

CERTIFIED LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTERS PROGRAM

First Trainers Workshop Offered

The first Canadian Certified Livestock Transporters (CLT) *Train the Trainer* workshop was held at Olds College, Alberta on May 17, 2007. Thirty-six trainers and 11 observers attended the workshop, aimed at training instructors to deliver the CLT training program.

Representatives of feedlots, meat plants, assembly yards, trucking firms, along with independent trainers and industry organizations attended.

The CLT is a comprehensive, multi-species training program for Canadian-based livestock shippers, truckers and receivers operating within North America. The program is a response to industry requests for increased accountability and skill upgrading. The program covers livestock handling, loading, biosecurity and transport regulatory requirements for Canada and the US. It also includes instruction on recognizing and dealing with livestock not fit to be transported as well as emergency accident response. Species-specific modules and videos include beef, hogs, sheep, horses and poultry.

New CLT trainer, Harvey Wagner of Sask Pork, says, "We are in a world of continuous education and it is important for people to be aware of this reality. If I can get people to slow down, think about the animals as individuals, and their needs – then I have achieved something." Wagner is also a certified Trucker Quality Assurance (TQA) trainer for the National Pork Board in the US.

Tim O'Byrne, the CLT program developer, says, "The new CLT trainers understand their audience and will customize the course according to species and location needs."

The program was originally developed by Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC), a partnership of Alberta's major livestock groups, in conjunction with an extensive industry advisory group. Susan Church, AFAC Manager, notes, "Interest in CLT has grown across Canada. AFAC's sister groups in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have now become involved through our joint project, *Putting Farm Animal Welfare on the Agenda*. This is now evolving into a Canadian project."



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) contributed to the development of the course and Gordon Doonan, CFIA Senior Staff Veterinarian, Humane Transportation of Animals, presented

the regulatory information at the workshop. Doonan notes that, "CLT has the potential to lead to continual improvement in livestock and poultry transportation. It shows industry driving forward, positioning Canada advantageously relative to other OIE countries, and taking the lead on international standards. It would be a positive development for CLT to grow into a national program." ■

RECONCILING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Farm Animal Welfare: The New Tower of Babel*

Debates related to different farm animal production practices often claim to use science as their basis. Science has been used to contend that a practice is humane. Science has also been used to contend that the same practice is inhumane. The term ‘science’ refers to a system for acquiring knowledge. To acquire knowledge on animal welfare, we must first understand what we mean by ‘**animal welfare.**’



Dr. David Fraser

Dr.’s David Fraser and Dan Weary, from the University of British Columbia’s Animal Welfare Program, believe confusion exists because people often define animal welfare differently.¹ “People use different criteria in judging what constitutes a good life for animals and how animals ought

to be treated,” says Dr. Weary. “Any conception of animal welfare involves values because it pertains to what is *better or worse* for animals. The approaches and interpretations that scientists use in assessing animal welfare reflect value-laden presuppositions about what is better or worse for animals.”

Fraser and colleagues identified three overlapping views that are expressed relative to animal welfare:

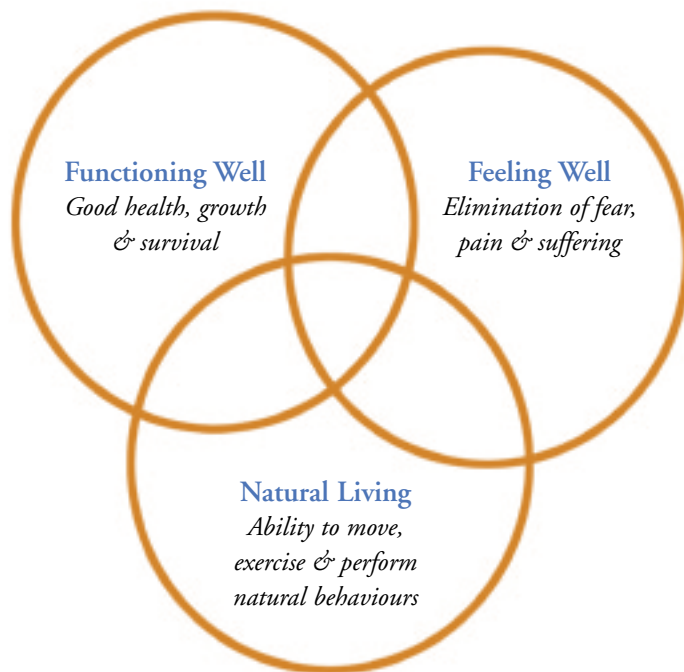
- 1) That animals should function well, in the sense of satisfactory health, growth and normal functioning of physiological and behavioural systems;
- 2) That animals should feel well by being free from prolonged and intense fear, pain, and other negative states, and by experiencing normal pleasures;
- 3) That animals should lead natural lives through the development and use of their natural adaptations and capabilities.

