

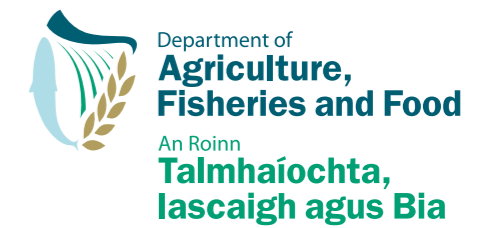
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# FAWAC

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2007



**Members of the Public and Interested Parties wishing to communicate with the Council on issues relating to Farm Animal Welfare can do so by contacting the:**

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## STATEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN



It is a pleasure to present the annual Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council's (FAWAC) review for 2007. Since its establishment in 2002,

FAWAC has become recognised for its crucial role in promoting animal welfare. Council brings together a diverse range of interests and enables representatives from different backgrounds to exchange views, and seek consensus on various issues and developments relevant to the care of farm animals. Council provides considerable useful advice to the Minister and has been particularly successful in publishing a series of guidelines on such diverse areas as dairy and beef farming, horses, ponies and donkeys, electro-immobilisation and best practice during transport. This review describes the activities, work progress, challenges and the results achieved in 2007.

A key issue throughout the year was the ban on electro-immobilisation, which came into effect on the 1st September, 2007. I am pleased that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mary Coughlan TD, accepted the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare (SACAHW), to prohibit the use of electro-immobilisation on live farm animals. This ban is a significant milestone in farm animal welfare.

The Broiler Welfare Directive, which was adopted at EU level, lays down for the first time minimum welfare standards for broilers, chickens reared for meat in the EU. This Directive brings in important rules for the welfare of broilers, which will result in better animal welfare across Europe and should contribute to improving both the health of chickens and the quality of meat.

Other developments have included the success of The Early Warning / Intervention System (EWS). It is operating on a nationwide basis and is having a positive impact on farm animal welfare. Efforts continue to bring all stakeholders together to provide a unified approach to animal welfare. A review of EWS is planned to determine future strategy for the system. I would like to acknowledge all of those involved, their contributions and their continued support.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mary Coughlan TD, is fully committed to promoting good practices that respect the welfare of all animals. In this connection the Department is progressing a number of animal welfare related commitments from the *Programme for Government* including consolidation of responsibility for the welfare of all animals (including non-farm animals) within the Department and the introduction of a comprehensive Animal Health and Welfare Bill to update existing welfare legislation to protect the welfare of animals. FAWAC considers the Animal Health and Welfare Bill to be a great advance on the present legislative framework.

A representative from FAWAC attended the European Forum of Animal Welfare Councils (EuroFAWAC) in Sweden in May 2007. Council welcomes developments which improve animal welfare and looks forward to developing links with organisations similar to FAWAC in other countries.

Council is cognisant of the importance of research in farm animal welfare and FAWAC works closely with relevant public bodies, organisations, individuals and companies. These linkages are vital to FAWAC in delivering its programme. Effective communication with stakeholders is also essential in the delivery of animal welfare issues.

Our website [www.fawac.ie](http://www.fawac.ie) continues to play a major role in promoting greater awareness of animal welfare and had over ten thousand hits this year.

I am very grateful to all our members of FAWAC for their considerable support and co-operation. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to those who made presentations to Council throughout the year. Their presentations greatly enhanced the work of Council.

During the year the guidance and assistance of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ms Mary Coughlan TD, and her officials in the Department is greatly appreciated. I also thank Tom O'Donnell who retired from the Department in 2007 and Ms Teresa O'Halloran former Secretary to Council for their contributions to FAWAC. I welcome Mr Tom Farrell, as the new Secretary to Council and thank his colleagues, Ms Irene Dunne, Ms Lorraine Hickey and Mr Peter Fallon for their continuing commitment and support.

Ag súil go mbeidh dea-thoradh ar ár gcuid oibre amach anseo.

Professor Patrick Fottrell  
**Chairman**

April 2008

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE FARM ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Chairman: Professor Patrick Fottrell**

Former President of the National University of Ireland, Galway.

