



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Pig Code of Practice to be Updated

(Ottawa) 14 December 2010 - The Canadian Pork Council (CPC) is pleased to announce the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs will be updated through the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) Code of Practice development process.

"The Code renewal process is an excellent opportunity to further strengthen the pork industry's commitment to animal care and stewardship," states Florian Possberg, chair of the Code Development Committee who runs a family hog operation in Saskatchewan. "We recognize the growing interest from consumers in how we care for our animals. The Code is a key element in meeting this need by providing clear and transparent guidance on accepted practices."

Codes of Practice set out national guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals. They promote sound management and welfare through recommendations and requirements for housing, management, transportation, processing and other animal husbandry practices. Codes are prepared with the input and support of scientific experts and by consensus of diverse groups involved or interested in farm animal care and welfare.

"Practical solutions that address farm animal welfare concerns require a commitment from everyone to work together for progress and success," says Geoff Urton, of the BC SPCA. "NFACC's Code development process provides a forum for this level of collaboration." The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies will be an active participant in the process.

Jackie Wepruk, Executive Director of NFACC explains, "The revisions to the Code will be guided by NFACC's nationally recognized Code development process which includes a scientific review of research on key welfare issues." She continues, "The revision work for the Code of Practice has been made possible by funding received from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agri-Flexibility program."

Betsy Sharples has been contracted as a Code Development Secretary and will facilitate the work of the Pig Code Development Committee. Betsy has extensive project and committee management experience with over 20 years in the animal agriculture industry including past Executive Director of the Livestock Transporters Division of the Ontario Trucking Association.

The existing pig Code was created in 1993, the revised edition is expected to be released in 2013. For more information on existing Codes of Practice and NFACC's Code development process visit www.nfacc.ca.

About NFACC

NFACC is a collaborative partnership of diverse stakeholders created in 2005 to share information and work together on farm animal care and welfare. It is the national lead for farm animal care issues in Canada.

NFACC would like to acknowledge the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) for their role in securing funding for this project.

About CPC

The Canadian Pork Council serves as the national voice for hog producers in Canada. A federation of nine provincial pork industry associations, the organization's purpose is to play a leadership role in achieving and maintaining a dynamic and prosperous Canadian pork sector.

Code of Practice updates initiated from 2010 to 2013 are part of the project: Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare. Funding for this project is being made available through the AgriFlexibility, a program delivered in Canada's Economic Action Plan (EAP). The EAP focuses on strengthening the economy and securing Canada's economic future. For more information on AgriFlexibility and Canada's Economic Action Plan, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/agriflexibility and www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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