



## NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

### **Ranched Fox Code of Practice to be Updated**

**(Moncton) 23 November 2010** - The Canada Fox Breeders Association (CFBA) is pleased to announce that the Code of Practice for the care and handling of ranched fox will be updated through the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) Code of Practice development process.

The NFACC Code of Practice development process will guide the Ranched Fox Code Development Committee through the Code process. A key feature of the Code process is the inclusion of a Scientists' Committee. The Scientists' Committee reviews the research relative to priority welfare issues for ranched fox and compiles a summary report. The report will provide science-based information to the Code Development Committee.

Mike Bollert, fox farmer and Chair of the Code Development Committee explains, "Fox farmers are committed to caring for their animals. The Code revision process enables the industry, government and researchers to come together to develop standards that will assist farmers in making decisions on behalf of their animals." Mike's family has been involved in fox farming since 1924. He was Chair of the committee that developed the original Ranched Fox Code of Practice in 1989.

The Codes of Practice are national guidelines for the care and handling of the different species of farm animals. They promote sound management and welfare practices through recommendations and requirements for housing, management, transportation, processing and other animal husbandry practices. Farm animal care assessment programs are based on the Codes and some Canadian provinces reference the Codes within their animal protection legislation.

Codes are prepared with the input and support of scientific experts and by consensus of diverse groups involved or interested in farm animal care and welfare. Shelagh MacDonald, Program Director for the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) says, "The CFHS recognizes the importance of Codes of Practice for animal industries. The collaborative approach with scientific input outlined in the new NFACC Code development process is a leap forward and the CFHS is pleased to have a representative to participate in this process to move animal welfare forward." Don Mitton from the Canadian Association for Humane Trapping will represent CFHS on the ranched fox Codes committee.

Nadine Meade has been contracted as a Code Development Secretary and will facilitate the work of the Ranched Fox Code Development Committee. Nadine has a Master of Animal Science degree. Her work experience includes facilitating interactive discussions with diverse groups; including strategic planning and consensus building sessions, and working with Boards and industry groups to develop solutions to industry issues.

“The Codes represent our national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended best practices,” says Edouard Asnong, Chair of NFACC. He stresses that responsible farm animal care is important to everyone, from the animals themselves to the producers and consumers.

The revised ranched fox Code is expected to be released in 2012. For more information on the Codes of Practice and NFACC’s Code development process visit [www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca).

### **About NFACC**

NFACC is a collaborative partnership of diverse stakeholders created in 2005 to share information and work together on farm animal care and welfare. It is the national lead for farm animal care issues in Canada.

NFACC would like to acknowledge the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) for their role in securing funding for this project.

### **About CFBA**

The objectives of the CFBA is to improve, promote and protect the ranched fox industry in Canada and to improve the economic viability of the ranched fox industry in Canada.

*Code of Practice updates initiated from 2010 to 2013 are part of the project: Addressing Domestic and International Market Expectations Relative to Farm Animal Welfare. Funding for this project is being made available through AAFC’s AgriFlexibility fund, a program delivered in Canada’s Economic Action Plan (EAP). The EAP focuses on strengthening the economy and securing Canada’s economic future. For more information on the AgriFlexibility fund and Canada’s Economic Action Plan, please visit [www.agr.gc.ca/agriflexibility](http://www.agr.gc.ca/agriflexibility) and [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).*

- 30 -

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