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

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The past year, 2007/8, has been one of consolidation for the Farm Animal Welfare Council as the new structure of three Standing Committees became fully functional, fulfilling a much needed gap in our advisory methods, while good progress has been made on the work programme set out in our strategic plan for 2006 - 2010. A significant achievement was the publication of a major Report on stockmanship, which highlighted the crucial role of the stockman in ensuring high standards of farm animal welfare.

Opinions are a new form of advice by the Council to Government and the first two Opinions on aspects of the welfare of the laying hen were published in November 2007. Opinions are prepared by the new Standing Committees and allow the Council to investigate contemporary topics that do not warrant a major investigation. Operationally, Council’s decision to prepare an Opinion is made annually following discussions with Chief Veterinary Officers and the Health and Welfare Advisory Groups in England, Wales and Scotland. This timetable allows some flexibility, given that the programme of work on major reports was decided several years ago when the Council’s strategic plan was agreed.

The Standing Committees also deal with the more immediate requests for advice from Government, including FAWC’s responses to consultations or following specific requests, e.g. the consequences of blue tongue disease for sheep and cattle.

Effective communication with stakeholders is an important requirement for a body such as the FAWC. The Council has noted with interest the great use now being made of its website (www.fawc.org.uk): on average over 4500 copies of our reports are downloaded each month while the most popular page is that describing the Five Freedoms, which is accessed over 40 times daily. Recognising the substantial interest in farm animal welfare amongst the public, media and the food chain has prompted the Council to review its policy on communication. Currently our remit restricts the Council to advising Government but we recognise the need for objective information about farm animal welfare from an authoritative source independent of vested interests. The growing use of FAWC’s website indicates the value placed upon such a source; we will review its content and effectiveness over the coming year, as well as other ways by which the FAWC interacts with society in general.

The Council is an executive body, whose members give so much of their time to make its advice worthwhile. Three members stepped down from the Council this year and I should like to thank Robin Anderson, Ian Baker and Professor Alistair Lawrence for their many valuable contributions to FAWC’s work. They have shown much dedication and their experience, knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed. Council is fortunate that there are so many applications to join and I am particularly glad to welcome two new members, Professor Henry Buller and Dr Joanne Conington. The Council is also greatly appreciative of the sterling work of its Secretariat. I should therefore like to thank David Foot for his excellent work as FAWC’s Secretary; he has now moved to new work within Defra. I am delighted that Sue Whitehead has been appointed the new Secretary in David’s stead. Barbara Silberstein is also leaving the Secretariat following her promotion and her enthusiastic contribution will be sorely missed. Finally, the Council benefits greatly from the wise counsel of its specialist veterinary advisors; Ed Varley retired in 2007 after many years of sage advice; in his place I am pleased to welcome Dr Liz Kelly.

The annual Open Meeting of the Council will be held on 9 July 2008 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
May 2007
Current Membership  May 2008

**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 animals.

**Members**

**Dr 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.

**David Henderson**, formerly Head of the Division of Clinical Studies and Director of Farms, Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh. Past President of the Sheep Veterinary Society. Consultant in sheep medicine. Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies.

**George Hogarth**, Production Director for an international chicken breeding company based in Scotland. A science graduate with husbandry 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 Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations (milk).


**Stephen Lister**, veterinary surgeon and partner in a specialist poultry practice in Norfolk.

**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; Director of Education at the Royal Society.


**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.

*The following members of Council retired during 2007/08:*

**Robin Anderson, Ian Baker, and Professor Alistair Lawrence.** We should like to thank them for their many contributions to the work of FAWC.
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 2007/8

During 2007/2008, Council, its Standing Committees and Working Groups held 29 meetings and went on nine visits to agricultural premises. In addition, Council members and the Secretariat represented FAWC at various conferences, seminars and workshops.

Costs

The work of the Farm Animal Welfare Council is financed principally by Defra, which also provides the Secretariat. During the financial year 2007/2008, the total public expenditure on the Council was £375,358. This sum comprised £134,133 for member’s fees, travel and related costs; £209,371 for the Secretariat’s salaries, travel and other costs; £25,849 for Defra’s advisers and consultants; and £6,005 for printing and publicity.

Secretariat

The FAWC Secretariat is staffed by officials on secondment from Defra. In 2007/2008 the Secretary was David Foot and the other members of the Secretariat were Richard Aram, Simon Renn, Barbara Silberstein 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.

