

Codes of Practice – Key messages to help you speak about the Codes

The Codes of Practice serve as our national understanding of farm animal care requirements and recommended practices.

- Nationally developed for different farm animal species
- Requirements are a regulatory requirement, or an industry-imposed expectation outlining acceptable and unacceptable practices and are fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals
- Recommended best practices may complement a Code's Requirements, promote producer education and can encourage adoption of practices for continuous improvement in animal welfare outcomes

Codes serve as extension tools, reference materials for regulations, and the foundation for animal care assessment programs.

- Industry use the Codes to promote sound management and welfare practices for housing, care, transportation and other animal husbandry practices
- Some provinces incorporate the Codes by reference within their animal welfare legislation
- Animal care assessment programs are based on the Codes

The Codes of Practice are scientifically informed, practical, and reflect societal expectations for farm animal care.

- The Code Development Committee and the Scientific Committee work together to ensure a Code is science- and consensus-based
- The Code Development Committee considers animal welfare topics within a “what is possible”, “when is it possible” and “how is it possible” framework
- A public comment period enables the views of all farm animal care interests to be considered before a Code is finalized

Stakeholder commitment is key to ensure quality animal care standards are established and implemented.

- Stakeholders include farmers/producers, transporters, veterinarians, animal welfare and enforcement agencies, retail and foodservice organizations, processors, governments and researchers
- Stakeholders have ownership of their respective Code through active participation
- Working together makes it possible to identify practical solutions that address farm animal care concerns and meet market requirements

Code Development Process – Key messages to help you speak about the Code development process

Canada's Code development process is a uniquely collaborative approach.

- The process is distinct from other farmed animal care systems worldwide
- Creates an environment for diverse perspectives to come together and build common and sustainable directions forward on farmed animal care

- Led by the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), a partnership of diverse stakeholders sharing information and working together on farm animal care and welfare

The Code development process ensures credibility and transparency through scientific rigour, stakeholder collaboration and a consistent approach

- Broad representation and expertise on each Code Development Committee encourages collaboration and adds credibility
- The Code development process fosters relationships and understanding amongst all partners involved in farmed animal care
- Code development follows a disciplined and consistent seven-step process
- Consensus models are used for decision-making
- The Code Development Committee and Scientific Committee collectively identify priority welfare issues
- The Scientific Committee reviews research and develops a report that is used by the Code Development Committee when drafting the Code
- Scientists' Committee reports are publicly available enhancing transparency and credibility

SPECIFIC KEY MESSAGES BY AUDIENCE

Industry groups and farmers – The Code of Practice development process is a change management tool that gives industry groups and farmers an opportunity to take ownership of animal welfare.

Retail/foodservice groups – The Codes of Practice are created through a rigorous process, resulting in a credible pre-competitive standard that provides a shared reference point for collective action.

International trading partners – Canada's Codes of Practice are developed through a process that responsibly addresses animal welfare concerns. The result is a legitimate animal welfare system that is equivalent to a more regulated approach.

Animal welfare groups – The Code of Practice development process facilitates real improvements in farm animal welfare that can be applied to all farm animals in Canada.

Governments – The government's investment in Canada's Codes of Practice has resulted in an updated Code development process by NFACC that minimizes risks and vulnerabilities related to animal welfare.

Enforcement agencies – The Code of Practice development process is a credible approach for improving animal welfare. The Codes provide a good educational tool and enforcement guidance.