

LIVESTOCK WELFARE ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Standard and Policies Results

The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project (LWEP) brought together input from a broad cross-section of livestock industry participants in Alberta, to provide an understanding of the livestock welfare landscape in the province from the industry's perspective.

The project was conducted primarily throughout 2018. Data was collected through an online survey and a series of in-person focus groups across Alberta. The majority of respondents were individuals, such as producers and farm employees.

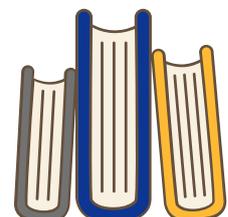


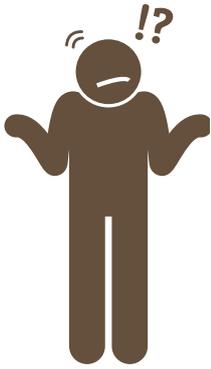
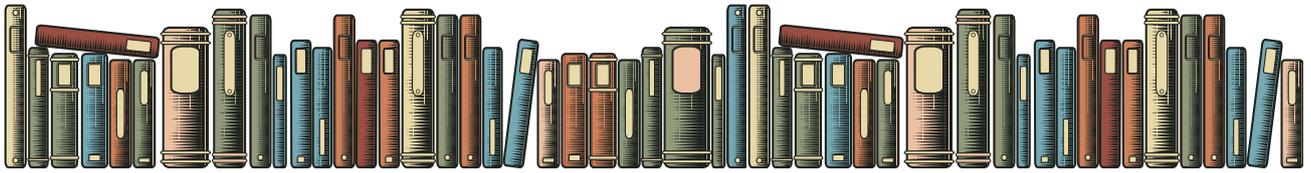
This is a summary of industry information and perspectives on standards and policies collected for the LWEP. The knowledge gathered through this project provides a resource to inform Alberta's ongoing understanding, activity and progress in this critical area.



Organizations most commonly reported referencing the Health of Animals Act, National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice, federal transportation of animals regulations (i.e. Compromised Animal Policy, Health of Animals Regulations Part XII), and the Animal Protection Act. These are all closely related to animal care on farm and during transport.

Abattoir and auction market respondents most commonly reported referencing the Meat Inspection Act and federal transportation of animals regulations. These regulations are closely related to abattoir and auction market activities.





Individual and student respondents were most commonly **not familiar** with the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy, the National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada, the Animal Keepers Act, the Codes of Practice, and the Meat Inspection Act.

Understandably, these respondents would not be familiar with the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council's documents, as they are intended for organizational and governmental use. Similarly, the Meat Inspection Act focuses on the specifics involved in the slaughtering, processing, and sale of meat and meat products.

The Animal Keepers Act applies to those that receive payment for boarding and caring for an animal that is owned by someone else. The lack of familiarity with this act may be that many livestock species are not boarded, while others are, such as horses.



However, the Codes of Practice are intended for all involved in the care and handling of farm animals. The Codes are available for fifteen different livestock species, and there is a Code specifically for livestock transportation.

Focus group participants viewed standards and policies as a way to keep all the players in the livestock industry on the same page. They also serve as evidence to the public that appropriate practices are being used.



Participants also advised that improved clarity is needed on the standards and policies and how they apply to industry stakeholders. Aligning provincial standards and policies with national and international approaches were emphasized. It was cautioned that significant differences between policies could lead to issues and frustrations.

The National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice were seen as valuable and extremely helpful. Many stated that the industry needs to ensure that all standards and policies are science-based, like the Codes.

