



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.

Website: www.nfacc.ca

June 2010 - In this issue:

- Update on NFACC's Agri-Flexibility Project

Organizations Represented on NFACC

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, MFAC, FACS, AFAC, BC FACC)
Research Community
Turkey Farmers of Canada

NFACC Information Update: June 2010

Update on NFACC's Agri-Flexibility Project

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announced funding approval for NFACC's Agricultural Flexibility (Agriflex) Project, *Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare* on Friday, April 30, 2010, at the University of Guelph. Up to \$3.4 million in funding has been made available through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriFlexibility program fund.

The final touches are being made to a contribution agreement, which should be in place before the end of June, at which point work can begin in earnest.

A Steering Committee will provide active guidance and support throughout the project. NFACC's Chair and General Manager are on the Steering Committee, along with representatives from the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

A project management plan is being developed to effectively and efficiently achieve the desired outcomes of this complex project and make best use of resources.

There are four main activities with deliverables to be completed by December 31, 2013:

1. Codes of Practice

The work plan requires 5 Codes of Practice to be finalized, with another 3 initiated.

Four commodity groups have stepped forward to update their Code of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals according to the NFACC Code of Practice development process:

- Canadian Cattlemen's Association
- Canadian Pork Council
- Canada Mink Breeders Association
- Equine Canada

These groups are in the process of identifying their Code Development Committees, according to NFACC's Code development process (available at <http://nfacc.ca/Documents/Document-Item.aspx?id=113>).

The Canada Fox Breeders Association has recently indicated an interest in updating its Code of Practice too. Other commodities have also indicated some preliminary interest.

2. Assessment and Product Assurance

NFACC created a draft Animal Care Assessment Model (ACAM) through past federal government funding. The current Agri-Flexibility project will require:

- Finalization of the draft ACAM (2 workshops are planned to facilitate this process)
- Piloting and testing of the ACAM through the development of an animal care assessment program in one sector

- Develop and implement a benchmarking strategy, which would provide a simple, credible measure of improvements in animal welfare that provide benefits to producers and animals

3. Eye on the Markets

Two national animal welfare conferences will be held (2011 and 2013). The conferences will focus on:

- The Canadian Code development process (includes showcasing those sectors that have, or are in the process of, revising their Codes)
- The Canadian assessment/product assurance process, including benchmarking results
- Raising awareness of domestic and international initiatives related to animal welfare that may impact Canadian processes and markets

4. Animal Welfare Dilemma of a Market Breakdown – Identifying Gaps and Mitigating Risks.

A stakeholder workshop will be held to initiate discussion relative to Canada's potential vulnerabilities in the event of a market breakdown where animals must be euthanized en masse. Details are still being developed, but the intent is to facilitate a session that will lead to positive next steps.

NFACC and CAHC are busy pulling together the necessary human resources, via contract positions, to make this project a success. Contract position postings can be found on NFACC's website (www.nfacc.ca).