



## CODES OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF FARM ANIMALS

### Code Development Process

... working together for  
responsible farm animal care

### What are the Codes of Practice?

The Codes of Practice are nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals. They serve as our national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended best practices.

#### NFACC and the Codes

Canada's Code development process is led by the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). Key components of the process are:

- A Scientists' Committee to review research on priority welfare issues
- Stakeholder ownership of the Codes through active participation in Code development
- Measurable components that facilitate the development of assessment programs
- Enhanced transparency

#### Science- and consensus-based commitment

The Code Development Committee and the Scientists' Committee work together to develop a science- and consensus-based Code. The result is a Code that is scientifically informed, practical, and reflects societal expectations for responsible farm animal care.

#### Collaborative approach to Code development

Broad representation and expertise on each Code Development Committee ensures collaborative Code development. The Code development process fosters relationships and understanding amongst all partners involved in farm animal care. Stakeholder commitment is key to ensure quality animal care standards are established and implemented.

Stakeholders include farmers/producers, transporters, veterinarians, animal welfare and enforcement agencies, retail and foodservice organizations, processors, governments and researchers.

### NFACC Code Development Process

The development of new Codes and Code revisions follow specific steps that are designed to make the process transparent, collaborative, science and consensus-based, and participative.

- ▶ Industry group / specialized industry group identifies need for Code revision
  - ▶ Industry group / specialized industry group initiates the process with NFACC
  - ▶ Announcement made for the revision of a Code on NFACC's website
  - ▶ Industry group / specialized industry group selects members for the CDC\* per NFACC process guidelines
- ▶ National veterinary and research associations make recommendations to NFACC for members of SC\*\*
  - ▶ CDC deliberates on priority welfare issues
  - ▶ SC deliberates on priority welfare issues
  - ▶ Committees combine, compare and finalize the priority welfare issues list
- ▶ CDC prepares the Code (consulting with constituents as required)
  - ▶ SC reviews the scientific literature for each priority welfare issue and develops a report
- ▶ SC report goes to the CDC – the committee ensures all the priority welfare issues have been addressed
  - ▶ CDC uses the SC report to develop requirements and recommendations around priority welfare issues
  - ▶ SC report goes for peer review and is finalized
- ▶ Final draft Code is submitted to NFACC
  - ▶ NFACC makes Code available for 60-day public comment period
  - ▶ NFACC publishes SC report
- ▶ Following the public comment period the CDC considers feedback and revises draft as needed
- ▶ CDC submits final Code to NFACC
  - ▶ NFACC publishes and prints the revised Code
  - ▶ Industry begins efforts to ensure implementation of Codes

From start to finish, Code development takes at least two years to complete.

Visit [nfacc.ca](http://nfacc.ca) for the list of Codes currently under revision.



Codes should be reviewed regularly (e.g., every five years), and revised as needed to ensure they are current with government policy/regulation, industry practices and scientific research.

**NFACC's Code development process ensures credibility through scientific rigour, stakeholder collaboration and a consistent approach.**

\*CDC = Code Development Committee

\*\*SC = Scientists' Committee

### Credible guidelines on animal welfare

Codes of Practice are intended to promote sound management and welfare practices through recommendations and requirements for housing, care, transportation, processing and other animal husbandry practices.

Recommended best practices strive for continuous improvement and encourage a higher level of care. Requirements refer to either a regulatory requirement, or an industry-imposed expectation for responsible farm animal care and welfare.

Codes serve as educational tools, reference materials for regulations, and the foundation for animal care assessment programs.

**Stakeholder participation is critical for animal welfare to be addressed in a sustainable manner.**



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 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada  
Funding for the Codes of Practice is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agricultural Flexibility Fund (Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare).