

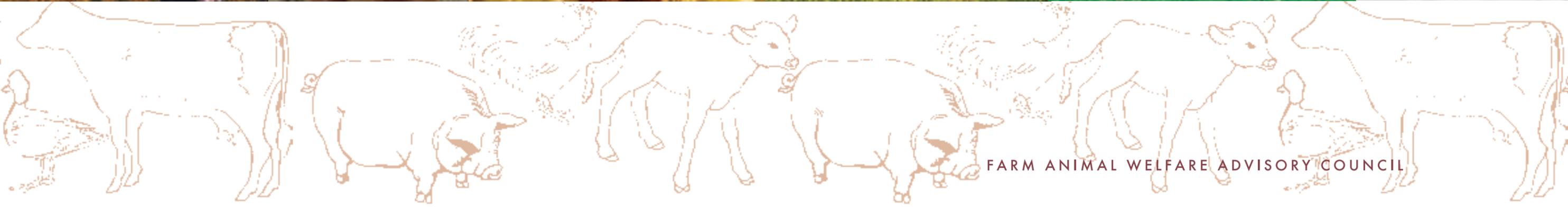
Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
4 Centre, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 607 2049 • Fax: 01 676 7126

Web: www.fawac.ie • Mail: fawac@agriculture.gov.ie

FAWAC

ANNUAL REVIEW 2009-2010



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:

**Secretary
Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
4 Centre, Agriculture House, Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
Tel. 01-6072049
Fax. 01-6767126
Email: fawac@agriculture.gov.ie**



STATEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN

It is a pleasure to present the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council's (FAWAC) review for 2009/10

Since its establishment in 2002 FAWAC has been recognised for its role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of farm animals. FAWAC 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. It provides considerable useful advice to the Minister and has been particularly successful in publishing a series of welfare guideline booklets on a range of areas as dairy and beef farming, horses, best practice during transport and chickens.

On foot of the introduction of national legislation giving effect to a series of European Directives on the protection of animals, including emergency and humane killing and slaughter of animals, FAWAC agreed to undertake studies on the specific issue of managing injured animals on farm. It subsequently produced the booklet "Animal Welfare Guidelines for Managing Acutely Injured Livestock on Farm" which was launched by the Minister in September 2009. These guidelines are aimed at assisting veterinary practitioners and farmers in arriving at an informed decision on the method of dealing with injured animals, having regard to animal welfare and public health.

In response to the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Scientific Report on Animal Health and Welfare, FAWAC produced the guideline booklet "Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs". These guidelines were launched by the Minister in February 2010.

FAWAC have commenced preparation on its next welfare guidelines booklet for a "Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying Hens". The guidelines are intended to encourage all those who care for laying hens to adopt the highest standards of husbandry.

The Department is progressing a number of animal welfare related commitments from the Programme for Government 2007 and 2009 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.

Effective communication is important in promoting animal welfare. I am delighted to report the great use of our website www.fawac.ie. The growing use of the FAWAC website indicates the value placed on such a resource and we will continue to review its content and effectiveness over the coming year.

We are continually being faced with new challenges on how we deal with animal welfare. I am confident that Council will continue to rise to the challenge of promoting animal welfare in a practical way and will continue to explore and examine ways of enhancing the well being of farm animals.

FAWAC is cognisant of the importance of research in farm animal welfare and in this regard works closely with relevant public bodies, organisations, individuals and companies. These linkages are vital in delivering its programme. Effective communication with stakeholders is also essential in the delivery of animal welfare issues. To this end I would like to thank all parties involved.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Brendan Smith TD, for his commitment to enhance good animal welfare practices among the community.

I am very grateful to all our members of FAWAC and to those who serve on its sub-groups for their considerable support and co-operation. Their advice and contributions greatly enhance the work of FAWAC. I would also like to thank the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for its ongoing support.

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

Professor Patrick Fottrell
Chairman
 June 2011

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FARM ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairman: Professor Patrick Fottrell.

Former President of the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Ms Mary-Anne Bartlett.

Compassion in World Farming Ireland.

Ms Barbara Bent.

Wexford Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Mr Martin Blake

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Mr Nigel Byers.*

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association.

Ms. Colette Connor.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland.

Mr Michael Doran.

Irish Farmers' Association.

Mr Tom Doyle*

Irish Cooperative Society Association.

Dr Bernadette Earley.

Teagasc, Grange Research Centre.

Mr Stephen Foley.

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

Dr Alison J Hanlon.

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

Mr Richard Kennedy.

Irish Farmers' Association.

Mr Kevin Kinsella.

Irish Farmers' Association.

Mr John Holohan*.

