



Information Update (January 2007)

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[Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan \(FACS\) Annual Conference, December 12 & 13, 2006](#)

Some presentations are available at: http://www.facs.sk.ca/proactive_proceedings.htm. Key messages from presentations:

Erika L. Voogd, Voogd Consulting Inc. 'Animal Welfare: An Auditor's Perspective'
(<http://www.voogdconsulting.com>)

- Beef audits started in Canada in 2004, initially focused on facilitating positive change through discussion and experience from U.S. audits
- Expectations raised over time for continuous improvement (critical points being met), then started working back in the system (back pens) and further (how are plants monitoring their systems and ensuring problems are being fixed before audits)
- Highlighted plant initiatives to improve animal welfare, e.g., posted policy statements over the stun box to remind workers of expectations, innovative tools as alternatives to prods, captive bolt 'maps' and post-kill evaluations of heads to give feedback to operators
- Where are audits going in the future – not auditing feedlots yet, (in Europe it does go to the producer level), in poultry McDonalds does visit some suppliers
- The path forward: 1) Believe in the principles 2) Communicate the expectations 3) Train all those involved 4) Establish internal audit programs 5) Measure ongoing performance

Ian McMillan, Saskatchewan SPCA

- 255 (53%) cases farm animals, 228 other (47%) for 2005 – 2006 (April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006) total files open: 483
- SK SPCA follows Codes of Practice to assist with enforcement duties – does have some vagueness (e.g., what is adequate shelter?)

- Focus is education and helping producers to get standards up again. Charges are used as a last resort for grievous issues or where improvements are not forthcoming
- Most calls relate to cattle, though increasingly receiving calls on pigs from employees who are unfamiliar with hog production

Crystal Mackay, Manager of Ontario Farm Animal Council

- Many issues for consumers are not complicated – they just haven't thought about it before
- Terminology is key in surveys – 'learning' vs. 'knowing' more about farming – people want to know more, but not learn more
- People do not want to feel guilty about what they eat.
- "I don't care how much you know until you show how much you care." This is the message from the public that producers must pay attention to. Show that you care.

Karen McCaulley, FBI 'Animal Rights Extremists and Environmental Terrorism'

- Animal Liberation Front (ALF) principles outline that no human or animal should be harmed – therefore an ALF motivated action would not include introduction of an animal disease. An act like this would be one of a 'lone wolf.'
- Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (revision to a 1992 law) – signed into law on November 27th by Bush. Focuses on economic damage as caused by a terrorist act.

Tim Case, Senior Manager of Public Policy, American Quarter Horse Association, 'The Far Reaching Effects of HR 503, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act'

- Bill is indicative of the lack of agricultural knowledge within government
- No consideration of the care required for the excess horses resulting from a ban on slaughter
- Need to band together as an animal industry to address issues that will have peripheral impacts on specific industries
- Bill has now died and will have to be reintroduced
- Desire to work collaboratively with Canadian industry

Julie Bryant, Latigo Associates, 'Events that Have and Will Shape Our Industries'

- Challenges for the horse industry: legislation/regulation, lack of cooperation amongst horse groups, genetic engineering/overbreeding/inbreeding, bad press generated by animal rights groups, continuing debate regarding livestock/companion animal designations
- Trends for the future: growing political strength of animal groups (e.g. PETA, HSUS), continued growth of organic market, continued threats of disease outbreaks (e.g., AI, BSE, FMD), terrorism and the threat of terrorism, consumer demands and the increased buying influence of women

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[OIE-EU Workshop, 'Animal Welfare in Europe: achievements and future perspectives' held in Strasbourg, November 23 – 24, 2006](#)

- Objective: 'to examine methods of better collaboration between the organizations in drawing up welfare rules and codes and to examine ways of improving animal welfare standards at operational level.'
- Outcome: joint declaration adopted by Council of Europe (CoE), EU and OIE committing to 'greater cooperation on all aspects of animal welfare.'
- The workshop allowed the CoE, EU and OIE 'to consider how their existing activities could complement each other, with a view to maximizing the efforts being made to improve animal welfare in Europe.'
- Website for further information: www.coe.int/animalwelfare-workshop

Note: This development is of keen interest. What will be the ramifications for other countries if the OIE is agreeing to a higher level of cooperation on animal welfare with the EU? What

precedent has been set by the OIE in its process for addressing animal welfare? What are we doing in Canada to have enhanced communication with the OIE on this topic?

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[New EU Transport Regulations in force January 5, 2007](#)

On January 5, 2007 a new Regulation on the protection of animals during transport will apply across the European Union (EU), with some elements coming into force later in 2008 or 2009. It will replace European Directive 91/628. Below is a summary chart from DEFRA’s website.

DEFRA website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/transport/eu-transportreg.htm#fit>), EU website: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/transport/index_en.htm

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 .

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[International Finance Corporation \(IFC\) releases Good Practice Notes on ‘Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations’ \(November 2006\)](#)

Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations ‘aims to increase awareness among livestock operators in emerging markets on how certain well-established animal welfare principles and practices can improve their business performance and help them gain competitive advantage. It does so by providing resource information about global trends and emerging good practices in this area. It also shows how good practices in handling animals can improve the health and productivity of animals, thereby reducing costs and losses, and adding directly to the bottom line.’

“IFC will consider animal welfare issues when selecting projects and will seek ways to promote systems that positively impact animal welfare.”

http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/Content/Publications_GoodPractice

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New UK Animal Welfare Act in force April 2007

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/bill

Highlights include:

- Brings together more than 20 pieces of animal welfare legislation
- Introduces a ‘duty of care’ on people
- New offence of failing to provide for the needs of animal
- Allows action to protect animals earlier – intervention before an animal is in distress
- Emphasizes that owners and keepers need to understand their responsibilities and provide for the needs of their animals

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Consultation underway for new draft UK Animal Welfare Delivery Strategy

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2006/animal-1129.htm>

The Strategy outlines ‘the government’s vision for how animal welfare should be delivered in England over the medium term.’ The consultation ends February 20, 2007.

Strategic Goals:

- Improve educational efforts for animal keepers
- Research prioritization & funding, greater uptake of research outputs
- Consistent labelling framework
- Streamlined, consistent and effective enforcement of animal welfare rules (e.g., inspections targeted to ‘problem’ farms)
- Globally accepted animal welfare standards that are embedded in international legislation and agreements

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