

# CODES OF PRACTICE GAP



## ABOUT LWEP

The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project (LWEP) was requested and funded by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and facilitated by Alberta Farm Animal Care to provide an understanding of the livestock welfare landscape in Alberta from the industry's perspective.

## DATA COLLECTION

The project was conducted throughout 2018. Information and insights were collected from stakeholders across the sector through a survey and focus groups open to all involved in Alberta's livestock sector.



## ABOUT THE CODES

The National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) Codes of Practice are nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals. The Codes cover all major livestock species in Canada and form the foundation of standards and practices for each of these groups.

## ORGANIZATIONS

51% of organizations surveyed that participated in the LWEP survey indicated that they referenced the National Farm Animal Care Council's Codes of Practice. Organizations included academic institutions, agricultural societies, animal health and welfare groups, enforcement bodies, government agencies, and other organizations that play a role in the livestock industry.



## INDIVIDUALS

65% of individuals surveyed were not at all familiar with the Codes of Practice. Individuals included producers, animal owners, farm employees, abattoir and auction market employees, enforcement officers, transporters, and veterinarians.

## FOCUS GROUPS

Focus group participants consisted of a range of livestock industry stakeholders. They stressed that the Codes of Practice are one of the most helpful resources utilized by the industry and believed that they are large contributors to the livestock industry's progress.



# MAKING THE CODES OF PRACTICE



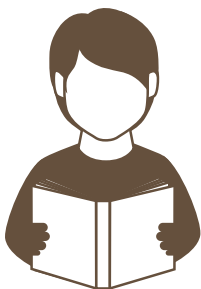
## CODE DEVELOPMENT INITIATION

Code development begins when the national lead for an industry commits itself to NFACC to develop or update a Code of Practice.

The Code development process is transparent, collaborative, scientifically-based, and based on the consensus of a committee of stakeholders.

## CODE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A range of stakeholders create a Code Development Committee (CDC) to work together throughout the process. Stakeholders include producers, processors, animal welfare organizations and researchers, veterinarians, government representatives, food companies, and others that express concern about animal welfare on farm.

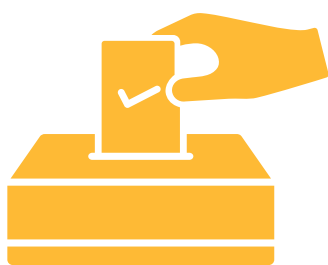
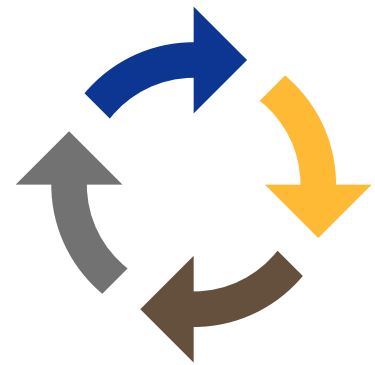


## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

A Scientific Committee is assembled to assist the CDC. The Scientific Committee conducts a literature review of priority welfare issues and submits it to the CDC for consideration. The review is also shared publicly.

## CODE DEVELOPMENT & UPDATING

The CDC work together on the content of the Code draft with help from the Scientific Committee. The CDC considers evidence-based science to address animal care issues that are implemented on farm.



## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The draft is then shared with the public for a 60-day comment period. After which, the CDC considers the public's feedback and must agree on a final version of the Code of Practice. The developed or updated Code is then shared with the industry and the public.

**For more information visit**

**[www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca)**