

livestock welfare

insights

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livestockwelfare.com

Research

Research drives change and continuous improvement in how livestock are cared for. In Canada we have a strong contingent of dedicated researchers, providing a multi-disciplinary approach to livestock welfare research.

This issue of *INSIGHTS* features seven articles written by University of Guelph students, on the diverse nature of the research work in Canada and the individuals leading the way. Recognizing the research and providing extension of this work is part of the collective *Putting Animal Welfare on the Agenda* strategy to enhance livestock welfare.



These articles, a description of current research projects and contacts for 47 researchers are available on livestockwelfare.com. The site links to the *Farm Animal Welfare Issues Resource Centre* and *Research Watch*. *i*

INSIGHTS provides:
Information on livestock welfare • Reports on research, initiatives and issues • A *Putting Farm Animal Welfare on the Agenda* Project resource.

Horse Welfare

A report on horses as food producing animals has been completed by the **Alberta Equine Welfare Group**. It presents facts on the humane treatment of horses processed in Alberta and Canada for food, identifies areas that need improvement and spells out the impact of the closure of horse meat plants in the US.

The report includes historical data on horse meat consumption. Over one billion people or 16% of the world population eat horse meat.

The report highlights Canadian legislation to ensure the humane treatment of horses, at the farm, at auctions, while in transport and at all federally inspected meat plants. It details the USDA regulation that states US horses transported to Canadian meat plants must go on single deck trailers and be inspected by USDA and CFIA veterinarians.

Unlike many US states, livestock are not exempt from Canada's animal protection laws. Studies done by AFAC, the Alberta SPCA and by Dr. T. Grandin point to original owner induced neglect as the core equine welfare concern.

Before the US horse plants closed in 2007, 50,000 horses were processed in Canada for human consumption. By the end of 2007, this number had doubled. A new plant has opened in Saskatchewan with a capacity equal to the Alberta plant. The number of horses imported into Canada has increased by 40%.

People tend to view their horses as livestock, as working animals or as companion animals. These different viewpoints are acknowledged in this report. What is important is that all horses be treated humanely throughout their lifetime.

The actions in the US and the resulting consequences of growing horse neglect, abandonment and starvation are noted.

For a copy go to www.afac.ab.ca. *i*



Single deck horse trailer

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