



Advancing **Animal Welfare** and **Public Trust** Through Codes of Practice

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT
APRIL 2021-MARCH 2022

 CANADIAN
AGRICULTURAL
PARTNERSHIP

PARTENARIAT
CANADIEN pour
l'AGRICULTURE

Canada 

TABLE OF CONTENTS



| | |
|---|---|
| Passing the NFACC Chair Torch | 2 |
| Farmed Salmonids Code Finalized | 3 |
| Codes of Practice Under Development | 4 |
| "Diversity Leads to Better Decisions" | 6 |
| Embracing Constructive Tension | 7 |
| The NFACC Conversations Podcast | 8 |
| New Associate Members of NFACC in 2021-2022 | 8 |

16



Codes of Practice

1



New Podcast

8



YouTube Videos

23%



Increase in Website Visits

2



New Associate Members

Passing the NFACC Chair Torch

In February of this year I took on the role of NFACC's Chair from Ryder Lee who has deftly chaired NFACC since 2014. Words can hardly express what the organization owes him for his dedication and service over so many years. Ryder has been a mentor with respect to leading an organization as diverse as NFACC and I am proud to follow in his footsteps.

NFACC is a wonderfully unique and valuable organization that has served its members well. It is also an organization that has faced significant challenges. As polarization grows within our society, this makes collaborative conversations with respect to expectations for farm animal welfare even more difficult. However, NFACC is also uniquely positioned to facilitate the stakeholder interactions needed to find solutions. If we are collectively willing to engage in the hard conversations, we can both advance farm animal welfare and Canadian animal agriculture.

Forging Ahead on Farm Animal Welfare

Progress has continued in the "Advancing Animal Welfare and Public Trust Through Codes of Practice" project under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. In the pages of this Achievements Report you'll read about the first-ever Canadian Code of Practice for farmed salmonids and the record-breaking public comment period for the draft dairy cattle Code of Practice. The goat Code of Practice is also nearing the finish line. While an update to the transportation Code has provided many challenges, I'm confident that constructive outcomes are on the horizon. Additionally, you'll hear about NFACC's new podcast and about the growing profile of the organization.

NFACC is a compelling organization; one that aims to overcome our polarizing tendencies on animal welfare with a unifying tension based on the realization that despite our differences, there is value in supporting collective progress. Supporting good outcomes



Hans on the summit of Mount Fuji

for animals and for animal agriculture requires us to embrace the constructive tension that is necessary to resolve difficult challenges.

As Chair, I am committed to supporting respectful, open-minded deliberations that get to the heart of any challenges we face on farm animal welfare. It's a style that I call, "mining for controversy while reaching for solutions." It is imperative that we support safe spaces for everyone to contribute their thoughts and concerns, while working collaboratively to identify a path forward. Let's explore our challenges and work together to solve them.

H. Kristensen

Hans Kristensen
NFACC Chairman

FARMED SALMONIDS

Code Finalized

In 2018, the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance initiated the development of Canada's first-ever Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Salmonids (salmon, trout, charr). A Code Development Committee was created that consisted of 14 professionals, including farmers from across Canada, government, animal welfare advocates, food retailers, researchers, and veterinarians, brought together to collaborate on this national standard.

“Our industry’s participation in the Code development process demonstrates our producers’ commitment to animal health and welfare and dedication to responsible fish husbandry.”

Dr. Barry Milligan, Chair of the Code Development Committee

In addition to the Code Development Committee, a five-person Scientific Committee was formed that included animal science and veterinary experts in fish ecology, behaviour, health, and welfare. The Scientific Committee developed a report summarizing research related to priority welfare issues for farmed salmonids. The report provided the Code Development Committee with a peer-reviewed foundation for developing Requirements and Recommended Practices.

