

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 OF PRACTICE

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 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. Organization 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

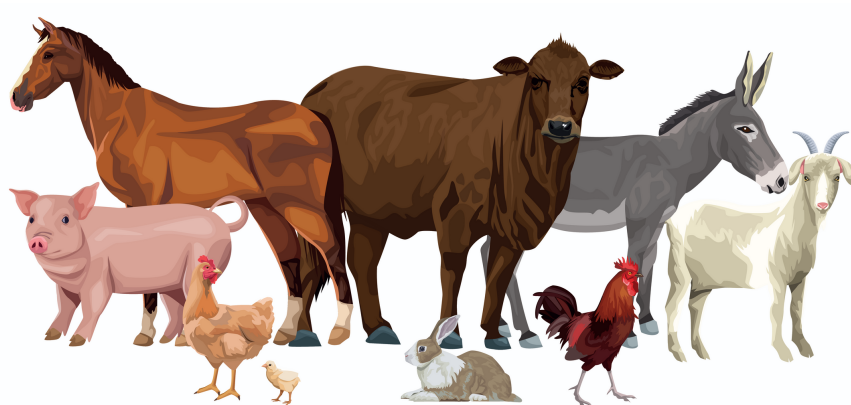
Focus group participants consisted of a range of livestock industry stakeholders. They stressed that the Codes of Practice are one of the most helpful resources utilized by the industry and believed that they are large contributors to the livestock industry's progress.



CODES OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES

THE CODES OF PRACTICE ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR:

- Beef Cattle
- Bison
- Chickens, Turkeys, and Breeders
- Dairy Cattle
- Equine
- Farmed Deer
- Farmed Fox
- Farmed Mink
- Goats
- Pigs
- Pullets and Laying Hens
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Veal
- Transportation



A Code for the Care and Handling of Farmed Finfish is currently being developed.



REQUIREMENTS

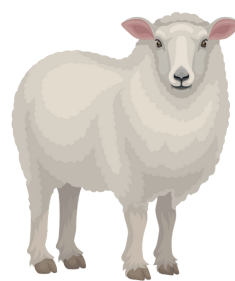
Requirements may be regulatory or industry imposed and outline acceptable and unacceptable practices and fundamental obligations relating to animal care. Requirements represent a consensus position that these measures are to be implemented by those responsible for farm animal care.

Requirements may be mandatory and compelled by industry organizations. Requirements may also be enforced under provincial and/or federal regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations may complement a requirement, encourage farmer education, and encourage practice adoption to continuously improve animal welfare.

It is possible to provide acceptable care without implementing recommendations.



TIMELINES

Some requirements place a timeline under which they should be implemented on farms. This allows time for farmers to alter their on-farm practices or make changes to their farms (e.g. building new barns).

For more information visit
www.nfacc.ca