Terms of Reference

The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) is an independent advisory body established by Government in 1979.

Its terms of reference are to keep under review the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at the place of slaughter; and to advise Ministers in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales, of any legislative or other changes that may be necessary.

The Council can:

- investigate any topic falling within this remit
- communicate freely with outside bodies, the European Commission and the public
- publish its advice independently

Website: www.fawc.org.uk
In 2008/9, the Farm Animal Welfare Council has been determinedly following the work programme set out in its current Strategic Plan for the period 2006 – 2010. Advice to Government has covered the welfare of lambs following castration and tail-docking, the welfare of pheasants and partridges during rearing and policy instruments that can be used by Government to regulate and improve farm animal welfare. The Council has also responded to requests for its views during various consultations, e.g. on responsibility and cost sharing in relation to farm animal health. Advice on the welfare of pigs was also provided following a request by the Scottish Government.

Ethical concerns are a common theme that regularly preoccupy the Council at various stages of its discussions about farm animal welfare. The most important ethical principle adopted by the Council since it was formed in 1979 is to put the animal’s interests foremost, a form of the precautionary principle.

Of course, the economic, socio-cultural and environmental implications of its advice are also considerations when the Council deliberates on farm animal welfare – and are very important for the Government when dealing with farm animal welfare - but concern for animal welfare is always uppermost in our mind.

Ethical issues were raised in our 2008 report on lamb castration and tail-docking. In the case of tail-docking, the main ethical issue is the treatment of all lambs within a flock to spare a few the potential suffering caused by fly-strike, an awful condition that can be fatal. The justification for the transient pain, suffering and distress of tail-docking is that it is the lesser of two evils, though it should be noted that tail-docking helps to control but does not eliminate fly-strike. Specifically, the improvements in the quality of life of those lambs that do not suffer fly-strike as a result of tail-docking outweigh the consequences of this mutilation for all lambs. Council has also been considering general ethical issues relating to farm animal welfare and will be publishing its conclusions later this year in a forthcoming report entitled Farm Animal Welfare: Strategy, Policy and its Implications.

The economics of farm animal welfare is the subject of a current investigation. Indeed, this topic was the first choice of each Government in England, Wales and Scotland when the Council’s Strategic Plan was being prepared. Good progress is being made by a working group under the chairmanship of Professor Sandra Edwards.

Global food security over the next few decades has been identified by the British Government and others as being an issue of the utmost importance. The projected rise in the world’s population to around 9 billion by 2050, coupled with the impact of climate change, will have many implications for the world’s food supply. While policies on the environment and farm animal welfare often benefit both, conflicts can also arise leading to significant dilemmas. In its future work plan, the Council will need to consider whether to study this relationship, so that any increases in the supply of meat, milk, eggs and other livestock products are not detrimental to standards of welfare.

As in previous years, I am very grateful for the work of all the Council’s members, especially Steven Lister and David Henderson, MBE, who step down after 9 and 10 years service, respectively. Their wealth of practical veterinary experience and expertise allowed both Steven and David to contribute comprehensively to our advice on difficult, complex issues, e.g. beak trimming of hens, the welfare of gamebirds, and slaughter of cattle, sheep and poultry. Not only did they play an extremely active part in all the Council’s work but they also ‘volunteered’ selflessly to chair various working groups; the new standing committees were modelled on the successful Poultry Issues Group led so ably by Steven.

The Council welcomes Dr Phil Scott and Mr Mike Wijnberg as new members with expertise in ruminant and pig veterinary medicine, respectively. I should also like to thank Sue Whitehead and Roy Norton, both of whom served as Secretary to the Council during 2008. Given his past exemplary service within the Secretariat, I am delighted that Richard Aram has been appointed as the new Secretary of FAWC and also welcome Frances Radcliffe with overall responsibility for Secretariats within Defra’s Food and Farming Group.

The annual Open Meeting of the Council will be held on 8th July 2009 at Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, London. All are welcome to attend: I look forward to an open discussion about the past and current work of the Farm Animal Welfare Council.

Professor Christopher Wathes
June 2009
Current Membership

May 2009

Chairman

Professor Christopher Wathes holds the Chair of Animal Welfare at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London. He is a research scientist with interests in the environmental biology and management of farm and other animals.