Once a draft Code was developed, it was presented for the 60-day public comment period from November 2, 2020, to January 7, 2021. The Code Development Committee had 14 online meetings over several months to consider the feedback from the Public Comment Period and reach consensus on the Code. In 2021, the first Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Salmonids was released, marking the 13th Code of Practice developed through NFACC's Code development process.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD?

20 ORGANIZATIONS

125 INDIVIDUALS

TOP 3 RESPONDENT RESIDENCE

1. British Columbia
2. Ontario
3. Atlantic Provinces

TOP 3 RESPONDENT GROUPS

1. Animal Welfare Advocates
2. Consumers
3. Seafood Farmers/Industry Representatives

A report summarizing how feedback on priority topics informed the committee's deliberations was published alongside the final Code. The report focuses mainly on top-of-mind concerns (identified in [NFACC's 2019 survey](#)) not only because these topics were a focus throughout the process but also because they tended to coincide with the sections of the Code that received the most input during the comment period.

“This Code is a valuable resource for large and small farms alike. It will allow us all to improve our practices while continuing to innovate for the future betterment of animal care.”

Arlen Taylor, producer representative on the Code Development Committee



Developing Canada's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Salmonids: What We Heard and How We Addressed It

Public Comment Period by the Numbers

The public comment period ran from November 2, 2020 – January 7, 2021.

80 organizations and 125 individuals participated.

The Code Development Committee had 14 online meetings over several months to consider all the input and reach consensus on the Code of Practice.

Who We Heard From

- Animal Welfare Advocates 42%
- Consumers 31%
- Seafood Farmers/Industry Representatives 26%

Where We Heard From

- British Columbia 40%
- Ontario 23%
- Atlantic Provinces 17%

TOP THREE RESPONDENT RESIDENCE

TOP THREE RESPONDENT GROUPS

TOP THREE RESPONDING REGIONS



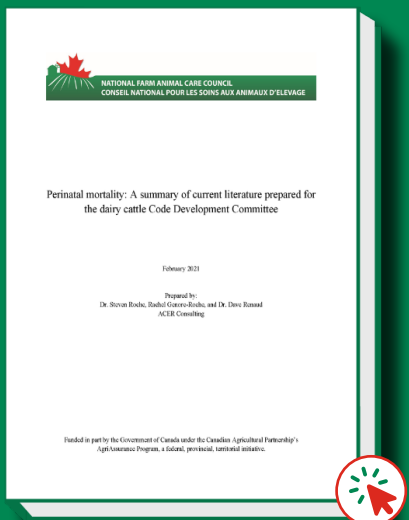
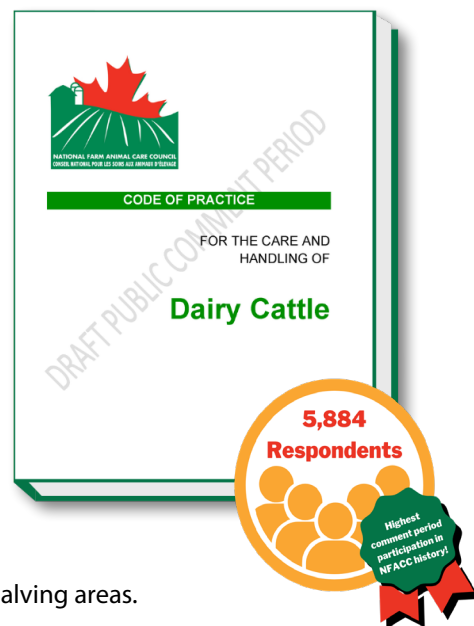
Codes of Practice Under Development