**Members**

**Dr Alison J Hanlon**

School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, University College Dublin (UCD)

**Mr Lorcan McCabe**

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)

**Ms Colette Connor**

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARDNI)

**Ms Mary-Anne Bartlett**

Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)

**Mr Tom Doyle**

Irish Co-operative Society Association (ICOS)

**Ms Angela McCarthy**

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPICA)

**Dr Bernadette Earley**

TEAGASC – the national Agriculture and Food Development Authority

**Ms Barbara Bent**

Wexford Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (WSPCA)

**Mr Sean O'Laoide**

Veterinary Ireland. Former Vice President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

**Mr Dermot Sparrow**

Veterinary Ireland

**Mr Stephen Foley**

Committee for Irish Livestock, Dealers, Exporters, Hauliers and Shippers

**Mr Kevin Kinsella**

Irish Farmers Association (IFA)

**Mr Richard Kennedy**

Irish Farmers Association (IFA)

**Mr John Bryan**

Irish Farmers Association (IFA)

**Mr Dermot Ryan\***

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF)

**Ms Brid Farrell\*\***

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF)

**Mr Martin Blake**

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF)

**Secretary: Mr Tom Farrell\*\*\***

\*Mr Dermot Ryan replaced Mr Tom O'Donnell. Mr O'Donnell retired from DAFF. Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr O'Donnell for his contributions and wish him every success in the future.

\*\*Ms Brid Farrell represents the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the absence of Mr Dermot Ryan (DAFF).

\*\*\*Mr Tom Farrell replaced Ms Teresa O'Halloran as Secretary to the Council. Ms O'Halloran has taken up a post with the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources. Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms O'Halloran for her contribution and wish her success in her new position.



Minister Mary Coughlan TD, with Council Members



## WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL DO?

### Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC)

- Provides a forum for different interest groups to meet, exchange divergent views and reach consensus on the broad mandate of challenges facing farm animal welfare.
- All members have a common purpose and share the view that animal welfare is an issue of very high importance.
- Established in 2002.

Our members are drawn from the following representative groups with a variety of perspectives on animal welfare:

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF),

School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, University College Dublin (UCD),

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers (ICMSA),

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI),

Compassion in World Farming (CIWF),

Irish Co-operative Society Association (ICOS),

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA),

Wexford Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (WSPCA),

TEAGASC - The National Agriculture and Food Development Authority,

Veterinary Ireland,

Committee for Irish Livestock, Dealers, Exporters, Hauliers and Shippers,

Irish Farmers Association (IFA).

The unique perspectives of its members bring a dimension to the area of animal welfare and raises awareness of issues to be addressed in a practical manner whether in relation to national initiatives or proposals at EU level.

It's terms of reference are: -

- To identify ways in which the welfare of farm animals can be further improved and to prioritise areas requiring attention.
- At the request of the Minister/Department, to consider and advise on proposals for EU and national legislation relating to farm animals.
- To consider ways of increasing public awareness and development and dissemination of information relating to welfare of farm animals at home and abroad.
- To provide any other advice relevant to the welfare of farm animals as the Minister may seek from time to time.

The Council has adopted the best farm animal husbandry practices and welfare standards, which take account of the basic needs that have become known as the FIVE FREEDOMS:

Five Freedoms	
1	Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition
2	Freedom from discomfort
3	Freedom from pain, injury and disease
4	Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour
5	Freedom from fear and distress



## FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

In 2007 the Council held five meetings. The Sub-groups met on thirteen occasions during the course of the year.

## PUBLICATIONS 2007

FAWAC Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport

FAWAC Annual Report 2006

## CONTACT US

If you would like to find out any further information about FAWAC please contact:

The Secretary,  
Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council,  
Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,  
4 Centre, Agriculture House, Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2,  
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Website: [www.fawac.ie](http://www.fawac.ie)

The minutes of all Council meetings and FAWAC publications are posted on the FAWAC Website.

### FAWAC Working Groups

The Council carries out detailed reviews in small sub / working groups comprising a cross section of members. They are responsible for providing detailed research and advice for discussion and endorsement by Council. These groups carefully consider written advice and take verbal evidence from those with specific expertise to assist Council in its role in promoting animal welfare issues. The Sub-groups are divided into three categories: Education, Early Warning System and Equine Sub-group.

### Farm Animal Welfare Education Sub-group

The work programme includes a Sub-group on Education, to compile guidelines on welfare codes for farmers. Five meetings were held during the year. The group discussed a number of issues which were raised by Council. To Date the Education Sub-group has been responsible for producing six publications aimed at providing sound welfare and management practices. The following issues were dealt by the Sub-group during the course of the year.

