



Information Update (July 2007)

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[Animal Welfare Initiatives in Japan](#)

Dr. Jeff Rushen, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), has kindly shared his communications with Japanese counterparts on Japanese initiatives in farm animal welfare. The information provided by Professor Shusuke Sato, PhD (Graduate School of Agricultural Science at Tohoku University, Japan) is summarized below.

- The Japanese government established an 'exploratory committee' on animal welfare developments within the OIE & Europe two years ago
- The committee has developed a report (May 2007) with the following 4 recommendations:
 - o Japanese animal welfare guidelines need to take Japanese culture, climate and ethics into account
 - o Consideration needed of the balance between animal welfare and economics
 - o Respect for farm animals and pet animals should be considered separately
 - o Animal welfare guidelines and agriculture law need to be harmonized
- The committee will be responsible for developing animal welfare guidelines for laying hens, pigs, broilers and cattle over the next 4 years (2007 – 2010). Cages systems for laying hens and gestating sows will be considered first. Rearing systems for cattle (including dairy) will be addressed later (2009 – 2010).
- Korea is moving in the same direction. Prof. Sato has connected with Korean animal welfare scientists.
- Prof. Sato requested a copy of the Canadian dairy code. Dr. Rushen referred him to NFACC's website.
- Link to university website: <http://www.agri.tohoku.ac.jp/rikuken/index.html>

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[Upcoming Canadian publication: The Welfare of Cattle](#)

A Canadian book entitled [The Welfare of Cattle](#) will be published in the fall, 2007, or winter, 2007/08, by authors, Jeffrey Rushen, Anne Marie de Passillé, Marina A. G. von Keyserlingk and Daniel M. Weary. The European Food Safety Association is conducting a review of research into dairy cattle welfare in preparation for upcoming legislation. The authors hope the book will be used as a resource.

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[Final Report of the OIE's 75th General Session](#)

This report is now available on the OIE's website at http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/actes/en_rfina.htm. Animal welfare related reports and resolutions to note include:

- Report of the Animal Welfare Working Group – pg. 38

Please direct questions or comments to Jackie Wepruk, NFACC Coordinator, @ (403) 783-4066 or nfacc@xplornet.com

- Resolution No. IX: Agreement between OIE & World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) – pg. 121
- Resolution No. XIV: Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare – pg. 126
- Resolution No. XXV: Animal Welfare – pg. 143

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[OIE animal welfare Collaborating Centre established in New Zealand](#)

Massey University's Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre has been recognized as a Collaborating Centre of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). It is one of two Collaborating Centres for animal welfare, the other being in Teramo, Italy. Press release:

<http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/press/070712oiecollaborating.htm>

It is anticipated that a small international network of similar centres will be established.

Note: Guideline for applicants for OIE Collaborating Centre status:

http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE/organisation/en_CC.htm?e1d8, includes a link to the mandate of Centres, internal rules and a list of existing Centres. The Animal Welfare Working Group has made limited use of Collaborating Centres in animal welfare thus far. However, Canadian institutions that are interested could submit an application.

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[DEFRA responds to Farm Animal Welfare Council's report on the welfare implications of animal breeding and breeding technologies](#)

The UK Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) "accepted or partially accepted several of FAWC's eight recommendations, including that surveillance systems should be established to monitor on-farm welfare problems associated with breeding, and to monitor farms where new breed types or new breeding technologies are first introduced into commercial practice."

Of the 8 recommendations, 1 was accepted, 3 were partially accepted and 4 were rejected. Rejection rationale included: current legislation is addressing the proposed recommendation, an EU-wide breeding Code is in place, and the breeding industry recognizes the importance of animal welfare.

A news release, the DEFRA response/FAWC report is available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2007/animal-0717.htm>

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[Wendy's strengthens animal welfare guidelines](#)

Wendy's International Inc. says it will preferentially buy from pork and chicken suppliers who improve systems for humane animal welfare by:

- encouraging suppliers to eliminate gestation stalls and preferentially-buying from suppliers who adopt these plans;
- purchasing preferentially from approved suppliers who actively explore and test Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) systems.

Wendy's Animal Welfare Program details, along with supplier requirements are outlined on its website at:

http://www.wendys.com/community/animal_welfare.jsp#5

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