Dairy Cattle

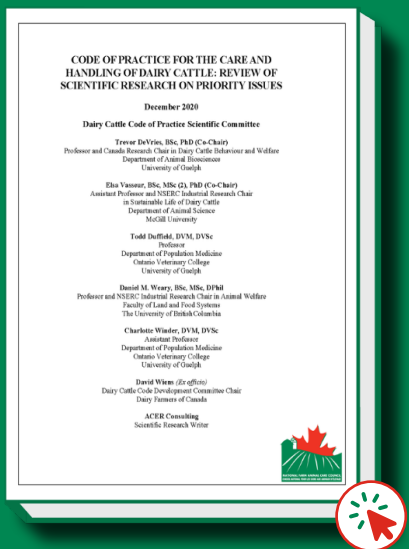
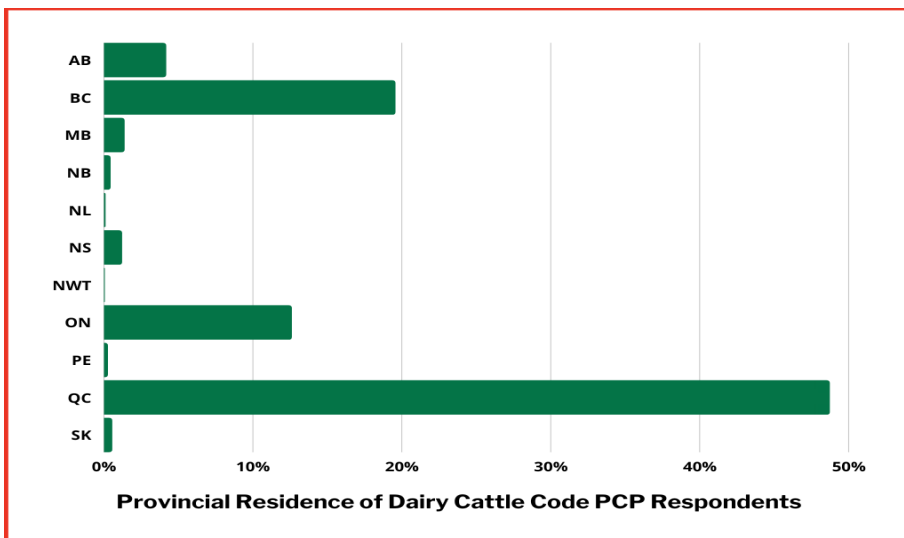
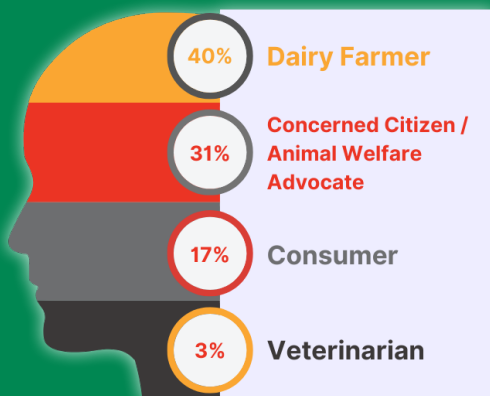
The creation of a draft updated Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle continued with the support of the [Scientific Committee Report](#) and a [summary of current literature on perinatal mortality](#). After the Code Development Committee approved their draft, it was made available for public comment between November 29, 2021, and January 27, 2022. An extension for those in British Columbia directly affected by the flood was given so they would have additional time to participate in the Public Comment Period.

The draft Code received feedback from over 5,800 respondents, the most participation in a Public Comment Period in NFACC history. 50 respondents submitted comments on behalf of an organization. With 58 sections to comment on, the Code received a total of 45,470 comments.

Dairy producers made their voices heard in the Public Comment Period by making up 40% of the respondents. The subsequent two most common respondents included concerned citizens/animal welfare advocates (31%) and consumers (17%). Of the seven chapters of the Code, the housing chapter received the most comments, especially the sections on lactating and dry cow housing, pre-weaning calf housing, and calving areas.



Top Roles of Respondents



The Code Development Committee will now take on the task of considering the Public Comment Period feedback (all 45,470 comments) to prepare the final Dairy Code. The group will continue to meet virtually, but opportunities for in-person meetings will now be introduced back into the Code development process.



