

Renewal of the Code of Practice Process

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), has submitted a funding proposal to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to pilot and finalize a new Code of Practice process.

One of NFACC's objectives is to update and re-establish the Code development process. A Code guideline document, outlining principles and criteria has been approved. A DRAFT Code process was developed incorporating those guidelines. NFACC has accepted the documents as the basis for moving forward on finalizing a new Code process. Dairy Farmers of Canada has agreed to pilot the new process through a revision of its Code. The expectation is that through a pilot project with the dairy industry, a new NFACC Code process will be finalized. Both the Code guideline and DRAFT Code process documents are available on NFACC's website (www.nfacc.ca).

Pending funding approvals, revision of the Dairy Code of Practice should begin in 2007.

CODE BACKGROUND

The Codes of Practice are nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of the different species of farm animals. They contain recommendations for housing, management, transportation, processing and other acceptable animal welfare and husbandry practices.

In 1980, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) began

coordinating the process of developing Codes of Practice for all livestock species. AAFC provided financial support for the undertaking.

A review committee developed the Codes with representatives from farm groups, animal welfare groups, veterinarians, animal scientists, federal and provincial governments, related agricultural sectors and interested individuals.

In 1993, AAFC asked the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council (CARC) and its Canada Committee on Animals to take the lead, in cooperation with the CFHS, in updating existing Codes and developing new Codes. A special CARC sub-committee was struck to move the Code process forward.

CARC officially agreed to take on full responsibility for the Code process in Feb 1995, with funding from AAFC. In 1996, CARC with the support of the provincial governments began producing four page factsheets that summarize the Codes.

The CARC process ended in 2003 when government funding for Codes ceased.

NFACC was established in 2005. Following broad consultation, a consensus was reached to move forward with Code development under the auspices of NFACC.

NFACC has a mandate to provide a nationally coordinated approach, promoting responsible farm animal care.

This industry led initiative brings a broad spectrum of groups together, including livestock producers, meat and poultry

processors, transporters, veterinarians, retailers, restaurant and food services, research / academia, the humane movement, provincial farm animal care groups, and provincial and federal governments. ■



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