### Disbudding calves

In view of concerns raised at Council in relation to disbudding of calves, Council has welcomed the introduction of the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme which is proposed to be in operation in January, 2008 and run for five years up to 31st December, 2012. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage best practice in terms of animal welfare for suckler herds and improve the quality of beef produced in Ireland. The scheme will encourage farmers to disbud early. Following discussions with Council, Teagasc and Private Veterinary Practitioners (PVP) have agreed to provide training on all aspects of the scheme – this should include the correct method of disbudding and the use of local anesthetic.

### Protocol for on-Farm Slaughter

An animal injured on-farm is likely to be welfare compromised and must be disposed of humanely and speedily. Following discussions with all parties concerned, Council have decided to draft a Protocol/ Guidelines for farmers and Private Veterinary Practitioners (PVP). The Education Sub-group has agreed to assist in this matter. They produced a document entitled 'Guidance for Veterinary Practitioners and Farmers on Managing Acutely Injured Livestock On-Farm'. This was recently presented to the Meat Industry for consideration and will be presented to Council early 2008. Council will continue to monitor developments.

### Broiler Welfare

The Broiler Welfare Directive was adopted at EU level on 8th May 2007. The main provision of the Directive is to reduce the stocking density of broiler chickens by setting a maximum stocking density. There are also new conditions covering lighting, litter, feeding, and ventilation requirements. In light of this the Education sub-group decided to produce a code for the welfare of Broiler Chickens. The publication is intended to encourage all those who care for broiler chickens, to adopt the highest standards of animal husbandry. Council would like to express its gratitude to Mr Ned Morrissey IFA for his contributions in this matter. The guidelines are near completion and will be circulated for the approval of Council in early 2008.

### Pig Welfare

Council are looking at current practices in the pig industry particularly with regard to poor environment enrichment and other practices such as teeth clipping and tail docking. It was agreed that the Education Sub-group would begin work on a 'Best Practice' booklet, which would update the current DAFF brochure. It is to concentrate on environment enrichment, dry sows, stress and tail docking.



### Transport of Animals

In September, 2007 the "Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals During Transport" was produced to encourage and assist all those involved in the transportation of live animals to adopt and maintain the highest standards of animal welfare prior to, during and post transport. These guidelines apply to cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and equines. An invitation was issued to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mary Coughlan TD, to launch the guidelines early 2008.

Discussions took place during the year with the relevant stakeholders regarding training and it is envisaged that training programmes will be implemented in the near future.



Chairman Prof. Patrick Fottrell and Sean O'Laoide, Veterinary Ireland, with Minister Mary Coughlan, TD at the launch of Guidelines for Transport.

### Equine Welfare

Council continues to monitor the welfare of equines. Following discussions it was agreed that as part of the work of the Education Sub-group, several members were designated by Council to consult with the various stakeholders to discuss all equine welfare issues and the importance of accurate equine identification and tracking. Consultations are ongoing and more meetings are planned for 2008. The group will be making recommendations to Council in the near future.

### Members of Education Sub-group

Mr Sean O'Laoide, Chairperson, (Veterinary Ireland)  
 Ms Barbara Bent, (WSPCA)  
 Dr Bernadette Earley, (TEAGASC)  
 Mr Dermot Sparrow, (Veterinary Ireland)  
 Mr Michael Flynn, (IFA)  
 Mr Niall O'Nuallain, (co-opted from DAFF)  
 Mr Richard Kennedy, (IFA)

### Early Warning/Intervention System Sub-group (EWS)

Their work programme is based on the operation of the Early Warning System (EWS) which was an initiative introduced in 2004 by FAWAC, with the objective of identifying farm animal welfare problems before they become critical or overwhelming. This has proved to

be a very successful animal welfare initiative – and the positive approach adopted by its participants – DAFF, IFA and ISPCA has brought a greater awareness to the diverse causes of welfare problems and has allowed for intervention at an earlier stage thereby preventing chronic welfare scenarios to develop for at risk animals. EWS is now operating throughout the country. There were six meetings held in 2007 by the EWS Sub-group.

The scheme has been one of the most successful animal welfare initiatives with which the Department has been involved in recent years and proves the benefit of a collaborative approach to deal with issues in which all parties have a keen interest. Efforts continue to be made to extend involvement to include other agencies who have a role to play. These include the Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive, the Local Authority Veterinary Service and the Private Veterinary Practitioners. 2008 will be an important year in the expansion and broadening of the EWS.

