



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.

www.nfacc.ca

NFACC Partners:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Portfolio (AAFC, CFIA)
- Canada Fox Breeders Association
- 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 and 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 SPCAs (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, BCFAAC)
- Research Community
- Turkey Farmers of Canada

NFACC Information Update: November 2011

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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.

Thanks to funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriFlexibility Fund, NFACC is providing the Canadian livestock and poultry value chain with tools to address market challenges, opportunities, and societal expectations relative to animal welfare, through the following activities:

- the development or revision of current Codes of Practice,
- the piloting, testing, and finalization of the Animal Care Assessment Model,
- the communication and promotion of current Canadian farm animal welfare activities.

NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Advancing Animal Care and Addressing Market Expectations

The NFACC Conference was a success, with many interesting and thought provoking presentations and a great amount of interaction among the attendees and speakers. There were 142 people in attendance, including farmers, veterinarians, researchers / academics, animal welfare advocates, government, retail and food service representatives.

Here is a sampling of key messages delivered by speakers at the conference:

"We have an opportunity to be proactive with animal welfare. I am encouraged by NEACC and the ACAM. We'd like to keep improving on the good stories that are out there to be told." ~ David Smith, National VP of Retail Strategy and Sustainability, Sobey's Inc.

"In this day and age, you can no longer just do things. You've got to say you do it and you've got to prove you do it – in a form that's acceptable to your consumers and based on a model that's practical and common sense on the farm. That's what we want to do within the dairy industry. We want to make sure we maintain the image that Canadian dairy farmers have of being good stewards of their animals, producing a high-quality product based on Canadian standards for environment, employment and especially animal welfare." ~ Ron Maynard, Dairy Farmers of Canada

"I like the Code development process. I like its emphasis on outcome-based, environment-based and process-based measures. I think that is a good balance that hasn't always been captured in processes elsewhere and at other times." ~ Dr. David Fraser, animal welfare professor, University of British Columbia

"Tearing down the animal rights/ animal welfare groups doesn't help the cause. Because at the end of the day, we do have a common interest – the welfare of our animals." ~ Kathleen Plowman, general manager policy, Australian Pork

Visit nfacc.ca to view the presenters' PowerPoint presentations, listen to the audio recordings and read the post conference news releases.

Feedback from conference attendees included:

- I expected excellence from you and I was not disappointed. Great job.
- I really enjoyed the variety of speakers from

government, industry, welfare, international, retail, covering all aspects of welfare in different commodities.

- Thanks for a great conference, as a first time attendee I was very impressed.

The next NFACC conference is slated for 2013. We hope to see you there!

CODES OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF FARM ANIMALS

Seven Codes of Practice are currently in the process of being updated – beef cattle, mink, fox, pigs, equine, sheep and poultry (chickens/turkeys/breeders/hatcheries). Visit nfacc.ca for a list of each Code's priority welfare issues list, the committee members and progress reports that summarize each Code Development Committee meeting. See the last page of this update for a timeline on where each Code is at in the revision process.

Egg Farmers of Canada has recently advised that it is interested in revising the Code of Practice for the care and handling of pullets, layers and spent fowl.

The options for initiating this eighth Code update are being explored.

As stakeholder input is critical to the Code renewal process NFACC is conducting surveys to solicit input on important topics for Codes under development. Currently a second survey is being conducted to gain further stakeholder input on the Code of Practice for equine. To complete the 10-minute survey, go to www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/equine and click on survey.

The survey tool is also being explored for the other Codes under revision.

ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCT ASSURANCE

NFACC's Animal Care Assessment Model (ACAM) will guide the development of animal care assessment programs and demonstrate adherence to the Codes of Practice. The goal is to ensure the model provides benefits to both the farmers and the animals under their care. The ACAM will enhance the credibility of programs, the consistency between programs, and the ability to communicate on animal care assessment in Canada.

An ACAM workshop was held in August to update stakeholders on the project and get feedback on the draft ACAM. Over 70 people attended, including farmers, industry association staff, animal welfare assessors, animal welfare advocates, processors, food industry executives and government. The steering committee is now considering the feedback received at the workshop to further develop the ACAM. Visit www.nfacc.ca/animal-care-assessment-model for the report on the workshop.

The next step is test piloting. Dairy Farmers of Canada will develop an animal care assessment program based on the draft ACAM. This exercise will provide a practical opportunity to work through issues raised in the workshop, address outstanding questions, and inform further revisions to the ACAM.

Lisa Pierce has been contracted as the Animal Care Assessment Program Facilitator for this exercise. She has worked as a certification system and training curriculum consultant, agricultural workshop facilitator, and provided auditing services for farm, livestock and processing operations. Her work has been mainly in the organic sector (livestock and crops) in Canada, the U.S. and several countries abroad (including South Korea, South Africa, and Taiwan). She lives in Denman Island, B.C.

A second workshop is planned for the fall of 2013. The ACAM will be completed by December 2013.