Goats

Twenty years after the publication of the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Goats (2003), the updated Code of Practice is close to completion. The goat industry in Canada varies widely and includes dairy, meat, and fibre sectors. For this reason, the revision process needed to consider each sector's management practices as well as the interests of those who own goats for other purposes (e.g., goat packing, vegetative management, and companionship).



To carefully address all Public Comment Period contributions received in response to the draft Code, the Code Development Committee established a long-running series of regular virtual sessions (dubbed “Wonderful Weekly Wednesdays”). The willingness of the committee to meet on a week over week basis in this manner is a testimony to the Code Development Committee’s commitment and dedication.

The forthcoming Code is expected to encourage producers to establish and strengthen partnership relationships with herd veterinarians. In the same vein, rationales reflecting the scientific basis for much of the Code’s contents will be provided throughout (to offer “why’s”, rather than just “do’s”, in most sections). The Code Development Committee has continuously sought to strike a delicate balance between maintaining economic viability while advancing animal health and welfare for years to come.



Transportation

The update to the 2001 Transportation Code began in 2018. 90+ individuals from at least 35 different organizations have been engaged on this Code update that has included 8 species-specific Working Groups, an Intermediary Sites Working Group, and a 23-person Code Development Committee.

This massive undertaking is the first Code using the NFACC Code process that is not intended for on-farm use. The lack of a national transportation organization to lead this Code update has led to numerous fundamental process challenges. Add to this a pandemic that prevented in-person meetings that are critical for interpersonal relationship development amongst diverse stakeholders, limited research on livestock and poultry transport, and a regulatory environment that has become much more rigorous since the Code update was initiated. Collectively these challenges have presented many obstacles to overcome. However, obstacles can lead to new opportunities and the focus remains on supporting humane livestock and poultry care during transportation and at intermediary sites.



DID YOU

NFACC's operations are funded through membership fees. Every primary and associate member of NFACC, except for governments and researchers, contributes to NFACC's annual budget.

KNOW?

HOW ARE CODES USED?



THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

COLLABORATIVE

TRANSPARENT

CONSENSUS BASED



DID YOU

NFACC operates using a consensus model for decision-making. This ensures that minority voices around NFACC are heard and are empowered. While a major criticism of NFACC is that it is "industry heavy" the reality is that our decision-making model has been an equalizer amongst all NFACC members.

KNOW?

Diversity Leads to Better Decisions

NFACC is a forum where diverse groups that would not normally interact come together to:

- ♦ develop Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals,
- ♦ develop animal care assessment programs,
- ♦ engage in open dialogue on farm animal welfare.

NFACC is an organization of process; it does not "create" Codes of Practice or Animal Care Assessment Programs. Instead, NFACC creates the processes by which those with the jurisdiction, influence, or responsibilities in farm animal welfare come to consensus on standards of care that can be applied on all farms in Canada.

WHAT DOES CONSENSUS MEAN AT NFACC?



AGREEMENT

Characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues.

Consensus does not necessarily imply complete agreement.



ALL PARTIES INVOLVED

Consensus is the result of a process that takes into account the interests and concerns of all parties.

Everyone has the opportunity to be heard.

Any latent issues must be explored to the satisfaction of all involved.



THE CONSENSUS MINDSET

Ideas proposed must consider and reflect all party's interests. Those involved must ask themselves: "Can I live with the proposal under discussion?"

