

CODES OF PRACTICE for the care and handling of farm animals

One of the biggest challenges in developing standards is that everyone has different views about **what is important for good animal welfare**.

The Code development process bridges these differences by creating an environment for **diverse perspectives** to come together and build **consensus**. The process is designed to gather our collective knowledge and drive **sustainable directions** forward on farmed animal care.

In the development of the Codes of Practice, NFACC involves a broad range of stakeholder groups; farmers, animal welfare organizations, the veterinary community, animal welfare researchers, government, processors, food companies, and others concerned about farm animal care and welfare.

The Codes can be described as a **change management tool**; providing a step-wise approach to sustainable animal welfare improvements.

Each Code of Practice is devoted to a particular species of farm animal, and collectively, the Codes cover most types of livestock and poultry raised on farms across Canada, setting both requirements and recommended practices for the **responsible and ethical care** and handling of farm animals.

Requirements refer to either a regulatory requirement, or an industry imposed expectation outlining acceptable and unacceptable practices and are **fundamental obligations** relating to the care of animals.

Requirements represent a consensus position that these measures, at minimum, are to be implemented by all persons responsible for farm animal care. When included as part of an assessment program, those who fail to implement Requirements may be compelled by industry associations to undertake corrective measures, or risk a loss of market options. Requirements also may be enforceable under federal and provincial regulation.

Recommended Practices may complement a Code's Requirements, promote producer education and can encourage adoption of practices for continuous improvement in animal welfare outcomes.

Recommended Practices are those which are generally expected to **enhance animal welfare** outcomes, but failure to implement them does not imply that acceptable standards of animal care are not met.

The development process for the Codes is collaborative, transparent, consensus based and has been designed to ensure that each Code is scientifically informed, practical, and reflects society's expectations for responsible farm animal care.

The Codes of Practice are nationally developed guidelines and serve as our national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended practices.



The Code development process is initiated when the national lead for a farm animal industry expresses to NFACC its commitment to update a Code. The next step is to secure funding and other resources. Top-of-mind Code priorities are collected through a preliminary survey.

A Code Development Committee (CDC) is established, which includes representatives from a broad range of stakeholders – all working together in collaboration and toward consensus.

A Scientific Committee is assembled to conduct a literature review of priority welfare issues to be covered by a Code, with findings provided to assist CDC deliberations. The report takes at least a year to complete.

The CDC deliberates on the content of the draft Code. Working together, committee members identify evidence-based solutions that address farm animal care concerns, meet market needs and are implementable by farmers.

The next step is the launch of a 60-day public comment period. This serves a critical role in supporting robust Codes of Practice with everyone encouraged to take part and provide input. The Scientific Committee's report is typically released publicly at this time (if not sooner).

The CDC carefully considers all of the input and viewpoints gathered during the public comment period and agrees on the final version of the Code. The CDC summarizes the feedback received from both the public comment period and the preliminary survey, noting how the CDC considered this feedback.

The revised Code is submitted to NFACC and published, and industry begins the process of outreach and implementation.

C
O
D
E
D
E
V
E
L
O
P
M
E
N
T
P
R
O
C
E
S
S

Learn more about the Codes in our 3-minute videos:

"RAISING THE BAR: THE CODES OF PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS"

www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2cvixnA_MQ

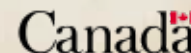
"KEY FEATURES OF THE CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS"

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFbyJfQwnM



National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)

www.nfacc.ca



Growing Forward 2

Funding for the Codes of Practice is provided by the AgriMarketing Program under Growing Forward 2, a federal – provincial – territorial initiative.