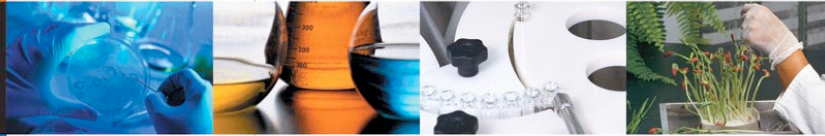


## Canadian Food Inspection Agency



### Science and regulation...

*working together for Canadians*

**World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)  
and Animal Welfare  
National Farm Animal Care Council  
Conference, Ottawa, ON  
October 5-6, 2011**



## Presentation Overview

- ❖ The OIE – in brief
- ❖ Approach to developing animal welfare standards
- ❖ International trade context
- ❖ Markets and Consumers
- ❖ Influencing the development of animal welfare standards



The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.



The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.





## The OIE – in brief



- ❖ The World Organisation for Animal Health was formed in 1924 under the name *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE).
- ❖ The OIE was established to ensure better cooperation between nations to counter the spread of animal disease.
- ❖ Today, the OIE facilitates intergovernmental cooperation to improve animal health throughout the world.
- ❖ The standards, guidelines and recommendations are designed to avoid unjustified sanitary barriers

Canada

## Animal Welfare and the OIE

- ❖ Disease control has a significant impact not only on the health of animals but also on their welfare.
- ❖ AW was identified as a new activity OIE's 3rd strategic plan (2001-2005) and has been carried forward in subsequent strategic plans (2006-10 & 2011-15).
- ❖ In 2002, the Working Group on Animal Welfare was established



Canada

## Animal Welfare and the OIE

### ❖ Working group members:

- ❖ Dr. David Bayvel (NZ) - Chair,
- ❖ Prof. David Fraser (CAN),
- ❖ Dr. Andrea Gavinelli (EU),
- ❖ Dr. Marosi Molomo (Lesotho),
- ❖ Dr. Sira Rahman (India),
- ❖ Dr. Hassan Aidaros (Egypt),

Representative of the 5  
geographic regions of the  
OIE membership

### ❖ In addition:

- ❖ Dr. David Wilkins (WSPA-UK)
- ❖ Mr. Luc Mirabito (International Dairy Federation)

Canada

## Animal Welfare and the OIE

### ❖ The task:

- ❖ Provide international leadership in the development of science-based standards
- ❖ Provide expert advice on animal welfare related issues
- ❖ Promote relevant research and education



Canada

## Animal Welfare and the OIE

### The Challenge:

- ❖ 72% of 178 Members are developing and/or in transition countries
- ❖ Complex area – economic, cultural, political dimensions, in addition to a large body of scientific information
- ❖ Publications emphasize different criteria – freedom from pain and distress, maintenance of basic health, ability to live in a natural manner
- ❖ Criteria: to be science based in the face of varying interpretations of the science



Canada

## Animal Welfare and the OIE

- ❖ The accomplishments to date:
  - ❖ See section 7 of the Terrestrial Code
  - ❖ Chapters on transportation (land, air and sea)
  - ❖ Chapters on humane slaughter for consumption and killing for disease control
  - ❖ Followed by stray dog population control & use of animals in research and education
  - ❖ In the aquatic code: welfare of farmed fish during transport and welfare aspects of stunning and killing farmed fish for consumption
- ❖ The future and the challenges to date:
  - ❖ Welfare in production systems – broiler chickens, dairy cattle
  - ❖ Establishing common vocabulary between developing and developed countries – what constitutes shelter – tree or barn?
  - ❖ Prescription versus outcome based – how to measure this?

Canada

## International trade context

### ❖ Animal Welfare and the WTO SPS Agreement

- ❖ The agreement sets out basic rules for trade – import measures should not be arbitrary and should be based on international standards where available.
- ❖ It references [animal health] however, there is no specific reference to [animal welfare]
- ❖ Could the OIE guidelines be used in other agreements such as the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement or the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Article XX?