Fraser noted that, although the different views can all be tested scientifically, “the relative importance attached to each is at least partly a matter of value judgments about what is more or less important for the quality of life of animals.” Cultural factors also influence how different societies weigh these views.

“It would be comforting to think that science could arbitrate disagreements on the relative importance of different welfare perspectives,” says Dr. Weary. However, it cannot. “If animal welfare research is to address major concerns about the quality of life of animals, then the concept of animal welfare used by scientists needs to reflect the full range of major views existing within in a society.”

Michael Appleby, in his book *What Should We Do About Animal Welfare*, builds on Fraser’s work, noting that while disagreement as to the relative importance of each concept exists, there is significant overlap. “Perhaps we should focus on the areas of agreement and less on the areas of disagreement”² (see illustration). ■

AN ILLUSTRATION MERGING FRASER & APPLEBY’S CONCEPTS



* MERRIAM-WEBSTER DEFINITION Tower of Babel (Ba·bel)

1. A tower built by the descendants of Noah in Babel and intended to reach to heaven: God punished the builders for their presumption by confusing the language, preventing them from understanding each other and from completing the tower.
2. A confusion of many voices or languages.

1. David Fraser, DM Weary, EA Pajor, & BN Milligan, (1997) “A scientific conception of animal welfare that reflects ethical concerns.” *Animal Welfare*, 6 (1997), 187 – 205.

2. Michael Appleby, *What Should We Do About Animal Welfare*. (Cornwall: Blackwell Science Ltd., 1999), p.39.

Values Matter - Linking Science and Ethics

Animal welfare issues continue to make headlines. From corporate requirements to legislative initiatives, change is happening on the farm animal welfare front. In many cases there is also a growing divide between livestock producers and the largely urban consumers who buy animal products.

Earl Dotson of Validus Services (an auditing company) noted at the 2007 AFAC Livestock Care Conference, “there is tremendous cultural confusion on the role and function of animals in society; are they pets, meat or part of the family?” Dotson also says, “consumers want safe food, clean environment and good animal care.” Increasingly this means providing assurances that animals are cared for in a manner that falls in line with societal expectations. Society is changing, but at the same time the public still wishes to consume animal products.

The scientific process is often held up as the golden rule for determining what constitutes good animal welfare. However, the scientific definition of animal welfare includes production, health, stress, pain / suffering, and behavioural components. Decisions as to which components should take precedence are value based and will vary between individual researchers, producers and the public.

Dr. Ray Stricklin, University of Maryland, states, “**Science and ethics always overlap. Science deals with what is, while ethics deals with what ought to be. Research can tell us how much space an animal needs to engage in a behaviour, but research does not determine if an animal ought to be**



Earl Dotson

“... We need to express our moral commitment, explain how we care, and then back it up with science.” Charlie Arnot

able to perform the behaviour. Science cannot make the decision as to where we draw the line on what ought to be.”

Recognizing the interplay between science and ethics is vital for understanding the challenges of addressing farm animal welfare issues. “Science alone should not be the basis for dealing with animal welfare,” says Stricklin.

