



Information Update (August 2006)

In this Update:

[Canadian Council on Animal Care \(CCAC\) releases 2nd draft guideline on farm animals](#)

[New Approach to Animal Welfare Assessments: Farm Animal Assessment Associates](#)

[Implementation of the EU's Welfare in Transport Regulation](#)

[Welfare Quality Project Update](#)

[International Training Workshop on Welfare Standards Concerning the Stunning and Killing of Animals in Slaughterhouses or for Disease Control](#)

[CCAC Draft Guidelines on Farm Animals](#)

The second draft of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines on: the care and use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing has now been posted on the CCAC website <http://www.ccac.ca> for review by CCAC constituents and other interested parties. The deadline for comments is September 22, 2006.

Points of interest:

- “CCAC views adherence to the recommended codes of practice for the care and handling of various species of farm animals as *minimum acceptable standards*, for example for research studies conducted on commercial farms.”
- Note the use of references where recommendations are based on science, regulations, or other knowledge sources (e.g., CVMA position statements, Codes).
- Note the use of referenced on-line sources for more detailed information
- Note the CCAC recommendations for housing systems, use of analgesics and stocking densities within the species addressed.

[Top](#)

[New Approach to Animal Welfare Assessments: Farm Animal Assessment Associates](#)

FAAA website: <http://www.animalassessment.com>

From a press release: “A group of recognized authorities on animal husbandry, genetics, welfare science, and veterinary medicine have organized to form Farm Animal Assessment Associates. The FAAA vision is to advance the welfare of farm animals by applying the best available science. Charter principals in the working group include animal scientists Stan Curtis, John McGlone, and Todd See and veterinarian Wayne Johnson.”

Please direct questions or comments to Jackie Wepruk, NFACC Coordinator, @ (403) 783-4066 or jraustin@telusplanet.net

Goals of FAAA are:

- To promote the use of science in assessing farm animal welfare
- To employ objective evidence in developing customizable basic algorithms for assessing farm animal welfare
- To develop genetic selection algorithms for improving farm animal welfare
- To develop farm animal welfare assessment products which will be readily and widely applicable

[Top](#)

[Implementation of the EU's Welfare in Transport Regulation \(European Council Regulation No 1/2005\)](#)

A new regulation on the protection of animals during transport will apply across the European Union starting January 5, 2007. Some elements will come into force in 2008 & 2009. The UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is consulting with stakeholders on the implementation of the new regulation

(<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/transport/eu-transportreg.htm#fit>). Below is a summary of requirements and the timetable for implementation (source: DEFRA website).

DATE	EVENT
January 5, 2007	Transporters carrying out journeys over 65km and under 8 hours must be authorized by the competent authority.
	Transporters carrying out journeys over 8 hours by road must be authorized by the competent authority and have their vehicles or livestock containers inspected and approved according to specific criteria.
	All new vehicles used for the transport of horses (except registered horses) or farmed animals on journeys over 8 hours by road will have to be equipped with a satellite navigation system. This will apply to all vehicles from 1 January 2009.
	Approval will be required for all livestock vessels (not roll-on roll-off ferries) used to transport horses or farmed animals by sea for distances greater than 10 nautical miles.
	All personnel who work at markets or assembly centres will be responsible for the welfare of animals and application of the rules on their premises. Training will be required.
	An ' unfit animal ' will be more tightly defined. It includes very young animals as well as animals that are sick or injured. Training will be required. Please note that journeys directly to or from a veterinary practice or clinic under the advice of a veterinarian are exempt from this regulation.
January 5, 2008	Drivers and attendants transporting farmed animals, horses and poultry on journeys over 8 hours or 65KM (approx. 40 miles) will require a certificate of competence. This will only be issued to the individual if they have received training and undergone an independent assessment.
January 1, 2009	All vehicles used for the transport of horses (except registered horses) or farmed animals on journeys over 8 hours by road will have to be equipped with a satellite navigation system.

[Top](#)

[Welfare Quality Project Update](#)

The 5-year EU project "is to provide practical science based tools and strategies to improve the welfare of farm animals." <http://www.welfarequality.net/ezine.m?id=34545>.

Summary of June 2006 update on projects:

- ✓ How pig farmers engage with animal welfare – results of a case study on pig farmers attitudes to animal welfare
- ✓ Do quality assurance labels support welfare claims
- ✓ Monitoring and assessing animal welfare
- ✓ EU's 5 –Year Action Plan on the protection and welfare of animals
- ✓ Minimizing damaging animal behavior – assessing what causes tail-biting in pigs and feather pecking in poultry and ways to prevent/minimize these behaviors on commercial farms
- ✓ Alleviating social stress in cattle & pigs
- ✓ Reducing lameness in cattle and poultry
- ✓ Initial results of consumer surveys regarding farm animal welfare

Note: Welfare Quality conference for stakeholders tentatively scheduled for April 2007

[Top](#)

[International Training Workshop on Welfare Standards Concerning the Stunning and Killing of Animals in Slaughterhouses or for Disease Control](#)

September 26 – 29th Bristol, UK (Details: <http://www.hsa.org.uk>)

Aim: fostering the worldwide promotion of high standards of livestock welfare at slaughter and killing. Sessions to include:

- ✓ Relevant EU legislation and international framework
- ✓ Scientific background on the principles of humane handling and slaughter
- ✓ Main stunning and killing techniques in slaughterhouses in Europe
- ✓ Inspection and auditing of automatic systems
- ✓ Biosecurity, environmental and food safety issues
- ✓ Methods of killing for control of animal disease epidemics
- ✓ Best practices and procedures for monitoring, proper enforcement, and evaluation of animal welfare
- ✓ Collection of specific information in order to contribute to the future development of internet-based learning activities for veterinarians in this field
- ✓ Observation of modern slaughterhouse methods and practices

Note: Martin Appelt, CFIA Humane Transportation Specialist will be attending this meeting. Martin has kindly agreed to provide NFACC with information that comes from the workshop, as well as to try to address any issues/questions that NFACC members may have. *Please connect with me (nfacc@xplornet.com) if there are any questions/issues you would like addressed. I will compile all responses in a single request document for Martin.*

[Top](#)

The funding for secretariat services, and other support by the Canadian Animal Health Coalition to the National Farm Animal Care Council, is provided through a Contribution Agreement for a project between AAFC and the Coalition.

'Initiating a National Farm Animal Care Council' is a project funded by AAFC's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is pleased to participate in the production of this communication. AAFC is committed to working with our industry partners to increase public awareness of the importance of the agriculture and agri-food industry to Canada. Opinions expressed in this document are those of the Canadian Animal Health Coalition and not necessarily of AAFC.



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