



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: March 2011

In this issue:

- NFACC's Agri-Flexibility Project Update
 - Codes of Practice
 - National Farm Animal Care Conference
 - Assessment and Product Assurance
- Farm Animal Welfare Resources
- Upcoming Events

Agri-Flexibility Project

Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare – a project made possible through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agri-Flexibility program funding.

CODES OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF FARM ANIMALS

Revisions to the Codes of Practice for beef cattle, mink, ranched fox, pigs and equine began in October. Each Code revision team is comprised of two committees:

- **A Code Development Committee** – members represent the interests of their respective organizations, collaborate with other committee members and contribute to the development of the Code. Committee members include producers (from each production phase), transporters, veterinarians, animal welfare representatives, regulatory enforcement representatives, processors, governments, researcher/academia and technical expertise. They provide species-specific expertise and experience.
- **A Scientists' Committee** – members review and develop a report that synthesizes the results of research relating to key animal welfare issues. Committee members are specialists in research on the care and management of the farm animal under consideration. The Code Development Committee uses the report in drafting the Code. National veterinary and research organizations make recommendations to NFACC as to the appropriate expertise on the Scientists' Committee.

Committee members are selected in accordance with NFACC's Code Development Process guideline document. Visit www.nfacc.ca for more details on the guidelines.

The sheep Code will be the next Code to be revised. Nadine Meade has been contracted as the Code Development Secretary. Nadine is also the Code Secretary for the mink and ranched fox Code revisions. The Scientists' Committee and Code Development Committee are in the final stages of being assembled.

The **Timeline for Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals** chart (below) provides an overview of progress for each Code under revision.



Timeline for Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)

Step	Process	Initiated					Completed / Estimated Completion Date	
		Dairy	Beef cattle	Equine	Pigs	Mink	Ranched Fox	Sheep
1	Industry group / specialized industry group identifies need for Code revision Industry group / specialized industry group initiates the process with NFACC Announcement made for the revision of a Code on NFACC's website Industry group / specialized industry group selects members for the CDC* per CDC guidelines	Oct 2007	Sept 2010	Nov 2010	Oct 2010	Oct 2010	Oct 2010	Jan 2011
2	National veterinary and research associations make recommendations to NFACC for members of SC** CDC deliberates on priority welfare issues Committees combine, compare and finalize the priority welfare issues list							
3	The CDC prepares the Code (consulting with constituents as required) The SC reviews the scientific literature for each priority welfare issue and develops a report							
4	SC report goes to the CDC - the committee ensures all the priority welfare issues have been addressed SC report goes for peer review and is finalized							
5	CDC uses the SC report to develop requirements and recommendations around priority welfare issues							
6	Final draft Code is submitted to NFACC NFACC makes Code available for 60-day public comment period NFACC publishes SC report							
7	Following the public comment period the CDC considers feedback and revises draft as needed							
8	CDC submits final Code to NFACC NFACC publishes and prints the revised Code Industry begins efforts to ensure implementation of Codes							
		Mar 2009	Apr 2013	Jun 2013	Jun 2013	Nov 2012	Nov 2012	Jul 2013

* Code Development Committee
** Scientists' Committee

NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE CONFERENCE • OCT 5-6, 2011

Plan now to attend the National Farm Animal Care Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn, Ottawa, ON. The on-site registration begins at noon on Wednesday, October 5 for this one and half day conference.

The theme is **Advancing Animal Care and Addressing Market Expectations**. The conference will:

- 1) Highlight Canadian Code development and assessment/product assurance processes including benchmarking results and activities around the world that may impact upon them.
- 2) Raise awareness of domestic and international market directions related to animal welfare.
- 3) Showcase commodities that have or are in the process of revising their Codes.

Attendees can expect to:

- 1) Build relationships and share information with groups that have diverse interests in animal welfare
- 2) Stay current of new initiatives and be prepared for future challenges
- 3) Enhance their awareness of the inherent complexities of animal welfare

The conference will be of interest to all those involved in the animal agriculture industry – producers, farm animal and processor associations, retail, restaurant and food service companies, government and animal protection/enforcement agencies, veterinarians, researchers and media. **Registration, agenda and accommodation information will be posted on NFACC's web site, www.nfacc.ca, by March 7.**

ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCT ASSURANCE

An Animal Care Assessment Model Steering Committee has been organized and Terms of Reference developed. A first teleconference is planned for March. The Steering Committee will provide active guidance for the finalization of NFACC's draft Animal Care Assessment Model (ACAM), which will include hosting two workshops.

Farm Animal Welfare Resources

- **Farm Animal Welfare and Food Safety Fact Sheets**

The United States Department of Agriculture Livestock Behavior Research Unit (LBRU) has produced a series of fact sheets covering farm animal welfare and food safety topics.

- Sow Welfare: Housing
- Laying Hen Welfare: Beak Trimming
- Dairy Cow Welfare: Lameness
- Sow Welfare: Lameness
- Food Safety: Stress in Farm Animals and Food Safety

Visit USDA web site at www.ars.usda.gov/News/News.htm?modecode=36-02-20-00 for more details and to view the documents.

- **World Society of the Protection of Animals**

WSPA has released their Global Strategy for Animal Welfare [link]. They intend to work with partners from the food and livestock industry, consumers and intergovernmental agencies to develop sustainable farming practices. "WSPA's strategy for the next five years (2011–2015) sets out the steps we will be taking to make significant progress towards realizing our vision of a world where animal welfare matters and animal cruelty ends." - WSPA

Upcoming Events

Visit NFACC.ca for links to the following events.

- ✓ Alberta Farm Animal Care Livestock Care Conference, Embracing Changes in Animal Welfare • Apr 6-7, 2011 • Red Deer, AB
- ✓ International Research Group in Animal Law (GRIDA) Animal Law Conference • May 20, 2011 • Ottawa, ON
- ✓ 79th General Session of the OIE • May 22-27, 2011 • Paris, France
- ✓ UFAW International Animal Welfare Symposium, Making animal welfare improvements: Economic and other incentives and constraints • Jun 28 - 29, 2011 • Portsmouth UK
- ✓ Humane Slaughter Association Centenary International Symposium, Recent Advances in the Welfare of Livestock at Slaughter • Jun 30 - Jul 1, 2011 • Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, UK
- ✓ 45th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) • Jul 31 - Aug 4, 2011 • Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A.
- ✓ 5th International Workshop on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level • Aug 8 - 11, 2011 • Guelph, ON