.ca)

NFACC meeting, Ottawa, ON – **March 30, 2010**

Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) Annual Meeting, Guelph, ON – **April 8, 2010** (www.ofac.org)

Animal Agriculture Alliance 9th Annual Stakeholders Summit, Arlington, VA – **April 28 – 29, 2010**
(<http://www.animalagalliance.org/current/index.cfm>)

International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare, Kansas State University – **May 19 – 21, 2010**
(<http://www.isbcw.beefcattleinstitute.org>)