



FAWC, Area 8B, 9 Millbank, Nobel House
17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR
Tel: 020 7238 4926

NEWS RELEASE

15 December 2011

FAWC launches Report on Education, Communication and Knowledge Application in Relation to Farm Animal Welfare

The Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC), an expert group providing independent advice on the welfare of farmed animals, today released its Report which reviews transmission of knowledge about animal welfare, explores opportunities within education systems and assesses the effectiveness of communication about animal welfare to society in general.

Professor Christopher Wathes, FAWC's Chairman, says: "Consumers should be able to make an informed decision about their purchases of meat, eggs, milk and other animal products according to welfare provenance. This can be achieved by education of all citizens throughout childhood with information provided at the point of sale to allow the concerned consumer to make an informed choice. The Report makes specific recommendations on how information about farm animal welfare should be communicated."

"The Report also suggests how farmers and others within the food supply chain can 'learn' about farm animal welfare: other farmers are an excellent source of good practice, though there are others. Benchmarking serves farmers especially well in knowledge transfer about farm animal welfare."

FAWC maintains that all citizens, be they farmers, stockmen, others in the food supply chain or consumers, have responsibilities towards farm animals. In today's Report FAWC argues that improving farm animal welfare depends upon:

- Educating citizens from childhood through to adulthood, about farm animal welfare (part III).
- Facilitating consumer choice for animal products that are derived from production systems where welfare standards are higher than minimum legal standards (part IV).
- Improving the understanding, knowledge and practice of animal welfare amongst those directly responsible for farm animals (part V).

END

ABOUT FAWC

Notes for Editors

1. The Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) is an expert committee of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales providing independent, authoritative, impartial and timely advice on the welfare of farmed animals, including farmed animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at the place of killing; and on any legislative or other changes that might be considered necessary to improve standards of animal welfare. It also provides independent scientific support and advice as required by Article 20 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing.
2. The Committee took up much of the work of the Farm Animal Welfare Council when it was abolished in March 2011 following Government's review of arm's length bodies.
3. Professor Christopher Wathes has been the Chairman of FAWC since January 2005. He is Professor of Animal Welfare at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London.
4. All FAWC members serve in a personal capacity and do not represent any organisation with which they may be associated.
5. Copies of FAWC publications are available from the FAWC website. Approaches for interviews should be directed to the Secretariat.

FAWC Secretariat
Area 8B, 9 Millbank
Nobel House, 17 Smith Square
London, SW1P 3JR

Tel: 020 7238 4926

E-mail: fawcsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.defra.gov.uk/fawc