“We need a moral justification for what we are doing in animal agriculture.”

Charlie Arnot, CMA Consulting, believes that values matter. Speaking at a recent Animal Agriculture Alliance conference in the U.S. he suggested, “We are not connecting with consumers when we use scientific answers to ethical questions. We need to express our moral commitment, explain how we care, and then back it up with science.”

It’s also about building trust. Arnot says, “Trust is important to people. They will refuse to do business with companies they do not trust. What are we doing to build confidence, competence and bring influential others to our position, which will build trust?”

Arnot suggests that industry needs to change the dynamics of the discussion. “We should define ourselves in a professional model, and be engaged with stakeholders – including NGO’s – to know what is important to them. Values matter, it’s not just about science.” ■

EXAMPLES OF RECENT ANIMAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENTS

- Wendy’s International will give preferential treatment to pork suppliers that don’t use gestation stalls and broiler suppliers that use controlled atmosphere stunning
- Burger King shifts policy on animals - going crate / cage free and encouraging the use of gas stunning in poultry
- University of British Columbia considering options for offering ‘cage-free’ eggs within its menu selection
- University of Guelph offers choice of ‘cage-free’ eggs on its cafeteria menu
- Arizona Proposition 204 passes – nearly 62% of voters in favour of banning gestation stalls and veal crates by 2012
- Legislative pressure to ban horse slaughter in the U.S.
- New EU Transport Regulations in force January 2007
- Multiple U.S. State actions to ban foie gras production and sale
- Animal Welfare Institute launches ‘Animal Welfare Approved’ label, in addition to others on the market

STATUS AND ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

Proposed Amendments to Canada's Health of Animals Regulations

Dr. Gordon Doonan, CFIA Senior Staff Veterinarian, Humane Transportation of Animals, met with livestock industry members in Alberta in May 2007, to provide updates on the status of the proposed amendments and to discuss ongoing issues.

CFIA has been collecting input and information for the proposal for several years. "This is not the product of pressure from animal rights groups. The process was initiated prior to their involvement," says Doonan. "The impetus came from within CFIA originally. Later input was provided by researchers, veterinarians, industry and animal humane organizations." Doonan notes, "We recognize that any changes require careful consideration, but there is a sense of urgency, as certain sections do not appear to say what they were intended to achieve."

The regulations are not expected, or intended, to impact most individuals involved in the relocation of animals. "CFIA deals with individuals who give industry a bad name. This is who the regulations are meant to address. What is happening in enforcement today will continue. The aim is to give inspectors the tools and guidance they need to do their job."

The discussion focused on three key proposed amendments: loading density, feed/water/rest, and risk factors (see below).

Wherever possible the regulations will reflect 'outcome-based' measures, (i.e., there must be a negative outcome for the animal). Manitoba's Animal Welfare Act has been referenced for its wording where Codes are referenced, but *not adhering to the Code is not an offence unless there is a negative outcome for the animal.*

Proposed changes to the regulations may be in Gazette 1 by autumn, at the earliest.

Jim Haggins, PIC Canada, attended the meeting and noted, "I came away from this with a great deal more comfort with the procedure ... There was a clear understanding to base decisions on 'outcome based results' and that was certainly encouraging." ■



Gordon Doonan meets with livestock industry reps

NORMAL REGULATORY CHANGE PROCESS



LOADING DENSITY

CFIA heard the request to reference Codes and carried this forward as a recommendation. However, Justice Canada has a rule: one cannot reference an external document if that document has as its source an organization with a vested interest. The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) is the source referenced for Codes, but it may be viewed as an organization with a vested interest.

FEED, WATER & REST (FWR)

CFIA is considering separating FWR requirements. Water would be most important (then feed, then rest). Currently the proposal is for watering intervals of 28-30 hours for monogastrics and 40-41 hours for ruminants. CFIA is open for discussion around FWR due to the complex variables at play and willing to engage stakeholders in developing answers. Dr. Doonan expects recommendations to be developed by July 2007, at which point stakeholder input is welcome.

RISK FACTORS

Those involved in transportation are responsible for looking at risk factors (e.g. adverse weather conditions), planning accordingly and performing due diligence. CFIA is looking at how to objectively address this requirement. However, there must be a negative outcome to the animal, which can be linked to a lack of due diligence, before any enforcement action will occur.

“SCIENCE AND SOCIETY IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE” The EU’s Welfare Quality® Project

The Welfare Quality® (WQ) Project held its second stakeholder conference, *Assuring animal welfare: from societal concerns to implementation*, May 3 – 4, 2007 in Berlin, Germany. The European project aims to integrate animal welfare in the food quality chain, “from public concern to improved welfare and transparent quality.”¹

Project results were presented at the conference, including the identification of animal welfare principles that should be addressed within assessment processes.

WQ project researchers recognize animal welfare as a multi-dimensional concept, comprised of both physical and mental health. They also note that the importance attributed to different aspects of animal welfare will vary between people. Following from this, 12 welfare principles have been identified within four main criteria groups (Table 1).

The 12 principles were reviewed by the Welfare Quality Advisory Committee and by 55 consumer-citizen focus groups to assess support, which was reported as being high.

Draft monitoring schemes that incorporate the 12 principles, are being developed and tested. Animal-based measures are preferred and viewed as appropriate to assess welfare from the animals’ point of view. However, the project will also look at environment-based measures, “which will help

diagnose the causes of poor welfare and advise farmers on ways to improve the welfare of their animals.”

There is recognition that to increase the acceptability of any monitoring system, farmers must be involved in the development process. The draft monitoring schemes are currently being tested on pilot farms and abattoirs around Europe. ■



Conference venue in Berlin

EU Welfare Quality® Project:
www.welfarequality.net/everyone/36059

Table 1: Welfare principles and criteria identified in Welfare Quality®

CRITERIA	WELFARE PRINCIPLES	MEANINGS
Good feeding	1. Absence of prolonged hunger	Animals should not suffer from prolonged hunger
	2. Absence of prolonged thirst	Animals should not suffer from prolonged thirst
Good housing	3. Comfort around resting	Animals should be comfortable, especially within their lying areas
	4. Thermal comfort	Animals should be in good thermal environment
	5. Ease of movement	Animals should be able to move around freely
Good health	6. Absence of injuries	Animals should not be physically injured
	7. Absence of disease	Animals should be free of disease
	8. Absence of pain induced by management procedures	Animals should not suffer from pain induced by inappropriate management
Appropriate behaviour	9. Expression of social behaviours	Animals should be allowed to express natural, non-harmful, social behaviours
	10. Expression of other behaviours	Animals should have the possibility of expressing other intuitively desirable natural behaviours, such as exploration and play
	11. Good human-animal relationship	Good human-animal relationships are beneficial to the welfare of animals
	12. Absence of general fear	Animals should not experience negative emotions such as fear, distress, frustration or apathy

1. Proceedings of the Second Welfare Quality® Stakeholder Conference, May 3-4, 2007, Berlin, Germany.

FINDING THE MIDDLE GROUND

Cages Versus Cage-Free Systems for Laying Hens

The move away from battery cages toward cage-free egg systems has been building momentum in North America with several corporations (e.g., Burger King, Wolfgang Puck) and universities (Harvard, University of Guelph) announcing animal welfare policy shifts to support cage-free egg production. Has the middle ground been ignored?

Within the European Union, *Council Directive 1999/74/EC*, adopted in 1999, identifies three types of rearing systems for laying hens:

- **Conventional** (non-enriched) cage systems (hens must have at least 550 cm² of cage area per bird. As of Jan 1, 2003 such cages may not be built or used for the first time. Conventional cages will be prohibited by Jan 2012;
- **Enriched**¹ cages where laying hens have at least 750 cm² of cage area per bird;
- **Non-cage** systems with nests (at least one for seven hens), adequate perches and where the stocking density does not exceed nine laying hens per m² usable area.²

In a recent interview, Michael Appleby, who developed one of the original furnished cages (the Edinburgh Modified Cage) said, “Furnished cages have been introduced widely in Sweden, and to some extent in the UK. Other countries in Europe are largely holding their breath to see whether



Commercially available furnished cage

the Directive mandating phase-out of conventional cages by 2012 will be upheld.”