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Mr Heber McMahon.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Mr Breffini Carpenter *

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Ms Elizabeth O Flynn *

Veterinary Ireland

Mr Sean O'Laoide.

Former Vice President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe.

Mr Alan O'Brien*

Secretary.

* Mr Nigel Byers replaced Mr Lorcan McCabe in 2009.

* Mr Alan O'Brien replaced Mr Tom Farrell in 2009.

* Ms Elizabeth O Flynn replaced Mr Dermot Sparrow in 2009.

* Mr John Holohan replaced Mr Mark Beazley in 2009.

* Mr Noel Griffin replaced Mr John Holohan in 2010.

* Mr Breffini Carpenter replaced Mr Heber McMahon in 2010

* Mr Ray Doyle replaced Mr Tom Doyle in 2010

Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Messrs Byers, Farrell, Sparrow, McMahon, Doyle, Beazley and Holohan for their contributions to FAWAC and wish them every success in the future.



What does the Council do?

Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC)

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

Members are drawn from the following groups:

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF),

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

Compassion in World Farming Ireland (CIWF),

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

Irish Co-operative Society Association (ICOS),

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers (ICMSA),

Irish Farmers Association (IFA),

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

Teagasc, The National Agriculture and Food Development Authority,

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

Veterinary Ireland,

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

FAWAC'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 an animal's basic needs, 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

The Council held four meetings in both 2009 and 2010. The sub-groups met on eleven occasions in total during 2009 and on thirteen occasions in total during 2010.



Minister Brendan Smith TD, with Council Members

PUBLICATIONS 2009/10

Animal Welfare Guidelines for Managing Acutely Injured Livestock on Farm

Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs

FAWAC Annual Review 2008

CONTACT US

For 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
 Ireland

Tel: 00 353 1 6072049

Fax: 00 353 1 6767126

Email: fawac@agriculture.gov.ie

Website: 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 and research in small sub/working groups. These groups consider written and verbal advice from those with specific expertise to assist Council in its role in promoting animal welfare issues. The advice of the groups is then passed on to Council for discussion and endorsement. Current sub-groups deal with Education, the FAWAC Early Warning System and Equine welfare.

Farm Animal Welfare Education Sub-group

The work programme includes a Sub-group on Education, to compile guidelines on animal welfare practices to be adopted by the Council. These guidelines are used as educational tools for farmers, Private Veterinary Practitioners (PVPs), industry and other stakeholders. The group held five meetings in 2009 and six meetings in 2010 in which it examined a number of issues referred to it by Council. To date the Education Sub-group has been responsible for producing eight

publications aimed at providing sound welfare and management practices.

The Education Sub-group dealt with the following issues during 2009/10.

Animal Welfare Guidelines for Managing Acutely Injured Livestock on Farm

The European Communities (Welfare for Farmed Animals) Regulations introduced in January 2008 gave effect to a series of European Directives concerning the protection of animals, including emergency and humane killing and slaughter of animals. Following on from this, Council asked the Education Working Group to examine this specific issue with a view to assisting veterinary practitioners and farmers in dealing with injured animals on farms having regard to animal welfare and public health considerations. As a result of their deliberations, the FAWAC Guidelines for Managing Acutely Injured Livestock on Farm were produced. The Guidelines were launched in September 2009.

The guideline booklet sets out a procedure for managing an otherwise healthy animal which has been injured on farm, including the option of live transport to a slaughterhouse, where appropriate, or transport following emergency slaughter on farm



Chairman Prof. Patrick Fottrell and Sean O Laoide, Veterinary Ireland with Minister Brendan Smith, TD at the launch of Guidelines for Managing Acutely Injured Livestock on Farm

Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs

In response to the EFSA report on Pig Welfare, the Education Working Group produced the guideline booklet "Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs". This booklet aims to encourage all those who care for pigs to follow the highest standards of animal husbandry and continue to practise responsible management in farms. It also provides advice on maintaining good bio-security and animal health status within the herd and ensures appropriate welfare by having proper procedures in place for dealing with sick or injured animals. Advice on herd management and on the requirement for pigs to have access to suitable material to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities is addressed. The booklet was launched by Minister Brendan Smith, TD in February 2010.

Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying Hens

During the latter part of 2010 the Education Sub-group commenced preparation of a booklet "Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying Hens". This code of practice will take account of European and national legislation on the protection of laying hens and will aim to encourage all those who care for laying hens to adopt the highest possible welfare standards. This booklet is due to be published in 2011.