Members

Professor Michael Appleby, welfare policy advisor for the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA). Member of the Scientific Committee of Humane Farm Animal Care and the Animal Compassionate Committee of Whole Foods Market in the USA. Formerly senior lecturer in Applied Animal Behaviour, University of Edinburgh.

Professor Richard Bennett, an agricultural economist in the Department of Agricultural and Food Economics at the University of Reading. He is a member of the England Implementation Group for the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy and a Trustee of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, the Humane Slaughter Association and the Farm Animal Welfare Trust.

Professor Henry Buller, Chair of Rural Geography and Director of the BA Human Geography programme at the University of Exeter. Editor of the international rural science journal Sociologia Rurals.

Dr Joanne Conington, senior Animal Breeding Specialist in the Sustainable Livestock Systems group at the Scottish Agricultural College. Formerly a sheep specialist with the Meat and Livestock Commission.

Huw Davies, a sheep farmer from Carmarthenshire. He is a member of the Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Wales and of the Welsh Regional Board of the Moredun Research Institute, and a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies.

Professor Sandra Edwards, Chair of Agriculture at the University of Newcastle. Previously director of the Scottish Pig Industry Initiative, past President of the British Society of Animal Science and member of the European Food Standard Authority working groups on pig welfare.

George Hogarth, production director for an international chicken breeding company based in Scotland. A science graduate with research experience in poultry welfare and international experience in commercial poultry production.

Gwyn Jones, a dairy farmer from West Sussex. Currently Chairman, NFU National Dairy Board, and a member of NFU Policy and Governance Boards; director and board member of Dairy UK and Chairman of Dairy UK Producer Forum. Vice Chairman of the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations (milk).


Dr David Main, BVA Animal Welfare Foundation Lecturer in Animal Welfare at the University of Bristol and an RCVS recognised specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law.

Professor David Morton, Emeritus Professor of Biomedical Science and Ethics, and a laboratory animal veterinarian. Member of the European Food Standards Authority’s Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare, the Companion Animal Welfare Council, and the Board of Assured Food Standards.

Andrew Nicholson, senior technical manager and animal welfare specialist for the Co-operative Group. He is a member of the joint pig industry technical advisory committee and the EU Technology Platform on Global Animal Health.

Reverend Professor Michael Reiss, Professor of Science Education at the Institute of Education, University of London.

Dr Philip Scott, Reader in Farm Animal Studies at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at Edinburgh University and lead veterinarian in the School’s Farm Animal Teaching Hospital. RCVS and European specialist in sheep health and production and European specialist in bovine health management.


Steven Tait, an independent commercial consultant specialising in animal welfare, the food chain and consumers. Formerly Head of Sales and Marketing at RSPCA Freedom Food.

Alison Ward, a horticulturist and independent consultant; consumer representative on the Food Standards Agency Committee on Toxicity in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment; past director of the British Bankers’ Association, and formerly a non-executive director in the Health Service.

Meryl Ward, director of a commercial pig breeding and finishing business, member of the British Pig Executive and a founder member of Agskills Training Association. She is a Council Member and Selector for the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust and a member of the Genesis Assurance Technical Advisory Committee.

Mike Wijnberg, leading veterinarian for a large pig production and processing company. Member of the Pig Veterinary Society, the American Association of Swine Veterinarians and RSPCA’s Freedom Food Technical Advisory Committee on pigs.

The following members of Council retired during 2008/09:

David Henderson MBE and Stephen Lister. We would like to thank them for their many contributions to the work of FAWC.
Council’s working methods

Membership and Appointments
Appointments to the Council are made according to procedures laid down in the Code of Practice produced by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Register of members’ interests
The Council’s work covers a wide range of issues connected with the agricultural industry, animal welfare organisations, research bodies and the veterinary profession. In order to avoid any concern that members’ interests might adversely affect the advice given by Council, information about significant and relevant interests of the membership is kept on a register; copies of which are available from the Secretary. This register is updated annually. In addition to information on commercial interests, a record is kept of relevant non-commercial interests, such as membership of organisations whose work may overlap with the Council’s area of interest.