Experience of EWS groups would indicate that there is a need to get involved with cases at a much earlier stage than is happening presently to reduce the number of welfare cases. The health or well-being of the farmer is a major factor in welfare cases. Such a situation requires a different and more sensitive approach from what previously have been adopted and the involvement of other agencies, particularly the health service, will play a key role in this regard. The issue of repeat offenders continues to be discussed at meetings. There is a need to publicise or promote EWS at a local level and Council will continue to address this issue.

A comprehensive review of EWS is planned in the near future, particularly focusing on the past winter. This review will involve feedback from all the participants. There is a clear view among its participants, that the system is reducing the number of actual welfare cases and that its existence should be more widely publicised and the undoubted value of its work promoted.

### Members of Steering Group on Co-Operation

Mr Dermot Ryan Chairman, (DAFF)  
 Mr Michael Flynn, (IFA)  
 Mr Pat Murray, (IFA)  
 Mr Sean O'Leary, (IFA)  
 Ms Elizabeth Tilson, (IFA)  
 Ms Barbara Bent, (Wexford SPCA)  
 Ms Angela McCarthy, (ISPCA)  
 Mr Mark Beazley, (ISPCA)  
 Mr Niall O'Nuallain, (DAFF)  
 Mr Michael Fallon, (DAFF)  
 Mr Martin Blake, (DAFF)





## Early Warning System 2007





## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION DURING 2007

### Ritual Slaughter Without Stunning

One of the issues currently being looked at from an animal welfare perspective is the practice of ritual slaughter without stunning. Council are seeking premises in which to demonstrate the use of the stun assurance monitor to The Islamic Cultural Centre Dublin (ICCD). Council is hopeful that this demonstration will take place early 2008.

### Fur Farming

During the year Council received two reports, one by DAFF and the other from Veterinary Ireland concerning the slaughter of mink on fur farms. A full discussion took place on both reports. It was agreed that the reports should be referred to the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare (SACAHW) for a view on methods of slaughter used, based on available scientific studies. Council looks forward to an early response from the Scientific Advisory Group

### Use of Electro-Immobilisation on Live Farm Animals in Ireland

Following recommendations by Council and taking into consideration the views of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mary Coughlan TD, stated that following examination by her, there was broad agreement that the practice should be prohibited. The Ban came into effect on the 1st September 2007.

The Report on *The Use of Electro-Immobilisation on Live Farm Animals in Ireland* is available on the FAWAC website: [www.fawac.ie](http://www.fawac.ie)

### European Forum of Farm Animal Welfare Councils (Euro-FAWCS)

Council was represented at the forum on 8th and 9th May, 2007 in Sweden. It was agreed that Council continue to participate at future meetings. Council was informed that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ( DEFRA UK) was very impressed with EWS. It was agreed to invite a representative from (DEFRA UK) to attend a meeting where its operation might be outlined in the near future.

### Presentations received by Council

#### 'Longevity of Irish Dairy Cows'

by Dr Laura Boyle, Teagasc

#### 'Farm Animal Welfare Case-Legal Route'

by Ms E O' Flynn ,Veterinary Ireland.

#### 'Animal Welfare : Economics and Policy'

by Dr Bernadette Earley, TEAGASC

#### 'Calf Transport Scientific Literature Summary '

by Dr Bernadette Earley, TEAGASC

#### 'Animal Welfare Index – beef suckler farms'

by Dr Bernadette Earley, TEAGASC

#### 'Calf Exports'

by Ms Mary-Anne Bartlett, Compassion in World Farming



## APPENDIX - PUBLICATIONS

2006 FAWAC Annual Report	Animal Welfare Guidelines for Beef Farmers
2005 FAWAC Annual Report	Animal Welfare Guidelines for Sheep Farmers
FAWAC Biennial Report 2003 - 2004	Animal Welfare Guidelines for Beef, Sheep and Dairy Farmers
Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals During Transport	Animal Welfare Guidelines for Dairy Farmers
Animal Welfare Guidelines for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys	

The Use of Electro-Immobilisation on Live Farm Animals in Ireland - A Report by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare, March 2005

All publications are available on the fawac website [www.fawac.ie](http://www.fawac.ie)

Report on the availability of veterinary medicines in Ireland - November 2004.

