

Research Priorities

In 2005 the **Expert Committee on Farm Animal Welfare and Behaviour** (ECFAWB) completed a review of farm animal welfare research priorities.

Five key priority areas are:

- **Transportation** – acceptable times in transit based on Canadian climatic conditions, appropriate resting times, improving vehicle design, stocking densities.
- **Pain** – increased understanding of the pain associated with lameness, invasive procedures, poor health.
- **Production methods** – impact of reduced antibiotic use, impact of feed withdrawal / restriction, using feeding behaviour to improve management, feasible alternatives to invasive procedures.
- **Housing** – development of sustainable (economically, socially) housing systems, appropriate stocking densities, physical attributes of desirable housing.
- **General** – improvements in pre-slaughter management, production methods for non-traditional species, relationship between handler training (or lack thereof) and animal welfare.

For a list of animal welfare / behaviour research, see www.livestockwelfare.com. ■

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