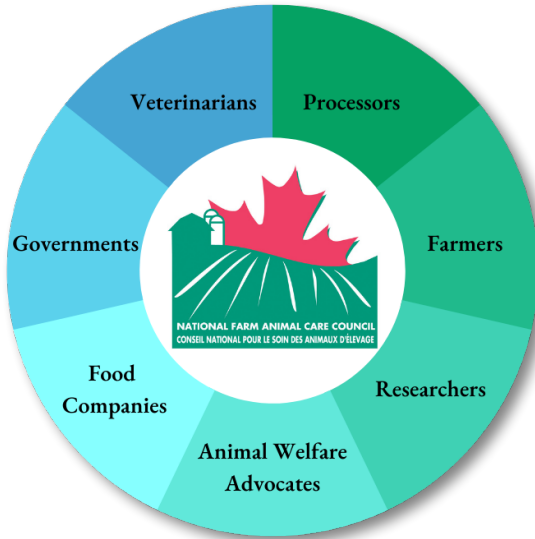
If they cannot, they must suggest a solution that also considers the interests of others.

“The development process for the Codes is collaborative, transparent, consensus based and has been designed to ensure that each Code is scientifically informed, practical, and reflects society's expectations for responsible farm animal care.”

Embracing Constructive Tension

NFACC isn't one person or entity – it is everybody, created to achieve what no one group could do on its own.

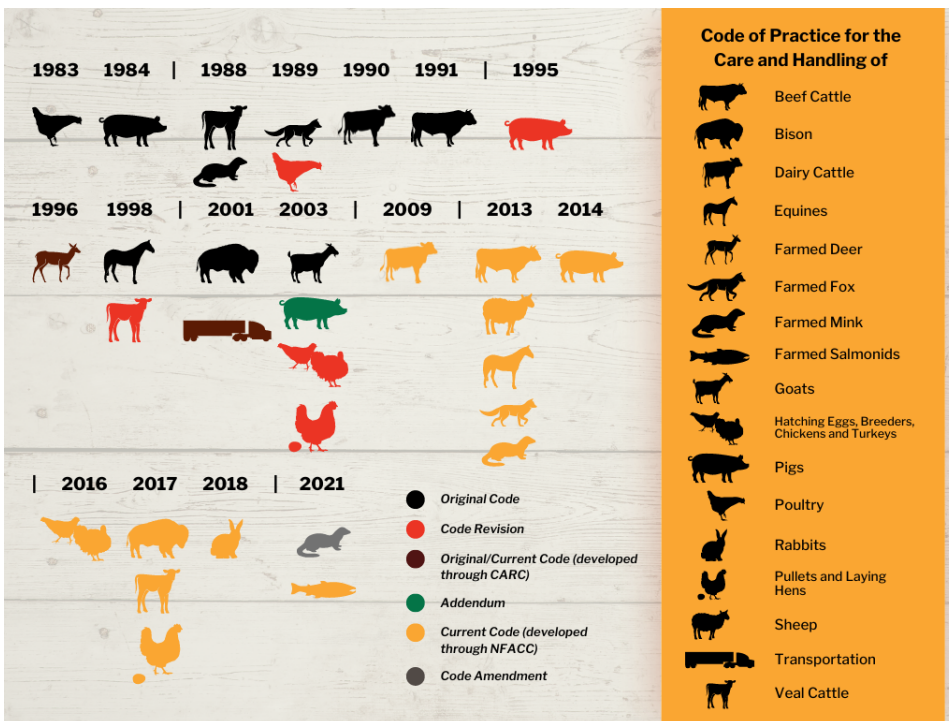
At NFACC, the natural polarization tendencies of diverse groups who are not normally inclined to come together are always at play. These polarizing tendencies are supplanted by a balanced, unifying tension (“constructive tension”) that is based on the realization that despite our differences, there is value in supporting collective progress.



Embracing “constructive tension” is hard work. It requires us to shift from asking the question, “who’s right on farm animal welfare” to asking, “what does farm animal welfare look like if each of us is right?”

Supporting good outcomes for animals and for animal agriculture requires us to embrace the necessary constructive tension required to resolve challenging issues.

An Historical View of the Codes of Practice









Featuring NFACC's New Assistant General Manager

CAROLINE RAMSAY

Caroline Ramsay took on the role of Assistant General Manager in September of 2021.



