

---

# Science, the Codes and Auditable Animal Welfare Standards

---

## Agriculture and Agri-Food

**Canada** (AAFC) researcher, Dr. Jeff Rushen, is leading a project to assess the science behind standards of animal welfare used by different countries, including the Canadian Codes of Practice. Researchers will conduct a point-by-point comparison of the welfare standards used by different countries, followed by an analysis of the research support for those standards.

“This will provide a knowledge-base on the scientific support for animal welfare standards, particularly in relation to international trade, and identify future research priorities for Canadian livestock industries,” says Dr. Rushen.

“The overall goal of the research program is to deliver cost-effective science-based Canadian

animal welfare standards that reduce market risk and stress-related losses, and which are relevant to Canadian livestock rearing methods,” says Rushen. Two key goals of the project are:

1. To establish a knowledge-base of the research that supports animal welfare standards and identify science gaps that require further research;
2. To develop improved animal-based indices of animal welfare, based on a critical control point analysis of the key risks to animal welfare in each production system that can be used on-site.

The project begins in April 2005 and is expected to take three years to complete. ■



## Why Livestock Welfare **INSIGHTS**?

We all share in the responsibility of improving livestock welfare — from farmers to consumers and everyone in between. Communication links are needed to ensure continual improvements and understanding of livestock needs. Each of us is responsible for educating ourselves and making choices regarding livestock welfare. **INSIGHTS** aims to assist this process.

---

Published by:



*Promoting responsible livestock care.*

[afac.ab.ca](http://afac.ab.ca)

---

Phone: 403-932-8050

Fax: 403-932-8052

Researcher/Writer:

Jackie Wepruk

Email: [insights@afac.ab.ca](mailto:insights@afac.ab.ca)

Editor:

Susan Church, AFAC Manager