Contact us

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

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What does the council do?

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 about farm animal welfare (beginning in 2008); and Disease and farm animal welfare (beginning in 2009).

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

Two Opinions were published in November 2007 covering beak trimming of laying hens, and enriched cages for laying hens. Work on the following Opinions is in progress: longevity of the dairy cow; policy instruments for improving farm animal welfare and welfare of farmed gamebirds. These three Opinions will be published in the summer of 2008. Work on new Opinions on bone strength 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 pigs will begin later in 2008.
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.
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.

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.

**FAWC’s Report on Stockmanship and Farm Animal Welfare.**

This Report, published in June 2007, recognised that stockmanship is the single most important influence on the welfare of farm animals and that stockmen, working either as self-employed farmers or employees, have demanding responsibilities as they strive to understand and cater for the needs of their animals.

The Report proposed the ‘Three Essentials of Stockmanship’ that should provide the foundations of sustainable livestock farming.

**Knowledge of animal husbandry.** Sound knowledge of the biology and husbandry of farm animals, including how their needs may be best provided for in all circumstances.

**Skills in animal husbandry.** Demonstrable skills in observation, handling, care and treatment of animals, and problem detection and resolution.

**Personal qualities.** Affinity and empathy with animals, dedication and patience.

Based on these essentials, a major focus of the report was the provision of effective education and training of stockmen on a regular and progressive basis.

The Report identified difficulties in educating and training stockmen that are common to all sectors of livestock farming. These include single-handed working, remoteness from colleges and universities, and access to trainers and courses off-site. These problems can be overcome by industry-led schemes that can be both feasible and effective.

The Report also recommended that the farming industry and Government should evaluate the benefits of education and training in terms of staff satisfaction and retention, the value of farming business, and the standards of animal welfare on British farms.
**FAWC’s Opinion on Beak Trimming of Laying Hens**

In November 2007 FAWC provided Government with the first of its advice in the new Opinion format.

The Opinion on Beak Trimming of Laying Hens considered the evidence about the need, or otherwise, for beak trimming of laying hens and about the methods available. The aim is to advise Government about the implications for the welfare of laying hens of the ban on beak trimming due to be implemented in England, Scotland and Wales from the end of 2010.

FAWC has long considered that the mutilation of all livestock is undesirable and continues to regard beak trimming as a major insult to the hen’s welfare. However, the major question addressed in the Opinion is: can beak trimming by any method be justified to allow large numbers of laying hens to be kept on a commercial scale?

In laying hens with intact, untrimmed beaks, the onset of injurious pecking is unpredictable and sudden, causing significant pain, distress, suffering and death to a substantial proportion of birds in flocks kept in all systems of husbandry.

The benefits of beak trimming in reducing the risk of injurious pecking need to be weighed against the trauma to the bird during beak trimming, including the new method of infrared beak treatment, any chronic pain or discomfort and the loss of an important sensory tool for the bird in exploring its environment.

FAWC advised Government that in the light of current knowledge, and until other techniques can be shown to reduce consistently the likelihood of injurious pecking and its further consequences, beak trimming should be an allowable mutilation. The ban on beak trimming due to be implemented in England, Scotland and Wales from the end of 2010 should be deferred for a period to allow the necessary research and development of the bird’s genetics and environmental conditions that would make beak trimming unnecessary.

On the basis of experience to date and subject to further scientific confirmation under practical conditions, infrared beak treatment appears to be the treatment of choice where beak trimming of laying hens is necessary. Further research should be undertaken on: the structure and functional use of the beak following beak trimming in all poultry species; the long term effects of infrared beak treatment on welfare; the need for beak trimming in hens kept in enriched cages; and the aetiology of injurious pecking including the potential for genetic selection and breed choice to reduce the problem.

FAWC has committed to re-visit its advice on beak trimming of laying hens in 2009 when the results of research already underway will be known.

**FAWC’s Opinion on Enriched Cages for Laying Hens**

FAWC prepared this Opinion in response to a specific request from Government about the welfare of laying hens in enriched cages. This Opinion was published in November 2007.