Since 2011, Caroline has worked closely with NFACC in a number of projects, being vital in the creation and update of the:

-  **Animal Care Assessment Framework**
-  **Equine Code**
-  **Veal Cattle Code**
-  **Rabbit Code**
-  **Dairy Cattle Code**
-  **Farmed Salmonids Code**

Caroline’s interest in agriculture started in her early career as a chef. Her interest continued to grow as she worked on farms in Ontario and Alberta and completed her B.Sc. (in agriculture) in 2007 at the University of British Columbia and Masters in Public Policy in 2016 at Simon Fraser University.

Throughout her work with NFACC, Caroline has grown in her facilitation skills and manages diverse groups through difficult conversations with ease. Her experience and skills made her an excellent choice for NFACC’s Assistant General Manager.

NFACC's New Assistant General Manager

Cover image photo credits: top left photo: Dairy Farmers of Canada; top middle photo: Chicken Farmers of Canada; top right photo: Mowi Canada West; bottom left photo: Canva stock image; bottom middle photo: Chicken Farmers of Canada; bottom right photo: Canadian Meat Goat Association.

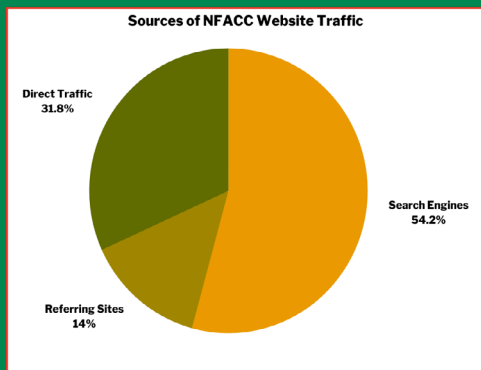
The NFACC Conversations Podcast



23%



Increase in
Website Visits



Top 3 Referring Sites

1. Facebook
2. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
3. Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Top 3 NFACC Webpages Visited

1. [Codes of Practice](#)
2. [NFACC Home](#)
3. [Pig Code of Practice](#)

The NFACC Conversations Podcast premiered in February 2022 with an episode that puts the listener in the room of the first transportation Code Development Committee meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Jeffrey Spooner. In the podcast, the listener gets to know the transporters who have committed their time to update the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation. In addition, we learn about their experience in transporting livestock and poultry and their commitment to animal welfare.



nfaccconversations
dialogues du cnsae

The discussion highlighted many vital elements impacting livestock and poultry transport, such as species differences, weather conditions, and regulations. Transporters want the public to know that they are proud of how they care for livestock and poultry during transport, even when challenges abound.

Stay tuned for the next episode of the NFACC Conversations Podcast coming soon! Episode 2 features a panel of retail, restaurant, and foodservice company representatives, including A&W, Aramark Canada, Recipe Unlimited, and the Retail Council of Canada. The panel discusses how their respective company utilizes the Codes of Practice, their thoughts on consumer wants and interests, and their expectations for the various commodity-developed on-farm animal care assessment programs.

New Associate Members of NFACC in 2021-2022

Walmart Canada



“Walmart Canada is committed to ensuring the farm animals in our supply chain are treated humanely throughout their lives and that the welfare of farm animals be considered in selection of all production

systems, practices and technologies. Joining the National Farm Animal Care Council as Associate Members and working with fellow industry leaders to advance progress on enhanced animal welfare is an important milestone in this commitment.”

Kentucky Fried Chicken

“Chicken is our business and we have a responsibility as the chicken brand in Canada to make sure we are pushing improvement to chicken welfare standards across our supply chain. Joining the National Farm Animal Care Council is the next step on that important journey. While we don't own any poultry facilities at KFC, we require all our suppliers and their farmers to follow our industry-leading welfare processes. As Associate Members of NFACC, we will remain committed to raising the minimum level of welfare standards across our own supply chain while also working with multi-stakeholder experts to accelerate progress across our Canadian industry at large.”