Guidance to members
On appointment, members receive guidance about matters such as working procedures, guiding principles, working with the media, representing Council, networking and fees and expenses. Incorporated in the guidance is a Code of Practice for Members, which is written with full regard to the seven principles of public life, identified by the Nolan Committee in its Report on Standards in Public Life and the recommendations made by the Phillips Inquiry Report relevant to advisory bodies.

Activity in 2008/9
During 2008/2009, Council, its Standing Committees and Working Groups held 34 meetings and went on 7 visits to agricultural premises. In addition, Council members and the Secretariat represented FAWC at various conferences, seminars and workshops on farm animal welfare.

Costs
The work of the Farm Animal Welfare Council is financed principally by Defra, which also provides the Secretariat. During the financial year 2008/2009, the total public expenditure on the Council was £304,737. This sum comprised £112,448 for member’s fees, travel and related costs; £164,319 for the Secretariat’s salaries, travel and other costs; £22,240 for Defra advisers; and £5,730 for printing and publicity.

Secretariat
The FAWC Secretariat is staffed by officials on secondment from Defra. In 2008/2009 the role of Secretary was taken up by Sue Whitehead followed by Roy Norton and then Richard Aram; the other members of the Secretariat were Simon Renn and Janice Munday.

The Council welcomes approaches from organisations planning events such as conferences or seminars. The Secretariat can provide copies of recent FAWC reports on request. Many members carry with them a wealth of expertise about farm animal welfare, and if you would like us to be represented at appropriate events, please get in touch. The Council is keen to develop an effective partnership with the media, and we welcome press approaches, routed through the Secretariat.

Contacts
If you would like to be sent any of our reports, or to find out more about the Council please contact:

The Farm Animal Welfare Council
Area 5A
9 Millbank
c/o Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR
Tel: +44 (0)20 7238 5124/5016
Fax: +44 (0)20 7238 3169
Website: www.fawc.org.uk
Email: fawcsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Communications

FAWC’s website has developed into the main route by which FAWC’s reports and advice are accessed by the public. Average monthly levels of traffic on the FAWC website in terms of hits, sessions and downloads per month are listed below.

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The annual number of downloads of recent FAWC Reports and Opinions in 2006, 2007 and 2008 was:

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The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) is an independent advisory body established by Government in 1979. Its terms of reference are to keep under review the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at the place of slaughter; and to advise Government of any legislative or other changes that may be necessary.

The Council can also investigate any topic falling within this remit, communicate freely with outside bodies, the European Commission and the public, and publish its advice independently.

Our members are drawn from a wide range of disciplines and occupations and serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of any organisation or interest group.

A key element is our ability to act independently; we may pursue any topic we regard as important to the welfare of farm animals.

When embarking on a new investigation, we consult a wide range of interest groups. We carefully consider written advice and take oral evidence from those with specific expertise. Wherever possible we use relevant scientific evidence to aid us. This is carefully balanced with information gained from industry experience, visits by members of FAWC to farms and other agricultural businesses and guidance from experts. We also rely on the extensive experience and collective expertise of FAWC members. Where there is insufficient scientific knowledge, we may recommend funding of research and development to fill the gaps.

**FAWC's Strategic Plan 2006-2010**

The Strategic Plan sets out the remit, aims, objectives and work programme of the Council from 2006 to 2010. The Plan ensures that timely advice is provided to Government on priority areas in farm animal welfare. There is a clear focus on the necessary major studies, while ensuring flexibility to provide advice on new and immediate issues as they arise.

The priority issues identified for major studies were: Economics of farm animal welfare (on which work began in 2007); Education, communication and knowledge transfer in farm animal welfare (2008); and Disease and farm animal welfare (2009).

In addition to the major studies, subjects for short term studies leading to Opinions by Council were identified. These are carried out by the Council’s Standing Committees in line with their remits.

