



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Beef Cattle Code of Practice to be Updated

(Ottawa) 29 October 2010 - The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is pleased to announce that the Code of Practice for the care and handling of beef cattle will be updated through the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) Code of Practice development process.

The NFACC Code of Practice development process will guide the beef cattle Code Development Committee through the Code process. A key feature of the Code process is the inclusion of a Scientists' Committee. The Scientists' Committee reviews the research relative to priority welfare issues for beef cattle and compiles a summary report. The report will provide science-based information to the Code Development Committee.

"The Code renewal process provides a good opportunity to ensure we are aware of relevant scientific advancements and incorporate them appropriately," says Ryder Lee, CCA Manager of Federal and Provincial Relations. "Focusing on positive outcomes for animals should lead to a Code that is well-used by producers, and assure stakeholders that beef cattle are well cared for by Canadian ranchers and farmers."

The Codes of Practice are national guidelines for the care and handling of the different species of farm animals. They promote sound management and welfare practices through recommendations and requirements for housing, management, transportation, processing and other animal husbandry practices. Farm animal care assessment programs are based on the Codes and some Canadian provinces reference the Codes within their animal welfare legislation.

Codes are prepared with the input and support of scientific experts and by consensus of diverse groups involved or interested in farm animal care and welfare. "Practical solutions that address farm animal welfare concerns require a commitment from everyone to work together for progress and success," says Geoff Urton, of the BC SPCA and humane society representative on the beef cattle Code Development Committee. "NFACC's Code development process provides a forum for this level of collaboration."

Allison Taylor has been contracted as a Code Development Secretary and will facilitate the work of the beef cattle Code Development Committee. Allison has a Masters of Agriculture in ruminant nutrition and a Ph.D. in Farm Animal Behaviour and Welfare, both from the University of Guelph. Ian McKillop, a cow-calf and feedlot operator from Dutton, Ontario, will Chair the Code Development Committee. Ian chaired the Canadian Cattlemen's Association's Animal Care Committee for several years. He is also former president of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

"The Codes represent our national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended best practices," says Edouard Asnong, Chair of NFACC. He stresses that responsible farm animal care is important to everyone, from the animals themselves to the producers and consumers.

The existing beef Code was created in 1991, the revised edition is expected to be released in 2013. For more information on existing Codes of Practice and NFACC's Code development process visit www.nfacc.ca.

About NFACC

NFACC is a collaborative partnership of diverse stakeholders created in 2005 to share information and work together on farm animal care and welfare. It is the national lead for farm animal care issues in Canada.

NFACC would like to acknowledge the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) for their role in securing funding for this project.

About CCA

As the national “voice” of Canada’s 90,000 beef producers, CCA’s structure represents every phase of the production system; the purebred, cow/calf, backgrounding and feedlot sectors. The association was founded by producers and is led by a producer-elected board of directors from across Canada. The CCA works with other sectors of the agriculture and food industries on matters of mutual concern.

Code of Practice updates initiated from 2010 to 2013 are part of the project: Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare. Funding for this project is being made available through the AgriFlexibility fund, a program delivered in Canada's Economic Action Plan (EAP). The EAP focuses on strengthening the economy and securing Canada's economic future. For more information on the AgriFlexibility fund and Canada's Economic Action Plan, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/agriflexibility and www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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