[www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/legal\\_e/17-tbt\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/17-tbt_e.htm)

[www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/legal\\_e/gatt47\\_02\\_e.htm#articleXX](http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/gatt47_02_e.htm#articleXX)

Canada

## International trade context

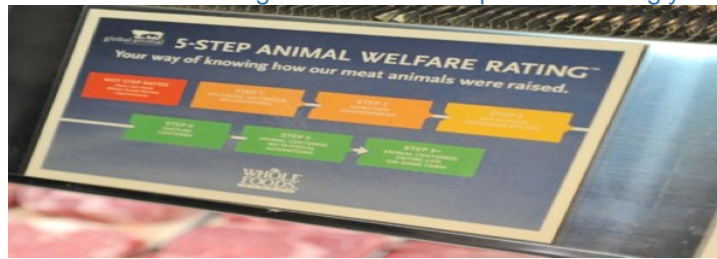
- ❖ Implementation of international standards
  - ❖ While there is no direct mention of animal welfare in the SPS Agreement, the standards can still be used to facilitate trade through bilateral or multilateral agreements
  - ❖ Or used in other initiatives – Codes of Practice
  - ❖ Think of them as good advice and best practices that can serve as the basis for improving animal welfare



Canada

## Markets and Consumers context

- ❖ Private standards
  - ❖ commercial requirements developed, owned and implemented by non governmental entities, with which suppliers must comply to have access to specific markets for animals and animal products. They sometimes include sanitary safety and animal welfare issues.
- ❖ Consumer perceptions play a large role in the marketing of products
- ❖ Often markets or organisations will respond accordingly



Whole Foods Animal Welfare Rating Scheme



## Markets and Consumers Context

- ❖ Private standards – Animal Welfare
  - ❖ Commercial requirements on how animals are reared determines where the animals are sourced and the inputs producers use in animal production
- ❖ <http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/products/5step.php>

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 5+
No crates, no cages, no crowding	Enriched environment	Enhanced outdoor access	Pasture centered	Animal centered; all physical alterations prohibited	Animal centered; entire life on same farm
Like people, animals need a little "personal space" to be comfortable.	It's the simple things that keep animals active and engaged – like a bale of straw for chickens to hide behind and climb on, a bowling ball for pigs to manipulate and shove around, or a few sturdy objects for cattle to rub against when they need a good scratch.	Pigs and chickens still live in buildings but they all – yes, each and every one of them – have access to outdoor areas where they can catch a few rays.	Chickens need to forage, pigs need to wallow and cattle need to roam. They can do all of those things when they live outdoors and have shelter – and of course, a view!	Animals get to live their lives with all the parts they were born with, and nothing else! No nose rings, no dipping, no snipping and no branding.	Animals are born and live their entire lives on one farm. Pigs and cattle are slaughtered on the farm, and chickens are transported only short distances (because you can't hatch chickens!).



## Markets and Consumers context



- ❖ Private standards – International Standards – Government Regulation
  - ❖ How does one line these up taking into consideration consumer expectations, science and practical implementation
  - ❖ Furthermore, does excluding certain elements in production – such as cages – really lead to better welfare or improvements in welfare?
  - ❖ Can answers be found through collaboration without driving a wedge between consumers, producers and regulators and/or corporate initiatives at the same time improve animal welfare?

Canada

## Influencing the development of AW standards

- ❖ At the national level we work with members of NFACC and CCAC along with experts in the Government's veterinary profession and academia with respect to revising and creating OIE standards
- ❖ At the OIE membership level we work closely with other member countries to develop the best possible standard given diverse contexts.
- ❖ Industry has an opportunity to work through the GoC process; or work with counterparts; through international associations having an agreement with the OIE (IEC, IMS, IDF, etc.)
- ❖ With corporate initiatives and codes of practice, what will be our approach to influencing these types standards?

Canada

## OIE Global Conferences

- ❖ 2 Global Conferences to date
  - ❖ 2004 – to introduce the OIE's approach to the development of the standards
  - ❖ 2008 – to discuss the implementation of the standards
- ❖ Late 2011 – a third Global Conference in 2012
- ❖ Stay tuned, get involved

Canada

## Thank you for your attention!

Questions, comments, concerns?

Don't hesitate to contact me...

**Tianna MacInnes**  
**613-773-5768**  
**[tianna.macinnes@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:tianna.macinnes@inspection.gc.ca)**

Canada