



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.

Web site: [www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca)

**NFACC Partners:**

- 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, FACS, AFAC, BCFACC)
- Research Community
- Turkey Farmers of Canada

## NFACC Information Update: September 2010

In this issue:

- NFACC's Agri-Flexibility Project Update
- Upcoming Events

### Agri-Flexibility Project Update

*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.*

The following schedule is in place for initiating Code of Practice updates:

- Beef Cattle – September 2010
- Mink – October 2010
- Ranched Fox – October 2010
- Pigs – November 2010
- Equine – November 2010
- Sheep – January 2011

The respective Code Development Committees and Scientists Committees are in the process of being populated.

Code Development Secretaries play a pivotal role in the Code development process. They were contracted based on their strong facilitation, communication, critical thinking and research skills. NFACC and CAHC are pleased to introduce:

- **Ron Barker** from Abbotsford, BC has over 35 years of broad based animal agriculture experience. He has served diverse roles as an advisor to the Canadian livestock industry, dairy specialist within the BC Ministry of Agriculture, and as Chair of the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre Advisory Committee. His experience working on the Dairy Cattle Code Development Committee will be an asset to the team. Ron has a Master of Science in Agriculture degree from the University of Guelph and a Bachelor of Education degree from Queens' University. He will serve as Senior Code Development Secretary, providing assistance as needed, but initially with the equine code.
- **Allison Taylor** has a Masters of Agriculture in ruminant nutrition and a Ph.D. in Farm Animal Behaviour & Welfare, both from the University of Guelph. Her academic training and research focused on evaluating and improving the quality of life of farm animals, specifically swine and poultry. Allison has a strong commitment to animal care and welfare, along with a practical understanding of farming, with hands-on experience in dairy and small ruminant agriculture. She is from Green Valley, ON and will be the Code Development Secretary for the Beef Code of Practice.
- **Nadine Meade's** education and 15 years work experience in the animal agriculture industry has enabled her to develop a broad base knowledge of farm animal production. She has a Master of Animal Science degree and a certificate in Adult Education. Nadine's 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 based in St. Stephen, NB and will be the Code Development Secretary for the Mink and Ranched Fox Codes of Practice.
- **Betsy Sharples** has extensive project and committee management experience with over 20 years in the animal agriculture industry, including past Executive Director of the Ontario Trucking Association, Livestock Transporter's Division. Along with growing up on a farm, she has worked with various farm animal organizations, and served as transport representative on NFACC, the Canadian Zoning Committee, and on the Dairy Cattle Code Development Committee. Betsy will be the Code Development Secretary for the Pig Code of Practice. Betsy lives in Caledon, ON.

- **Caroline Ramsay** has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of British Columbia. She is based in Vancouver, BC. Caroline worked with the BC SPCA as their Farm Animal Welfare Coordinator for their food labeling program. She was the liaison between the program's Review Panel and farmers. Caroline has supplemented her professional training with an intensive course on group facilitation and by recently joining the BC Institute of Agrologists as an auditing agrologist. Her belief that a skilled and neutral facilitator is an essential component of any multi-stakeholder process will be an asset. Caroline will be the Code Development Secretary for the Equine Code of Practice.

Code of Practice Research Writers have also been contracted to work with the Scientists' Committees. Each Scientists' Committee will review research related to priority welfare issues for a species and develop a report summarizing key conclusions. The reports will be used by the respective Code Development Committee to develop the species specific Code. NFACC and CAHC are pleased to introduce:

- **Nicole Fenwick** has a Master of Science degree from the University of British Columbia and works part-time as a Three R's Program Coordinator for the Canadian Council of Animal Care. She has extensive experience in the development, writing, and copy-editing of science-based animal welfare publications including peer reviewed research papers and outreach publications. Nicole will be the Research Writer for the Beef Cattle Scientists' Committee.
- **Brooke Aitken** is completing her Master of Science in Applied Ethology at the University of Saskatchewan. Aside from defending her thesis on the use of temperament traits to predict maternal behavior of beef cattle, Brooke continues to work on her parents' beef cattle farm and manages her own flock of 65 ewes. Brooke will be the Research Writer for the Mink and Ranched Fox Scientists' Committee.
- **Nadine Ringgenberg** is a second year master's student at the University of Guelph. She specializes in pig welfare and behavior and is working on her research project at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research and Development Centre in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Nadine has experience working with different species on farm, including a farrow to finish pig operation. She will be the Research Writer for the Pig Scientists' Committee.
- **Stephanie Yue Cottee** has a Ph.D. in Applied Ethology from the University of Guelph. She continues to work at the university as a Sessional Instructor and Coursework Master of Science Program Coordinator. She has a solid scientific background in farm animal welfare and is adept at writing both scientific and outreach papers. Stephanie will be the Research Writer for the Equine Scientists' Committee.

## Upcoming Events

- **Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) International Symposium**

*Making animal welfare improvements: Economic and other incentives and constraints*

28 - 29 June 2011 in Portsmouth UK

From the UFAW web site [www.ufaw.org.uk/UFAWSYMPOSIUM2011.php](http://www.ufaw.org.uk/UFAWSYMPOSIUM2011.php)

"The aim of this conference is to consider economic aspects of animal welfare - economic incentives and constraints - and the societal attitudes of which these are a reflection. How much an individual, or society as a whole, is prepared to pay for animal welfare improvements appears to vary greatly depending on the species and circumstances of the animal. To what extent is this subject to change? Finding ways to develop economic drivers and incentives has proved to be a successful approach to animal welfare improvements in some cases. What potential is there for widely developing this approach?"

Visit the UFAW web site for more details including conference registration.