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**NEWS RELEASE  
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**APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE FARM ANIMAL WELFARE  
COMMITTEE**

The Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) has appointed the following five new members with effect from 1 January 2012:

**Mike Elliott** - a former pig farmer and wholesale butcher. A Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, he is a consultant to the meat trade in abattoir design and valuation. His interests include the treatment and handling of livestock during transport and lairage.

**Dr John Fletcher** - a veterinary surgeon. After studying wild red deer on the Isle of Rum, Scotland, for a PhD, he started his own deer farm in 1973. He has worked with deer ever since, has written several books about them, and was active in drafting the Welfare Code for Farmed Deer. He was founder President of the Veterinary Deer Society and has chaired the British Deer Farmers' Association and the Federation of European Deer Farmers' Associations.

**Neil Manchester** - Operations Director of an Atlantic salmon breeding and production company. He has an agricultural training and background and has over 25 years' global experience in multi-species aquaculture.

**Mark White** - a practising veterinary surgeon with 30 years' practical experience. He is an RCVS recognised specialist in pig medicine and a former President of the Pig Veterinary Society, remaining an active member.

**Steve Wotton** - Senior Lecturer in Farm Animal Science at the University of Bristol's School of Veterinary Sciences. He is interested in the science of stunning and slaughter of livestock species. He is currently the honorary treasurer of the Animal Welfare, Science, Ethics and Law Veterinary Association.

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## Notes to Editors

1. The Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) is an expert committee of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales. It was established on 1 April 2011 following a review of public bodies.
2. The Committee provides independent 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.
3. Members are appointed through open competition, in line with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for an appointee's political activity (if any declared) to be made public. None of the appointees declared any political activity.
4. Appointments are made for a three year period which may be renewed. All members serve in a personal capacity and do not represent any organisation with which they may be associated. Members can claim a daily fee of £148 plus reasonable travel and subsistence expenses.
5. Dr David Main and Mike Wijnberg retired as FAWC members at the end of 2011.
6. FAWC is chaired by Professor Christopher Wathes who holds the Chair of Animal Welfare at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London.
7. More information about FAWC is available from the website ([www.defra.gov.uk/fawc](http://www.defra.gov.uk/fawc)) or from the Secretariat ([fawcsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fawcsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk)).