Equine Welfare

The Equine Welfare Liaison Sub-group met once in both 2009 and 2010. The main issues discussed were the reported increase in numbers of unwanted horses throughout the country, whose welfare may sometimes face the risk of being compromised, and the implementation of the equine identification legislation. Concerns were raised regarding the non registration of horses. In the absence of equine passports, identification of the owner can prove difficult which can pose problems for authorities when seeking to instigate proceedings in cases of animal welfare/cruelty. The group reported that capacity for horse slaughter has increased with four horse slaughtering plants approved for human consumption. There are also over forty licensed knackereries which assists with humane slaughter of horses not fit for human consumption. A report entitled "Challenges and Solutions to Support Good Equine Welfare Practices in Ireland" was launched by the Horse Industry in UCD on the 3rd June 2010. It provides information regarding best practice for horse owners. Council complimented Dr. Joe Collins and FAWAC member Dr Alison Hanlon from School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, University College Dublin, who were part of the multidisciplinary research team involved in preparing the UCD report.

In September 2010 FAWAC sought the advice of the Equine Liaison Group in how to address the problem of unwanted horses in the country. The group considered the issue and offered advice, which was accepted by FAWAC, on the option of humane disposal of unwanted horses. The advice stressed that it is the responsibility of horse owners throughout the country to ensure the welfare of horses in their care. Where a horse is being sold, the seller must do his or her utmost to ensure that the person buying the horse has the capacity to take care of the animal. Additionally, the advice advocated that in situations where an owner can no longer adequately provide for an animal or where the equine can no longer fulfil the purpose for which it was bred, owners should be proactive in seeking to dispose of the animals before their welfare is compromised. FAWAC made these recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the welfare of horses and this was published in September 2010.

Members of the Equine Welfare Liaison Group

Mr Sean O'Laoide, Chairperson, Veterinary Ireland
 Ms Barbara Bent, Wexford SPCA and ISPCA
 Mr Breffini Carpenter*, DAFF
 Mr Michael Sheahan, DAFF
 Mr Joe Collins UCD
 Ms Alison Corbally, Horse Sport Ireland
 Mr Jason Morris, Horse Racing Ireland
 Mr Jimmy Cahill, Dublin SPCA
 Mr Alan O'Brien, Secretary, DAFF
 * Mr Breffini Carpenter replaced Mr Heber Mc Mahon in 2010*

Members of Education Sub-group

Mr Sean O'Laoide, Chairperson, Veterinary Ireland
 Ms Barbara Bent, WSPCA
 Dr Bernadette Earley, Teagasc
 Mr Michael Flynn, IFA
 Mr Niall O'Nuallain, DAFF
 Mr Richard Kennedy, IFA

Mr Dermot Sparrow, Veterinary Ireland
 Ms Elizabeth O'Flynn replaced Mr Dermot Sparrow in 2010

Early Warning /Intervention System Sub-group (EWS)

The Early Warning/Intervention System (EWS) initiative introduced in 2004 by FAWAC continues to play an important role in preventing the emergence of animal welfare cases. The EWS includes representatives from DAFF, the Irish Farmers' Association and the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The initiative enables intervention at an early stage thereby preventing chronic welfare cases developing for at risk animals. It continues to work well and is of great benefit to all organisations involved. There has been a decrease in on farm animal welfare cases throughout the country in the period 2009-2010 and early intervention is reducing the number of acute cases. The work of the EWS is directed by the EWS Steering Group which meet on an annual basis. There are four regional EWS groups: North West, South East, South West and East, and each group meet on an annual basis.

In 2009 a pilot scheme was launched between DAFF and representatives from the Health Service Executive (HSE). The objective of this EWS/HSE initiative is to enable DAFF Veterinary Inspectors, who in the course of investigating animal welfare incidents are of the opinion that the incidents are arising partly because of the poor health/welfare of the farmer, to liaise with the HSE and with the agreement of the farmer, to seek assistance for the farmer. A pilot project was initially introduced in Counties Sligo, Mayo and Offaly and was successful in addressing animal welfare issues with a human welfare dimension. Discussions have been extended to include the Local Development Companies (LDC) of Pobal and the initiative has now been extended to the following counties: Longford, Leitrim, Wexford, Cavan/Monaghan, Limerick, Cork and North Tipperary. This has generated a platform for joined-up thinking amongst different agencies with responsibility for animal and human welfare. To date the initiative has been enthusiastically received from all involved.

