



FAWC, 8B Millbank,
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To: Organisations listed in the Appendix

20th February 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR FARM LIVESTOCK WELFARE

In January 2012 the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC)¹ began a three year study leading to a Report on the Evidence Base for Farm Livestock Welfare. The review will be carried out by FAWC's Evidence Working Group, chaired by Professor Laura Green. The Report will be presented in three stages with a 'Part' produced each year.

Aim of the review

Evidence is information used by people to make decisions. Evidence is used to support many decisions in farm animal welfare including research, policy, technology exchange, farm management and assessing the welfare of groups and individual animals. FAWC is seeking opinion on how individuals and organisations involved in any aspect of farm animal welfare use evidence.

We have a wide range of stakeholders that we wish to consult and we would be most grateful if you would respond to this consultation by answering the questions below. Please do add any further comments.

1. What do you use evidence for?
2. What types of evidence do you use? (please complete the table overleaf)
3. What do you consider to be acceptable evidence in the case of animal welfare?
4. Which sources of information do you use to obtain evidence (for example, primary research, professional advice, books, articles in the press, internet, word of mouth etc.)?
5. How do you evaluate the quality of a piece of evidence?

¹ The Farm Animal Welfare Committee succeeded the Farm Animal Welfare Council on 1st April 2011 following a review of public bodies.

6. What do you consider to be the strongest types of evidence?
7. How do you decide on the value of a piece of evidence and whether to use it in decision making?
8. In what areas of farm animal welfare is evidence particularly lacking? How do you make decisions in these areas?
9. What specific evidence is needed in these areas?
10. What is Government's (England, Scotland and Wales) responsibility in applying evidence to policy decisions?
11. What types of evidence should Government take into account when making decisions concerning farm animal welfare?
12. Which types of evidence should government NOT take account of?
13. Do Governments have a responsibility to publish how they have used evidence to make policy decisions?
14. Are you aware of how Government currently uses and publishes evidence, if so please state which sources of Government evidence you have looked at and/or applied to your area of work?

How to respond

You are invited to submit your comments on all or some of the questions in this consultation. Please email your responses to fawcsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk by **Friday 11th May 2012**.

Or post to:

FAWC Secretariat, Defra, 8B Millbank, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

In addition to this consultation, as the work progresses, we may write to some organisations with specific questions. Some organisations may be invited to discussions with the Group.

It is usual to include in FAWC reports the names of those organisations and interested individuals who have contributed evidence. If you prefer that your name is excluded, please let us know when you reply.

If you are aware of any relevant consultees who we may have omitted please let us have contact details.

Further information about FAWC can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/fawc/

Yours faithfully

Brenda Rawson

FAWC Secretariat
020 7238 4926

Sources of evidence and their value. Please use the list of sources of evidence below to indicate the types of evidence that you use, please feel free to add your own sources

Sources of evidence	Please tick if you use this source as evidence in animal welfare
Systematic review of literature	
Research experiment	
Case history with no control	
Friend's opinion	
Personal experience / opinion	
Farming press	
FAWC opinions / reports	
EFSA reports	
Legislation	
Television Documentary / radio programme	
Professional advice	
Expert opinion	
Newspaper article	
Books written by experts	
Original piece of scientific research	
Veterinary press	
Tradition	
Laboratory experiment	
Own belief	
Training course / practical demonstration	
Other, please state	
Other, please state	
Other, please state	

APPENDIX

ADAS
AHDB
All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare
Animal Aid
Animal Health Trust
Animal Rights Law Centre
ASDA Group Plc
Associated British Foods
Association of Scottish Colleges
Association of Veterinary Students
Assured Food Standards
AWSELVA
BBC
Babraham Institute
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
British Association for Shooting and Conservation
British Institute of Agricultural Consultants
British Retail Consortium
British Society of Animal Science (BSAS)
British Veterinary Association (BVA)
Budgen Stores Ltd
Compassion in World Farming
Conservative Animal Welfare Group
Consumer Focus
Consumer Focus Scotland
Consumers Association
Consumers in Europe Group
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Co-operative Group Ltd
DairyCo
Defra
EBLEX
Eurepgap
Eurogroup for Animal Welfare
Farm Animal Care Trust
Farm Assured Welsh Livestock
Farmers Guardian
Farming Today (Radio 4)
Farmers' Union of Wales
Farmers Weekly
Federation of Veterinarians in Europe
Food and Drink Federation
Food Animal Initiative
Food Aware
Food Standards Agency
Freedom Food Ltd
Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust

The Guardian
Hannah Research Institute
Humane Slaughter Association
Institute for Animal Health
Institute of Biology
Institute of Food Research
Institute of Grocery Distribution
Institute of Trading Standards Administration
International Fund of Animal Welfare (IFAW)
John Lewis plc
KFC UK
LACORS
Lantra
Macaulay institute
McDonald's
Marks & Spencer plc
Moredun Institute
Morrisons
National Association of Local Councils
National Consumer Federation
National Council of Women of Great Britain
National Farmers Union
National Farmers' Union of Scotland
National Farmers' Union (Wales)
National Federation of Meat & Food Traders
National Federation of Women's Institutes
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
National Office of Animal Health Ltd (NOAH)
National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC)
Natural England
Nuffield Council on Bioethics
OneKind
Organic Food Federation
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
Roslin Institute (Edinburgh)
Rowett Research Institute
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Royal (Dick) College of Veterinary Studies
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
Royal Veterinary College
Sainsbury's Supermarkets
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Science
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Scottish Government
Sheep Veterinary Society
Silsoe Livestock Systems
Soil Association
Somerset Stores Ltd

SUSTAIN - The Alliance for Better Food & Farming
Tesco Stores Ltd
UCAS
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
University of Aberdeen
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
University of Newcastle upon Tyne
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Plymouth
University of Reading
University of Stirling
University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Bangor
Vegetarian Economy & Green Agriculture (VEGA) Research
Veterinary Laboratories Agency
Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Veterinary Record
WM Morrison Supermarkets Ltd
Waitrose Ltd
Welsh Consumer Council
Welsh Government
Welsh Local Government Association
Women's Food & Farming Union
World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)