Opinions were published in November and December 2008 on the Welfare of Farmed Gamebirds and on Policy Instruments for Protecting and Improving Animal Welfare, respectively. Work on the following Opinions is in progress: welfare of the dairy cow; skeletal health of laying hens; the consequences of natural disasters and disease epidemics for the welfare of farm animals; lameness in sheep; and environmental enrichment and mutilations of growing pigs.
The Five Freedoms

In considering the welfare conditions under which farm animals are kept, the Council is guided by ideals that have become known as the Five Freedoms:

1. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST
   - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

2. FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT
   - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

3. FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY OR DISEASE
   - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

4. FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR
   - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

5. FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS
   - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.
Council’s work over the past twelve months

Advice to Government

Summaries of Reports and advice provided over the past year are set out below. The advice can be viewed in its entirety on the FAWC website www.fawc.org.uk.

Copies of recent FAWC publications are also available from the Secretariat at the contact address at the beginning of this review.

FAWC provides its advice to Government in a number of ways via: i) published Reports and Opinions advising Ministers on specific topics; ii) responses to consultations; and iii) ad hoc advice in response to specific requests, usually in the form of a letter to Ministers. In assessing the benefits and costs of any management system or procedure FAWC has always referred to the ‘Five Freedoms’. In doing this, FAWC places the animal’s interests uppermost in its deliberations, but in order to provide pragmatic advice to Government it does not ignore practical, economic, environmental and social aspects.

Report on the Implications of Castration and Tail Docking for the Welfare of Lambs

The Report on the Implications of Castration and Tail Docking for the Welfare of Lambs was published in June 2008. The report considered the implications of castration and tail docking for the welfare of lambs and reiterated FAWC’s earlier view that castration and tail docking of lambs are mutilations which should not be undertaken without strong justification. The Report noted that the pain and distress caused by tail docking is less severe than that following castration but that it is still a painful mutilation. Pain relief should be given in both cases once practical methods of delivering local anaesthetics and analgesics have been developed.

The report recommended that sheep farmers, the meat industry, operators of farm assurance schemes, and retailers should implement the Welfare Code, which requires careful consideration of the need for castration and tail docking, and should introduce measures to avoid these mutilations. In addition, the Report recommended that retailers and others in the food supply chain should not require castration of lambs and should reward farmers for adoption of a welfare-oriented policy on castration and tail docking.

Advice on the Welfare of Pigs

In response to a request from Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs in the Scottish Government, FAWC researched and provided advice on the welfare standards for pigs bred and reared in Great Britain.

The letter provided a comparison of British welfare standards for pigs with those of other countries that export to Britain in terms of legislation and voluntary measures, production systems and outcome assessment of welfare. Issues raised included the UK ban on close confinement in individual stalls for non-lactating sows and the wide coverage of domestic pig production by farm assurance schemes (with the increased inspection requirement this entails and that castration was not allowed under these schemes).

Great Britain has a higher proportion of extensive production systems than is found in other European and non-European countries with around 40% of sows managed in outdoor systems.

British scientists and farmers are pioneering schemes that assess welfare by a combination of resource inputs and welfare outcomes.
The conclusion drawn is that the majority of pigs in Great Britain are kept to a higher welfare standard than elsewhere in the EU and other countries.

Opinion on the Welfare of Farmed Gamebirds

Approximately 40 million gamebirds (30 to 35 million pheasants and 5 to 10 million partridges) are reared and released each year in Great Britain. Gamebirds have traditionally been bred and reared using simple systems of husbandry, though increasingly more intensive methods are used.

Welfare issues identified during the study of the breeding and rearing processes included: the extent and duration of confinement of semi-wild species, sometimes within systems offering a barren, restricting environment; routine use of management devices, e.g. bits, spectacles and brailles; and management and stockmanship issues, including record keeping, training, flock health and welfare planning and development of best practice.

Recommendations made to Government and others intended to improve the welfare of farmed gamebirds included:

- Adoption of flock health and welfare plans, prepared in conjunction with a veterinary surgeon;
- An end to the use of spectacles, and closer control of other management devices;
- Phasing out of barren cages for pheasants, alongside research into acceptable accommodation;
- Phasing out of barren cages for partridges, particularly for extended periods, alongside research into acceptable accommodation; and
- More research into the adaptive and support needs of birds when released.

Opinion on Policy Instruments for Protecting and Improving Farm Animal Welfare

To achieve the standard of farm animal welfare that people want – or expect - requires a coordinated approach to the use of policy instruments.