FAWC considers that all commercial systems of production for laying hens offer some compromise in terms of the hen’s welfare. However, well managed enriched cage systems are able to offer the potential for an acceptable balance between the requirements for the hen’s health and welfare, and public health, in combination with economic and environmental considerations.
Having considered the available evidence, observed several enriched cage systems and taken into account the views of a range of interested parties, FAWC’s advice is that the welfare of laying hens kept in enriched cages is acceptable provided that the highest standards of animal husbandry are practiced.

Enriched cages are one of the alternatives, alongside barn, free range and organic production, to the conventional (battery) cage, which will be banned from 1st January 2012.

**Advice on the welfare implications of Blue Tongue becoming established in Great Britain.**

FAWC gave advice to Government in June 2007 on the potential for Blue Tongue Disease to cause welfare problems for British livestock.

FAWC warned that if Blue Tongue Disease became established in UK livestock, there would be significant effects on animal welfare with economic consequences for the livestock industry.

The principal welfare concerns were associated with:

- the clinical symptoms of the disease itself;
- housing livestock which would normally be at pasture to minimise the risk of infection, though this is not very practical as a control method;
- the consequences of movement restrictions within the Infection and Protection Zones; and
- emergency slaughter if eradication was to be attempted.

Communication and publicity would be very important to mitigate the effects of Blue Tongue on animal welfare, and to help control any outbreak. It is likely that there would be adverse consequences of an epidemic for the welfare of farmers and stockmen too.

If Blue Tongue became endemic in the UK, the chance of eradication of the disease would be poor because of the ubiquitous nature of the Culicoides vector and the reservoirs of infection that would become established in cattle and wild ruminants. A vaccination policy would be the only method of control.
FAWC responds to a number of consultations each year (mostly from Government). The full text of these can be viewed on the FAWC Website (www.fawc.org.uk).

**Defra consultation on the replacement of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulation 2000.**


FAWC's response identified two proposed changes to the regulations for particular comment. We asked that the State Veterinary Service (now Animal Health) monitor any consequences of the immunity of animal keepers from prosecution while under improvement notice. We were particularly concerned at the loss of the requirement for farm animal keepers to have access to, have received guidance on and be familiar with the Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock. Our concern and that of others consulted by Government, resulted in the retention of this requirement in the new regulations, which came into force in 2007.

**European Group on ethics in science and new technologies (EGE) - public consultation on the ethical aspects of animal cloning for food supply.**

FAWC expressed two main ethical concerns about animal cloning for food supply.

First were the consequences for animal welfare. Cloning has a low success rate, with most embryos dying at an early stage. Of those that survive through pregnancy, as many as one third die before birth or in the first few months of life, and many of those that live to maturity have abnormalities. In addition, the techniques needed to obtain eggs are invasive. Progeny of clones have fewer apparent welfare problems, but this does not make cloning for subsequent production of progeny acceptable.

Second, animal cloning for food is opposed by a large majority of the public in Europe (possible medical uses are a separate issue). It seems that most citizens regard the technique as unnecessary, and as an inappropriate treatment of the animals that are kept for food. Were cloning for food to be permitted, the message would be given that what the public thinks is being ignored by EU law makers.

**Consultation on Defra’s Response to the Eves Review of the Animal Health and Welfare Delivery Landscape.**

Both the Eves review and Defra’s response highlighted important areas for potential improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the animal health and welfare delivery landscape.

FAWC saw consultation with delivery partners before the next round of Public Sector Agreement targets for animal health and welfare is settled as
highly desirable and felt that wider consultation might also be useful. FAWC’s view was that priorities that did not include any explicit targets for protection or improvement of animal welfare were an omission and that collaboration with farm assurance schemes should be explored.

In principle, FAWC supported Eves’ (and previously Hampton’s) recommendations for a strengthened, unified national animal (health and welfare) protection agency with the State Veterinary Service (now Animal Health) as ‘a pivotal component at its centre’. FAWC is currently considering this suggestion in much greater detail, particularly the powers and responsibilities of a body with such a guardianship role as part of its consideration of future animal welfare policy.

FAWC’s additional comments on the revised draft Animal Welfare Delivery Strategy.

FAWC responded with detailed comments to the Consultation on the Draft Delivery Strategy in February 2007.

Additional comments were requested by Defra and FAWC responded by calling for clarification of the vision statement, requesting that the scope of the Delivery Strategy be checked for consistency with the scope of the wider Animal Health & Welfare Strategy and with the Animal Welfare Act. Also that ownership of the Delivery Strategy be across all stakeholders, with the England Implementation Group as the appropriate body to help drive the Strategy forward, to foster wide ownership and shared commitment to its intended outcomes, and to hold stakeholders to account.
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 areas:
• 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.