Meanwhile, research on hen housing systems has been ongoing. In Europe a research project (LayWel) studied the welfare implications of changes to laying hen production systems. Two outcomes from the project were:

- A report assessing the welfare impact of three housing systems (conventional battery, furnished and non-cage);
- An on-farm animal welfare audit manual for producers.

The report concluded that, “with the exception of conventional cages, all systems have the potential to provide satisfactory welfare for laying hens. However this potential is not always realized in practice.” Table 1 illustrates the project’s ‘traffic light’ approach to compare welfare outcomes and risks associated with several production systems. >

TABLE 1: LAYWEL PROJECT: RISK TO WELFARE FOR KEY INDICATORS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF HOUSING SYSTEM

INDICATOR	CONVENTIONAL	FURNISHED CAGE			NON-CAGE		OUTDOORS
		Small	Medium	Large	Single level	Multi-level	
Mortality (%)	Orange	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange
Mortality due to feather pecking and / or cannibalism	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Red mite	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Bumble foot	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Red	Red	Red
Feather loss	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Use of nest boxes	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	White
Use of perches	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Foraging behaviour	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green
Dustbathing behaviour	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Air quality	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Red	Red	Green
Water intake	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange

Red = high risk of poor welfare
Orange = variable between flocks & farms or moderate welfare risk
Green = low risk of poor welfare

CAGES VERSUS CAGE-FREE SYSTEMS ...

Michelle Jendral, PhD candidate at the University of Alberta, is in the latter stages of an industry supported project, that involved developing a modified cage (with nest box and perch) from a conventional cage. She is comparing the welfare and productivity of hens in the modified system to hens in conventional cages and some commercially available furnished cage units.

Results include:

- 95% of eggs were laid in the nest box for modified and furnished cages.
- Hens in modified or furnished cages exhibited less stereotypic behaviour and feather pecking, with more time spent resting, preening, and wing or leg stretching than hens in battery cages.

- Number of eggs did not differ between systems, but egg quality was improved in modified / furnished cages.
- Foot condition & bone quality was improved in the modified / furnished cages.
- Feather cover was improved in modified cages and in furnished cages with dust baths.
- Feed consumption and aggression was lowest in the modified cages.

Appleby notes, “It remains true that many people concerned for hen welfare think that all cages are wrong, and that going cage free is the only reasonable action. That message does have some clarity to it. But I also have reservations ... For me, one of the most important points is that welfare in furnished cages is better than in conventional battery cages.” ■

LayWel: www.laywel.eu

M. Jendral's project summary: www.prc.afns.ualberta.ca/Content/Docs/Project-Jendral02.pdf

1. Enriched cages (also referred to as ‘furnished cages’) include a nest box, perch and litter for pecking / scratching. Some enriched systems also include a dust bath.
2. ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/farm/laying_hens_en.htm

Determining Death in Field Conditions

One of the realities of livestock production is euthanasia.

All livestock handlers face situations where animals, because of disease, injury or some other cause, must be humanely killed on-site.

Jennifer Woods, a livestock handling specialist, teaches emergency response courses on the humane handling and euthanasia of livestock during emergencies. “Determining death under field conditions can be problematic,” she says. “In the field there is no way to 100% confirm that an animal has been made insensible prior to death, nor do we know how long it should take for an animal to die.” She notes that the issues are the same, whether it’s an accident scene, disease control situation or part of responsible on-farm management.

The OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) defines death as the, “irreversible termination of brain activity as demonstrated by the loss of brain stem reflexes.” However, there are no guidelines for how soon death should follow after an animal is rendered insensible. Martin Appelt, CFIA Humane Transportation Specialist notes



that, “as a rule of thumb, the time interval between stunning and follow-up action that guarantees death – bleeding for example - should be as short as possible, **probably not exceeding one minute.**”

However, Appelt says that in the field, “You have no access to an EEG or ECG. You may have a hard time using a stethoscope, due to ambient noise (at an accident scene or during disease control operations). In addition, you are not sure what reflexes you should and should not expect. The animal now appears to be dead - but is it?”

Several guidelines for on-farm euthanasia have been developed but Woods says more is needed. “Existing on-farm euthanasia guidelines are generally paper guides with

simplistic illustrations, and ‘x’ marks the spot. There is no variation for different kinds of animals within a species.”

According to Woods, “the vast majority of livestock are euthanized by non-veterinarians. We need to give people information that will help them to ensure a humane death.”

Woods’ end goals are to develop:

- ✓ A captive bolt gun that kills (currently captive bolts are mainly used for stunning animals).
- ✓ A euthanasia training program on:
 - Determining when an animal should be killed;
 - Recommended killing methods for different species / situations;
 - Recognizing / determining death in the field or on-farm. ■



Captive bolt gun with extended bolts - being tested as a stand alone euthanasia tool

Renewal of the Code of Practice Process

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), has submitted a funding proposal to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to pilot and finalize a new Code of Practice process.

One of NFACC's objectives is to update and re-establish the Code development process. A Code guideline document, outlining principles and criteria has been approved. A DRAFT Code process was developed incorporating those guidelines. NFACC has accepted the documents as the basis for moving forward on finalizing a new Code process. Dairy Farmers of Canada has agreed to pilot the new process through a revision of its Code. The expectation is that through a pilot project with the dairy industry, a new NFACC Code process will be finalized. Both the Code guideline and DRAFT Code process documents are available on NFACC's website (www.nfacc.ca).

Pending funding approvals, revision of the Dairy Code of Practice should begin in 2007.

CODE BACKGROUND

The Codes of Practice are nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of the different species of farm animals. They contain recommendations for housing, management, transportation, processing and other acceptable animal welfare and husbandry practices.

In 1980, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) began

coordinating the process of developing Codes of Practice for all livestock species. AAFC provided financial support for the undertaking.

A review committee developed the Codes with representatives from farm groups, animal welfare groups, veterinarians, animal scientists, federal and provincial governments, related agricultural sectors and interested individuals.

In 1993, AAFC asked the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council (CARC) and its Canada Committee on Animals to take the lead, in cooperation with the CFHS, in updating existing Codes and developing new Codes. A special CARC sub-committee was struck to move the Code process forward.

CARC officially agreed to take on full responsibility for the Code process in Feb 1995, with funding from AAFC. In 1996, CARC with the support of the provincial governments began producing four page factsheets that summarize the Codes.

The CARC process ended in 2003 when government funding for Codes ceased.

NFACC was established in 2005. Following broad consultation, a consensus was reached to move forward with Code development under the auspices of NFACC.

NFACC has a mandate to provide a nationally coordinated approach, promoting responsible farm animal care.

This industry led initiative brings a broad spectrum of groups together, including livestock producers, meat and poultry

processors, transporters, veterinarians, retailers, restaurant and food services, research / academia, the humane movement, provincial farm animal care groups, and provincial and federal governments. ■



Published by:



Putting Farm Animal Welfare on the Agenda.

Public concern and interest in farm animal welfare continue to grow. There is some excellent work being done to improve farm animal care. Our challenge is to communicate that information to where it's needed, from farmers to consumers and everyone in between.

This publication is part of the new *Putting Farm Animal Welfare on the Agenda* project — a team effort to increase communications about farm animal welfare across the country. Funding for this project was provided in part through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program. This is a collective outcome partnership with the Agricultural Adaptation Council in Ontario, the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council, the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development and the Alberta Agriculture and Food.