



NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ÉLEVAGE



Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare*

BC Farm Animal Care Council Conference
Abbotsford, BC

November 10, 2011

*a project made possible through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agricultural Flexibility Fund

National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)

What is NFACC?

- ▶ National lead for farm animal care in Canada
- ▶ Collaborative partnership of diverse stakeholders created to share information and work together on farm animal care and welfare
- ▶ Consensus-based model of decision making

"If government or other logical players do not create [animal welfare] policy, then someone else will. The question is not whether change will occur, but how it will be managed."

– Dr. David Fraser, University of British Columbia



NFACC Partners

Farmed Animal Industry Associations

- ▶ Canada Fox Breeders Association
- ▶ Canada Mink Breeders Association
- ▶ Canadian Bison Association
- ▶ Canadian Cattlemen's Association
- ▶ Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- ▶ Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
- ▶ Canadian Pork Council
- ▶ Canadian Sheep Federation
- ▶ Chicken Farmers of Canada
- ▶ Dairy Farmers of Canada
- ▶ Egg Farmers of Canada
- ▶ Equine Canada
- ▶ Turkey Farmers of Canada

Processors

- ▶ Canadian Meat Council
- ▶ Canadian Poultry & Egg Processors Council

Animal Health Associations

- ▶ Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

Consumer Groups

- ▶ Canadian Restaurant & Food Services Association

Animal Welfare Associations

- ▶ Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
- ▶ Coalition of Provincial SPCA (BC, SK, ON)

Provincial Groups

- ▶ Ontario Trucking Association
- ▶ Provincial Farm Animal Care Councils (OFAC, FACS, AFAC, BCFACC)

Governments

- ▶ Agriculture and Agri-Food Portfolio (AAFC, CFIA)
- ▶ Provincial Agriculture Departments

Other

- ▶ Canada's research community



Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare

Our focus

- ▶ Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals
- ▶ Animal Care Assessment Model (ACAM)
- ▶ Facilitate information sharing and communication

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Meade



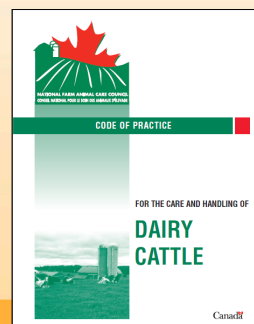
Canada's Codes of Practice

The Codes of Practice are guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals

- ▶ Our national understanding of farm animal care requirements and recommended best practices
- ▶ Scientifically informed, practical, and reflect societal expectations for responsible farm animal care

The Codes of Practice serve as

- ▶ Education tools
- ▶ Reference materials for regulations
- ▶ Foundation for animal care assessment programs



Canada's Codes of Practice

History of Canada's Code of Practice development process

- ▶ Most farmed animal species in Canada have a Code
- ▶ Initiated in 1980 through Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
- ▶ Canadian Agri-Food Research Council led process from 1993-2003
- ▶ Federal government funding ceased 2002
- ▶ NFACC created in 2005 with mandate to re-establish the Code of Practice development process

*"I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end."
– Margaret Thatcher*



Canada's Codes of Practice

Renewed Code development process

- ▶ A uniquely collaborative approach
- ▶ Ensures credibility and transparency through scientific rigour, stakeholder collaboration and a consistent approach
- ▶ Stakeholder commitment is key to ensure quality animal care standards are established and implemented



"Difficult things take a long time, impossible things a little longer."
- Author Unknown



Canada's Codes of Practice

The team

- ▶ **Code Development Committee - facilitated by a Code secretary**
Farmers / producers, transporters, veterinarians, animal welfare and enforcement agencies, retail and food service organizations, processors, governments and researchers
- ▶ **Scientists' Committee – facilitated by a research writer**

RESULTS: science- and consensus-based Code



The Code Development Process

7 Steps

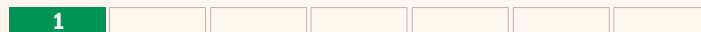


2+ years to complete

The development process begins when an industry group or specialized industry group identifies need for Code revision



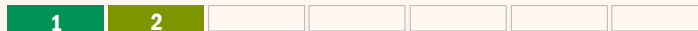
Step 1: Initiation



- ▶ Industry group initiates the process with NFACC
- ▶ NFACC announcement start of revision of the Code
- ▶ Industry group / specialized industry group selects members for the Code Development Committee (CDC) per NFACC's process guidelines
 - Producer
 - Transporter
 - Veterinarian
 - Animal welfare organization
 - Animal welfare regulatory enforcement body
 - Retail / food service organization
 - Processor
 - AAFC/CFIA
 - Researcher/academic (Chair of Scientists' Committee)
 - Technical expertise as required



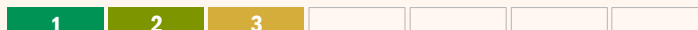
Step 2: Priority Welfare Issues Identified



- ▶ NFACC solicits national veterinary and research associations for members of Scientists Committee (SC)
- ▶ CDC and SC each identify list of **priority welfare issues**
- ▶ Committees combine, compare and finalize the priority welfare issues lists



Step 3: Work Begins on Draft Documents



- ▶ CDC begins drafting Code
- ▶ SC reviews scientific literature for each priority welfare issue and develops a report



Step 4: Peer Review



- ▶ SC report goes to the CDC – the committee ensures all the priority welfare issues have been addressed
- ▶ SC report goes for peer reviewed and is finalized
- ▶ CDC continues drafting Code using the SC report to develop requirements and recommendations around the priority welfare issues



Step 5: Draft Code



- ▶ Final draft of Code is submitted to NFACC
- ▶ NFACC makes Code available for 60-day public comment period
- ▶ NFACC publishes SC report



Step 6: Public Consult (60-days)



- ▶ Following the public comment period the CDC considers feedback and revises draft as needed



Step 7: Publication



- ▶ CDC submits final Code to NFACC
- ▶ NFACC publishes and prints the revised Code
- ▶ Industry begins efforts to ensure implementation of Codes



Canada's Codes of Practice

Big picture success requires

- ▶ Active participation
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Patience
- ▶ Consensus

*"If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail."
—Abraham Maslow*



Canada's Codes of Practice

Deliverables: Originally 5 Codes finished, 3 initiated

Species	Estimated Completion
Beef Cattle	Mar 2013
Mink	Oct 2012
Ranched Fox	Oct 2012
Pigs	May 2013
Equine	May 2013
Sheep	Jul 2013
Poultry (chicken, hatching egg, turkey)	~ 2014
Layers	~ 2014
Transport – has also been identified as a priority for revisions	





*“If you want to go fast, travel alone, but if you want to go far, travel together.”
– African proverb*

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