# Minutes of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

**Venue:** Portlaoise Heritage Hotel, Town Centre, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Date: 30th April 2008.

Present: Professor Patrick Fottrell (Chairman), Dermot Ryan (DAFF), Martin Blake (DAFF), Sean O’Laoide (Vet Ireland), Stephen Foley (CILDEHS), Alison Hanlon (UCD), Barbara Bent (WSPCA), Mary-Anne Bartlett (CIWF), Kevin Kinsella (IFA), Martin McMahon (ICMSA), Colette Connor (DARDNI), Michael Doran (IFA), Tom Doyle (ICOS), Angela McCarthy (ISPCA), Dermot Sparrow (Vet. Ireland), Richard Kennedy (IFA).

**Apologies:** Lorcan McCabe (ICMSA)**,** Dr. Bernadette Earley (TEAGASC**)**.

**Secretary:** Tom Farrell.

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Martin McMahon (ICMSA) who is deputising for Lorcan McCabe as a Council member.

# MINUTES

Council adopted minutes of the meeting on the 20th February 2008.

# MATTERS ARISING

None

# ON-FARM SLAUGHTER

Following consultation with stakeholders, including IFA, Veterinary Ireland and DAFF have finalised the ‘Guidance for Veterinary Practitioners and Farmers on Managing Acutely Injured Livestock On-farm’.

After resolution on some legislative issues by DAFF, the document should be ready for circulation.

# EDUCATION SUB-GROUP

A draft of the Broiler Welfare Guidelines was circulated to the FAWAC Council before this meeting.

It was agreed that the guidelines could go to press.

The sub group will now commence work on pig welfare guidelines.

The issue of tail docking was discussed, and figures were requested, this issue will be addressed.

1. **EQUINE WELFARE LIAISON GROUP**

The welfare of Equines was discussed.

Among the points discussed were:

* Proper feeding
* Disposal of equines
* New legislation from Europe pending
* Registration of Equines
* Disease spread

Council decided to invite Joe Shortall or Emer McGeough from DAFF, who have responsibility in this area to give a presentation.

Council also agreed to invite Joe Collins from UCD.

Agreed after further deliberations and consultations, that council will finalise recommendations.

1. **REPORT FROM RITUAL SLAUGHTER GROUP and from the Sub-group of the SACAHW committee**

A visit from the Islamic Cultural centre took place in a plant in Co Offaly.

Proposals re stunning before slaughter, is currently being considered with the possible use of a stun assurance monitor.

A sub-group of Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare are also considering ritual slaughter, and will report back to the council.

1. **WORKING GROUP ON CO-OPERATION (EWS)**

DAFF following consultation with stakeholders envisage by the end of 07/08 winter to compile a report on the working of EWS, throughout the Country, which will be submitted to Council.

Increasing contact with the Garda Síochána and Health Services Executive (HSE) is being made.

1. **SUCKLER COW WELFARE SCHEME**

DAFF reported on inspections during the year.

DAFF stated, that the anaesthetic products (Willcain and Adrenacaine) being used, has been clarified available by prescription.

By the end of year 2010, participants must have completed the training on administration of the anaesthetic.

1. **FUR FARMING**
2. The report from the sub-group of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare is near completion.

**12. AOB**

**DAFF Policy & Strategy re Animal Welfare**

DAFF outlined the Departments Policy and Strategy re Animal Welfare.

It was stated that the Governments commitment to animal welfare, is reflected in its *Programme for Government*, in which the Government has committed itself,

* to promote the highest standards of animal welfare at all levels of the food production chain;
* to introduce a comprehensive Animal Welfare Bill, updating existing legislation to ensure that the welfare of animals is properly protected, and that the penalties for offenders are increased significantly;
* to consolidate responsibility for the welfare of all animals (including non-farm animals) within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and
* to review and consolidate where necessary all legislation governing the welfare of non-farm animals.
* **Animal Health and Welfare Bill**

DAFF reported that the current draft of the Bill runs to 11 Parts with more than 70 sections.

Specifically, it includes commitments to the introduction of,

* a new Animal Health Bill to consolidate and amend previous legislation to reflect the changed disease status of our nation’s animals, and
* a comprehensive Animal Welfare Bill, updating existing legislation, to ensure that the welfare of animals is properly protected and that the penalties for offenders are increased significantly.

The Programme also provides for the assignment of responsibility for the welfare of all animals to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Council had a brief discussion on the proposed content of the Draft Bill.

# Humane Slaughter of Pigs

DAFF will prepare a report on this issue.

# Transport of Animals

DAFF stated that, it is a legal requirement when transporting live animals on journeys over 65km in connection with an economic activity to be authorised by the Department of Agriculture and Food. The Regulation provides for two types of authorisation –

* TYPE 1 Authorisation covers journeys over 65km (short journeys) to a maximum duration of 8 hours (transports undertaken within the island of Ireland),
* TYPE 2 Authorisation covers journeys over 8 hours (long journeys - transport from Ireland).

Since 5th January 2008, drivers of vehicles transporting cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry on journeys over 65km will be required to hold a certificate of competence.

# Annual Review 2007

# Council approved the 2007 Annual Review.

**Puppy Farming**

Bernadette Earley (Teagasc) and Veterinary Ireland will liase on this issue.

**Launch by Minister Mary Coughlan, TD of the Guideline Booklet “Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport”**

Chairman thanked the Minister for her presence at the launch of the Booklet “Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport”.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled, for the 16th July 2008.

## Conclusion

Chairman thanked the Council Members for their attendance, and adjourned the meeting.

## END