Legislation will always be necessary to protect animals from unacceptable treatment and cruelty, or to avoid unnecessary suffering and distress, but other policy instruments have a valuable role to play in other circumstances. Society has an expectation that Government should intervene to ensure that animal welfare is appropriately protected in relation to products from farm animals, including imported products.

The Opinion notes the potential power of the consumer and the market in improving welfare. One recommendation is that serious consideration should be given to a labelling system to enable concerned consumers to make informed choices.
FAWC responds to a number of consultations each year (mostly from Government). The full text of these can be viewed on the FAWC website at [www.fawc.org.uk](http://www.fawc.org.uk).

**Consultation on Responsibility and Cost Sharing in Wales**

FAWC welcomes initiatives to foster greater partnership between the Welsh Assembly Government and industry stakeholders in developing and implementing future animal health and welfare strategy in Wales. FAWC’s response called for ‘joined up’ management within the area of animal health and welfare and with other policy areas impacting on the livestock sector. It also called for burdens on industry or the taxpayer to be proportional to responsibility and benefits received.

The main limitation of the consultation, from FAWC’s viewpoint, was the focus on livestock disease control with little explicit mention of animal welfare and a lack of clarity on how animal welfare might be included within a responsibility and cost sharing arrangement. Indeed, it was questioned whether responsibility for welfare might be dealt with differently, with Government continuing to play a major role. The livestock industries may have little incentive to improve animal welfare under current market arrangements. There will remain aspects of animal health and protection of animal welfare that Government will need to take ultimate responsibility for on society’s behalf.

**Consultation on the Proposed New Strategy for Farming in Wales: “Farming, Food and Countryside – Building a Secure Future”**

FAWC made a number of comments to strengthen the proposed new strategy for farming in Wales. These included that FAWC would like to see animal welfare as a core consideration of the Strategy and included in the key industry objectives. Protection of animal welfare is an important element of sustainable farming and one that should be more emphasised in the Strategy. It is hoped that in the future, Welsh farmers will have greater opportunity to obtain premium prices for high welfare products. Rural Development Programme (RDP) monies should be used to help Welsh farmers develop their businesses to adopt practices that improve farm animal welfare.

**Consultation on Proposals for the ‘Health Check’ of the EU Common Agricultural Policy**

FAWC was concerned that farm animal welfare was largely absent as a specific consideration in the review proposals and that a number of the projected impacts of the adjustments proposed in the ‘Health Check’ review had potentially negative welfare implications for certain farm systems.

The European Commission Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010 identifies farm animal welfare as occupying a “central place within the Common Agricultural Policy”. The Health Check review, however, made few direct references to the improvement of farm animal welfare. Animal welfare should be identified as a ‘New Challenge’. FAWC also commented on the specific proposals of the ‘Health Check’ review.
The full Council of currently 20 members usually meets three times a year. Summaries of these meetings are available on the FAWC website www.fawc.org.uk.

FAWC’s three Standing Committees keep a watching brief on the welfare issues within three broad subjects:
- Ruminants;
- Pigs, Poultry and Fish; and
- Ethics, Economics, Education and Regulation.

These committees undertake ‘horizon scanning’ for new welfare issues, keep under review and press for action on contemporary welfare topics and carry out small scale studies leading to short reports in the form of Opinions.

Working Groups are set up to undertake major studies into specific welfare issues or target species and produce Reports for Council to approve for submission to Ministers and for publication.

The next study for the Committee, leading to an Opinion, will be on mutilations of growing pigs and the role of environmental enrichment in reducing the need for such interventions. A consultation was issued in February 2009 seeking views from stakeholders on the welfare issues.

Mutilations are still used widely in the pig industry. FAWC will assess the need for, and welfare implications of, tail docking, teeth clipping, castration and identification techniques such as ear clipping, ear tagging, tattooing and slap marking in growing pigs. We will consider how and whether environmental enrichment and other management/husbandry practices can reduce the need for mutilations. The Opinion will also cover opportunities for pain relief.

For each of the mutilations considered we need to ask:
- Whether they need to be done at all?
- What are the alternatives?
- If they need to be done, is there a better way?
- What can be done to minimise pain and distress experienced?
- To what extent is provision of environmental enrichment effective in preventing the need for mutilations?
- What other management and husbandry practices can reduce the need for mutilations?

