



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

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: August 2010

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Agri-Flexibility Project Update

The contribution agreement for the project, Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare is officially in place. Up to \$3.4 million in funding has been made available through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriFlexibility program fund.

The main focus for the next few months will be to initiate the Code of Practice development process for those commodity groups ready to proceed. Official announcements for those groups will be made shortly. Several contract positions have been developed and are in various stages of being filled:

1. Project Activity Assistant to assist the Project Coordinator in effectively and efficiently meeting project deliverables. Mikki Shatosky from Cochrane, Alberta has been contracted for this position. Mikki previously worked for Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Association and brings with her extensive experience in communications, web site management, and graphic design.
2. Code Development Secretaries to coordinate the development of species-specific Codes, working with the Code Development Committee and NFACC. Interviews have been conducted and offers have been made to select candidates. Successful candidates will be introduced in August.
3. Code of Practice Scientists' Committee Research Writers to work with a Scientists' Committee to develop a report synthesizing the results of research relating to key animal welfare issues, as identified by the Scientists' Committee and the Code Development Committee. Interviews have been conducted and offers will be made to select candidates.

EconWelfare Project Update

From the EconWelfare web site www.econwelfare.eu:

"EconWelfare is a European research project aiming to provide suggestions for national and European policy makers to further improve farm animal welfare. In collaboration with stakeholder groups it collates and investigates policy options and their impacts on the livestock production chain, the animal and European society."

EconWelfare's July newsletter summarizes the project's progress (available at www.econwelfare.eu/newsletters/2010_07_newsletter_EconWelfare.pdf).

Points to note:

- The majority of data collection has been completed. Researchers are now focusing on analysis and recommendations.
- Consumer, NGO and retailer surveys on attitudes and expectations relating to farmed animal welfare have been completed. Opinions of farmers, transporters and abattoir owners are being gathered through workshops. A final report is due in the Fall.
- A framework for making animal welfare policy decisions has been developed. The "objectives focus on increasing profitability for farmers." The framework is currently being fine tuned through consultations within the 9 partner countries of the project.

- The European Animal Welfare Platform (EAWP) is a 3 year European Commission sponsored project that started May 2008. EAWP's goals and partners sound similar to those of NFACC, but operationally EAWP seems quite different. Web site: www.animalwelfareplatform.eu.

Web site resources

Visit www.nfacc.ca for Recommended Reading links including:

- Are consumers willing to pay for animal welfare? A different approach to assess consumer-purchasing decisions when it comes to animal welfare
(www.dairyherd.com/news_editorial.asp?pgID=675&ed_id=11876&news_id=28210&ts=n12)
- European Commission launches Newsletter on animal welfare
(http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/newsletter_en.htm)