Members of Steering Group on the EWS

Mr Breffini Carpenter Chairman*, (DAFF)
 Mr Michael Flynn, (IFA)
 Mr Pat Murray, (IFA)
 Mr Sean O'Leary, (IFA)
 Ms Elizabeth Tilson, (IFA)
 Ms Barbara Bent, (Wexford SPCA)
 Mr Niall O'Nuallain, (DAFF)
 Mr Michael Fallon, (DAFF)
 Mr Garry O'Hagan, (DAFF)
 Ms Irene Dunne Secretary, (DAFF)
 * Mr Breffini Carpenter replaced Mr Heber Mc Mahon in 2010



Early Warning System 2010



TOPICS OF DISCUSSION DURING 2009/2010

Ritual Slaughter without Stunning

The welfare of ritual slaughter without stunning is still an issue under consideration. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare (SACAHW) has been requested to set up a working group and report on the welfare aspects of this issue. A slaughter plant in the Midlands did agree to amend its ritual slaughter of sheep and cattle by carrying out electrical stunning of sheep and the "post cut" stunning of cattle. Council will remain engaged with the Industry and the Islamic Cultural Centre.

Fur Farming

A working-group of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare (SACAHW) was asked to review the practices relating to the slaughter of animals on fur-farms in Ireland, to examine welfare implications of the practices and to make recommendations accordingly. The group focused on the scientific assessment of the welfare of fur animals at the time of slaughter with the aim of producing scientifically based recommendations on how practices can be improved to enhance their welfare at this time. The group concluded its deliberations and presented its report on "Welfare aspects of the slaughter of fur-producing animals in Ireland" to the Minister. The report is published on the FAWAC website. Under the renewed Programme for Government, there is a commitment to phase out fur farming over three years. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is accessing the legislative changes required to give effect to that commitment. In the meantime, The Department will continue to monitor the operation of licensed fur farms to assess their compliance with current EU and national legislation.

European Forum of Farm Animal Welfare Councils (Euro-FAWC)

Council was represented at the forum in Vienna, Austria in January 2009 and in Baarn, The Netherlands in January 2010. Discussions took place concerning castration, education, transparency, labelling and anthropomorphism. The welfare of the dairy cow was also discussed in detail. A Euro-FAWC website with links to the National sites is currently in the development stage.

FAWAC Web Page

The FAWAC webpage has been redesigned and is updated on a regular basis. The site had over 56,000 hits in 2009 and 67,000 in 2010 with an average of 201 hits daily. We are constantly seeking ways to improve public interaction and to heighten awareness of FAWAC especially having regard to the range of activities undertaken which have direct or indirect

impact on the general public.

The Animal Health and Welfare Bill

The Government approved in December 2010 the drafting of the Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2010. The Bill proposes to amend, consolidate and update legislation in the area of animal health and welfare, particularly to reflect the changed disease status of our animals and to ensure that the welfare of all animals, including non-farm animals is properly protected. In addition the new Bill proposes to increase both the powers of authorised officers and the level of penalties to be imposed with fines being proportionate to the offence. There will also be provisions for powers of intervention where an animal is deemed to be at risk of being welfare compromised. The Bill will address such issues as the prevention of unnecessary suffering of animals and abandonment of animals. The Heads of the Bill have been submitted for drafting to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

Education

Council is aware of the importance of education and communication and how it can positively affect the welfare of farmed animals. The Council will examine the possibility/feasibility of including animal welfare as a subject on the school's curriculum programme at both primary level and transition year. The Council has identified the promotion of responsible attitudes amongst school children and students in higher education as an important step in ensuring high animal welfare standards in the future. Council will continue to highlight this issue.

Cloning

The SACAHW reviewed the report of the European Safety Authority (EFSA) in relation to animal cloning and concluded that the EFSA was an appropriate body to provide a scientific opinion on the food safety, animal welfare and environmental impact of animals derived by cloning and to keep this matter under review. They also concluded that there is no evidence of any activity involving animal cloning using somatic cell nuclear transfer within Ireland.

Presentations received by Council

"Equine Welfare"

By Joe Collins School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, UCD, November 2009

"Pig Welfare"

By Laura Boyle Senior Research Officer in Teagasc, March 2010

"Assembly Centre Operations"

By Jonathan Cooney, Veterinary Inspector in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, November 2010



APPENDIX - PUBLICATIONS

2010 Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs

2009 Animal Welfare Guidelines for Managing Acutely Injured Livestock on Farm

2009 FAWAC Annual Report

2008 Animal Welfare Guidelines for Beef Farmers (Amended Version)

2008 Code of Practice for the welfare of Broiler Chickens

2007 Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport

2007 FAWAC Annual Review

2006 FAWAC Annual Report

2005 FAWAC Annual Report

2005 Animal Welfare Guidelines for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys

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

2004 Report on the availability of veterinary medicines in Ireland

2003/2004 FAWAC Biennial Report

2003 Animal Welfare Guidelines for Beef Farmers

2003 Animal Welfare Guidelines for Sheep Farmers

2003 Animal Welfare Guidelines for Beef, Sheep and Dairy Farmers

2003 Animal Welfare Guidelines for Dairy Farmers

All publications are available on the FAWAC website: www.fawac.ie