If you have comments to offer about the welfare implications of mutilations for growing pigs and the effect of environmental enrichment, please send them to the FAWC Secretariat.

Pigs, Poultry and Fish Standing Committee

In November 2008 the Council published its Opinion on the Welfare of Farmed Gamebirds, i.e. pheasants and partridges that are bred and/or reared in farm environments in Great Britain for shooting. Members visited a range of gamebird breeding and rearing systems in Great Britain, studied the available literature and considered extensive written and oral evidence from interested organisations before reaching their conclusions and submitting them to Council for approval. An Opinion on bone strength of laying hens is being prepared.
Ethics, Economics, Education and Regulation Standing Committee

The EEER Committee has responded to a number of consultations on FAWC’s behalf. In addition, it has produced an Opinion about policy instruments for protecting and improving farm animal welfare, which was published in December 2008.

The Committee is now addressing the Responsibility and Cost Sharing agenda in England and a review of the animal welfare elements required in contingency planning for natural disasters and disease outbreaks.

Ruminants Standing Committee

The Ruminants Standing Committee is concluding its work on an Opinion that will review developments in the dairy industry and examine whether the standard of welfare is improving or deteriorating, using the FAWC Report on the Welfare of Dairy Cattle (1997) as a reference point. The Opinion will recommend means by which an acceptable standard of cow welfare can be maintained and improvements made, including timescales and responsibilities.

Slaughter Working Group

Drafting of a report on the welfare of farmed white meat species at slaughter or killing has concluded and the report was published in May 2009. This Report is the complement to the Report on the Welfare of Farmed Animals at Slaughter or Killing: Part 1 – Red Meat Animals that was published in 2003. Outbreaks of Avian Influenza during the study affected the progress of work but also provided the opportunity to gather information on the welfare of birds subject to emergency killing on farm in the face of infectious disease. The group has also been able to contribute to the review of the proposed European Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing.

Welfare Strategy Working Group

The Welfare Strategy Working Group was formed to consider a long-term strategy for farm animal welfare policy and its implementation over the next 25 to 30 years. It was charged with delivering an ethically-based framework for farm animal welfare standards, surveillance and goals. The Group has held stakeholder meetings to explore the main messages of the report. Publication is expected in autumn 2009.

Education, Communication and Knowledge Application Working Group

This Working Group first met in summer 2008 and undertook a written consultation in September/October. The Group’s remit is to examine how education and communication can positively affect the welfare of farmed animals. The Group will identify and critically review mechanisms for:

- Promoting responsible attitudes amongst schoolchildren and students in higher education;
- Better informing consumers and policy makers about welfare issues;
- Promoting application of existing knowledge amongst producers.
FAWC recognises that delivery of animal welfare improvements may be better achieved by partnership working, as outlined in the GB Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. The scope of this study is therefore not limited to Government activities. The Working Group is also mindful of the possible links with animal welfare goals for non-farmed animals and will comment on wider applications where relevant. The work of the group is a logical successor to previous FAWC advice to Government on farm assurance schemes (2005), labelling food according to welfare provenance (2006) and on stockmanship (2007).

**Welfare Economics Working Group**

The aim of this Group is to examine the interactions between the economics of livestock production and farm animal welfare in Great Britain and to make recommendations on relevant actions to safeguard and promote welfare. The Group is concluding its programme of meetings with stakeholders following on from its public consultation in 2007. The Group will begin to compile its report in the autumn of 2009 and it is anticipated that it will publish its findings in the summer of 2010.
**Publications**

**Opinions**

Opinion on Policy Instruments for Protecting and Improving Farm Animal Welfare, 2008

Opinion on the Welfare of Farmed Gamebirds, 2008

Opinion on Beak Trimming of Laying Hens, 2007

Opinion on Enriched Cages for Laying Hens, 2007

**Reports**


Strategic Plan 2006-2010

Report on Welfare Labelling, 2006

Report on the Welfare Implications of Farm Assurance Schemes, 2005

Report on the Welfare of Farmed Animals at Gatherings, 2005


Report on the Welfare of Farmed Fish, 1996. PB 2765


Advice to Ministers on the Handling and Transport of Poultry, 1990. PB 0125
