



## **BC Farm Animal Care Council holds first conference on animal welfare.**

17 NOV 2011, ABBOTSFORD, BC - The entire food chain, from producer to consumer, benefits by ensuring all farm animals are raised humanely in a healthy environment. The BC Farm Animal Care Council (BCFACC) hosted its first conference on November 10, bringing the agriculture community together with leaders in animal care and welfare at the Ramada Plaza and Conference Centre in Abbotsford.

The conference welcomed 150 people, including farmers and ranchers, representatives from the BC SPCA, animal care organizations, universities, government, processors and retailers. The program provided valuable context and information on research, policies and practices that are shaping farm animal care in Canada.

The diversity of the participants at the conference created a rich and vibrant space for people to discuss animal care issues, and deepen their understanding of different viewpoints and values that shape the public debate about animal care.

“As a farmer, I play a critical and practical role in treating animals well. It was good to hear about the work that researchers and animal welfare experts are engaging in to help broaden my base of knowledge and spur my level of animal care,” says Dan Kampen, egg producer, turkey farmer and co-chair of BCFACC.

A presentation by Dr. Temple Grandin was one the highlights of the day. Dr. Grandin shared insights and experience from 35-years working in animal behaviour and handling as well as design and assessment of handling systems and processing plants. She encouraged the audience to be more transparent in showing how they care for their animals and challenged them to reach out to the public.

“It was encouraging to have such a diverse group of people come together to share their expertise on how to treat animals well,” says Kampen. “We had a full spectrum of interests represented to share, under a spirit of collaboration, their passion for animals and animal care and welfare.”

Presentations from the first BCFACC Conference are available online at [www.bcfacc.ca/conference.htm](http://www.bcfacc.ca/conference.htm).

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