

Humane Alternative Developed for Rabbit Stunning

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the University of Guelph have developed an effective, economical and humane device, called the Zephyr, for stunning rabbits at processing plants. The Zephyr is based on a pneumatic stun gun brought to them by Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust (CanFACT) from the United Kingdom. The UK model was modified and tested by OMAFRA, and is now in use at a number of abattoirs.

The Zephyr Stun gun uses a compressed air driven, non-penetrating captive bolt to humanely and effectively stun rabbits of all weights and sizes.

Tom Hughes, CanFACT President, ordered several of the guns, and is prepared to loan them to any government department willing to demonstrate and promote their use in rabbit abattoirs. Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development took up the offer, testing the Zephyr gun in Alberta provincial plants. The Alberta Meat Inspection, Regulatory Services Branch intends to purchase four guns and provide them to plants as needed.

This device was distributed by the Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) to abattoirs across Ontario in 2005 to enable them to meet new Meat Regulations prohibiting the use of blunt trauma to stun rabbits in Ontario. Abattoir owners could apply for a refund of 50% of the value of the Zephyr from OMAFRA.

Look for more information on the Zephyr, as further research is underway on piglets.



Zephyr Pneumatic Stun Gun

OFAC - www.ofac.org
CanFACT - www.canfact.ca