



NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ELEVAGE



Building a Common Approach to Animal Care Assessment

National Farm Animal Care Conference
 Ottawa, Ontario

October 9, 2013


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The Animal Care Assessment Framework

**“OK, so we have our Code of Practice...
 Now what?!”**

“Codes aren’t an end-point. They’re a mid-point. The Codes are providing, with the foundation we have through NEACC, an excellent frame. But we need to keep building on that frame to actually provide the assurance that animals are being treated according to acceptable standards on farms.”

– Geoff Urton, BC SPCA



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The Animal Care Assessment Framework

What is it?

- ▶ A credible, nationally coordinated process to follow when developing an assessment program based on Codes of Practice
- ▶ Think one part credible process; one part helpful resource

Main objectives for the Animal Care Assessment Framework

- ▶ Facilitate **Code implementation**
- ▶ Provide a **common approach** to program development
- ▶ Help ensure **consistent communications** along value chain and between commodity groups
- ▶ Enhance the **credibility** of assessment programs developed according to the framework



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Steering Committee (March 2011 – December 2013)

Researchers

- ▶ Anne Marie de Passillé, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
- ▶ Ed Pajor, University of Calgary
- ▶ Tina Widowski, University of Guelph

Auditors

- ▶ Jennifer Woods, J. Woods Livestock Services
- ▶ Penny Lawlis, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs

Representatives of those who will be assessed

- ▶ Catherine Scovil, Canadian Pork Council
- ▶ David Murray, Dairy Farmers of Canada
- ▶ Pierre Lampron, Dairy Farmers of Canada
- ▶ Jennifer Gardner, Chicken Farmers of Canada
- ▶ Ryder Lee, Canadian Cattleman's Association

Representatives of those looking for proof of adherence to Codes

- ▶ Geoff Urton, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (BC SPCA)
- ▶ Jorge Correa, Canadian Meat Council
- ▶ Sherry Casey, Loblaw Companies Ltd




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Animal Care Assessment Framework – Historic Context

2005 → 2006 → 2007 → 2008 → 2009 → 2010 → 2011 → 2012 → 2013

From 2005 – 2010

- ▶ Discussions and information sharing
- ▶ Reports developed on key topics
- ▶ A subcommittee developed a draft model



From 2011 – 2013

- ▶ Steering Committee finalized the framework based on
 - ▶ Two stakeholders’ workshops (2011 & 2013)
 - ▶ A test pilot of the draft by Dairy Farmers of Canada
 - ▶ Input from a Retail/Foodservice Advisory Committee

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Animal Care Assessment Framework

Key Features

- ▶ Broad stakeholder participation in program development
- ▶ Programs must be based on the Codes of Practice
 - ▶ Framework specifies principles all programs must meet relative to how Codes are used
- ▶ Written for use by any farmed animal industry
- ▶ Recognition that some aspects of the program will be determined by factors external to the framework
- ▶ Using the framework is voluntary (industry association initiates)
- ▶ NFACC will serve a key role as an oversight body that the process has been followed

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Animal Care Assessment Framework

- ▶ **Section 1 – The six steps to follow for program development**
 - ▶ Roles, responsibilities and other considerations, Steps 1-3
 - ▶ Developing Program Content, Steps 4 and 5
 - ▶ Reporting to NFACC, Step 6
- ▶ **Section 2 – Supplementary Information and other Resources**
 - ▶ Principles for Program Implementation
 - ▶ Considerations on Training
 - ▶ Appendices
 - ▶ Terms of reference
 - ▶ Guiding principles to program development
 - ▶ Understanding assessment measures

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Animal Care Assessment Framework

Next steps and some final thoughts to leave you with

- ▶ Findings and recommendations to be summarized in a report
- ▶ The Animal Care Assessment Framework is ready for use by 2014
- ▶ Refine the framework based on new research and input from various groups that use it

- ▶ This new framework has an inherent value but we still have a collective responsibility to ensure its success
 - ▶ Active participation by stakeholders
 - ▶ Use it!
 - ▶ Promote it as part of Canada's strategy on animal care



Thank you!

For further information contact

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