Ruminants Standing Committee

The Ruminants Standing Committee is concluding its work on an Opinion on the Longevity of the Dairy Cow. During the course of 2007/2008 the Committee issued a consultation and held meetings with stakeholders to gather evidence on this topic. The Committee has responded to ad hoc requests from Government for advice on various issues relating to ruminants including the consequences of Blue Tongue Disease becoming established in the UK.

Pigs, Poultry and Fish Standing Committee

The Committee has been actively studying the welfare of laying hens in anticipation of the review of the European Directive on their protection. Opinions on Enriched Cages for Laying Hens, and Beak Trimming of Laying Hens were published in November 2007. An Opinion on bone strength of laying hens is being prepared.

Much of the Committee’s focus in 2007-2008 has been on preparing an 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 have visited a range of gamebird breeding and rearing systems in Great Britain, have studied the available literature and considered extensive written and oral evidence from interested organisations. The Opinion is expected to be published during the summer of 2008.

The next study for the Committee, leading to an Opinion, will be on mutilations of pigs and the role of environmental enrichment in reducing the need for such interventions.

Ethics, Economics, Education and Regulation Standing Committee

The EEER Committee has again been busy this year: We have responded to a number of consultations on FAWC’s behalf. In addition, we have undertaken a study about policy instruments for protecting and improving farm animal welfare, which will lead to an Opinion to be completed later in 2008.
**Lamb Castration and Tail Docking Working Group**

In April 1994, FAWC published its report on the Welfare of Sheep. This report made several recommendations on castration and tail docking, particularly that these mutilations should be re-examined and justified once further research had been carried out.

A Working Group led initially by Dr Martin Potter and subsequently by Ian Baker was tasked with reviewing the scientific evidence on lamb castration and tail docking and has been compiling its findings over the past couple of years. FAWC believes that scientifically-based advice can now be given that will minimise the suffering arising from castration and tail docking.

The Group’s report on the implications of castration and tail docking for the welfare of lambs will be published in June 2008.

**Slaughter Working Group**

The Slaughter Group has been carefully considering the significant volumes of evidence it has gathered during its study. Drafting of a report on the welfare of farmed white meat species at slaughter or killing is now underway. This Report will be 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 have affected the progress of work but have 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 been able to offer specific advice to Government on the welfare aspects of methods of mass killing during this period.

Given the additional work undertaken on emergency killing and the review of the Slaughter Directive, publication of this report is now expected in Winter 2008.

**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.

In addition to a written consultation exercise, the Group has held meetings with key opinion formers. Further stakeholder meetings will be arranged as the content and main messages of the report are refined.

Full account is being taken of the ongoing implementation of the GB Animal Health and Welfare Strategy, the Animal Welfare Delivery Strategy in England (and approaches being taken in Scotland and Wales) and the results of reviews such as that carried out by Eves into the delivery landscape for animal health and welfare in England.

**Welfare Economics Working Group**

FAWC has established a Working Group in accordance with its Strategic Plan 2006 – 2010, to examine the economics of farm animal welfare. The aim of the group is to analyse the interactions between the economics of livestock production and animal welfare in the UK and make recommendations on relevant actions to safeguard and promote welfare. The group issued a public
consultation during the summer of 2007 and held stakeholder meetings in September 2007. A further consultation meeting will be held in June 2008. The group will then start to compile its report and it is anticipated that it will publish its findings in 2010.

**Education, Communication and Knowledge Implementation Working Group**

This newly formed Working Group will begin its work in Summer of 2008 and will be considering how education and communication (including knowledge of adult consumers about farm animal welfare and educating children about food from animals) can positively affect the welfare of farm animals. It is anticipated that the group’s report will be published in 2011.

**Retailer Engagement Working Group**

This Group is currently engaged in the development of better communication with the retail and food service sectors and with formulating a wider communication strategy for FAWC.
Appendix - Publications


Strategic Plan 2006-2010.


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


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


Advice to Agricultural Ministers on Transportation of Unfit Animals, 1988.


Advice to the Agriculture Ministers of Great Britain on the Need to Control Certain Mutilations of Farm Animals, 1981.