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit NFACC.ca for links to the following news and events.

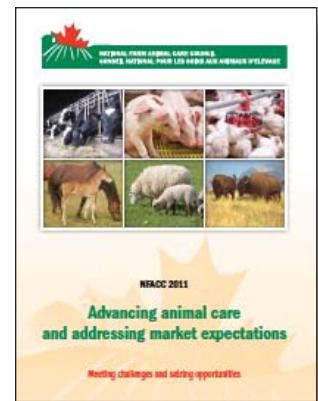
- ✓ FAO Legislative Study No 104: Legislative and regulatory options for animal welfare
- ✓ FAO survey on standards, codes and guidelines in the livestock sector
- ✓ Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Forum 2011 • Dec 6–7 • Albert at Bay Suite Hotel, Ottawa
- ✓ Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan, Fencelines to Corporate Boardrooms Conference • Dec 7-8, Saskatoon
- ✓ NFACC Board Meeting • Dec 15-16, 2011, Ottawa

NFACC RESOURCES

NFACC has the following resources available to partners for:

- General NFACC brochure - providing an overview of the organization, activities and projects
- Code of Practice brochure - explaining the Code development process
- NFACC 2011 achievements report: Advancing Animal Care and Addressing Market Expectations
- PowerPoint presentation on Canada's Code of Practice development process (including speaking notes)

Please contact Jackie Wepruk (nfacc@xplornet.com) for these resources.



NFACC CODE DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

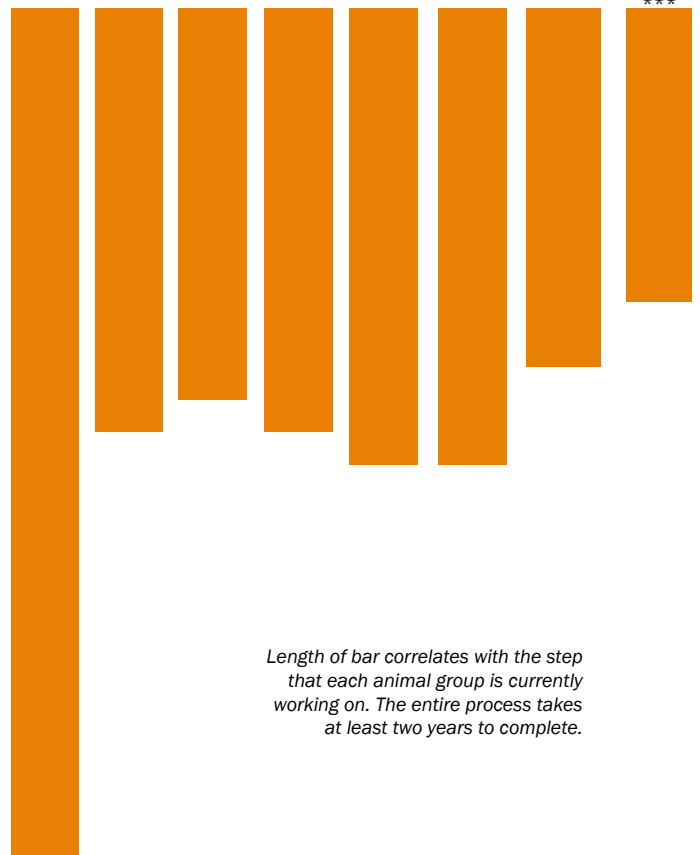
CODES OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF FARM ANIMALS



PROCESS

- ▶ Industry group / specialized industry group identifies need for Code revision
- 1 ▶ 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 NFACC process guidelines
- 2 ▶ National veterinary and research associations make recommendations to NFACC for members of SC**
 - ▶ CDC deliberates on priority welfare issues
 - ▶ SC 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
 - ▶ CDC uses the SC report to develop requirements and recommendations around priority welfare issues
- 5 ▶ Final draft Code is submitted to NFACC
 - ▶ NFACC makes Code available for 60-day public comment period
 - ▶ NFACC publishes SC report
- 6 ▶ Following the public comment period the CDC considers feedback and revises draft as needed
- 7 ▶ CDC submits final Code to NFACC
 - ▶ NFACC publishes and prints the revised Code
 - ▶ Industry begins efforts to ensure implementation of Codes

DAIRY BEEF EQUINE PIGS MINK FOX SHEEP POULTRY



Length of bar correlates with the step that each animal group is currently working on. The entire process takes at least two years to complete.

Codes should be reviewed regularly (e.g., every five years), and revised as needed to ensure they are current with government policy/regulation, industry practices and scientific research.

Completed / Estimated Completion Date Mar/09 Apr/13 Jun/13 Jun/13 Nov/12 Nov/12 Jul/13 TBD

* CDC = Code Development Committee

** SC = Scientists' Committee

*** Poultry = Chickens, turkeys, breeders and hatcheries. At this point the bar