

Summary of Council meeting on 18 June 2009

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This is the summary report of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) plenary meeting on 18 June 2009, chaired by Professor Christopher Wathes. The Council meets three times a year. Working groups that convene more frequently undertake much of the preparatory work.

Discussion centred on:

- Detailed deliberations on a report to present a long term view of future farm animal welfare strategy, policy and implementation in GB, which was approved for submission to Ministers and for publication subject to minor editorial amendments. Publication due in October 2009;
- Debate on a draft Opinion on the welfare of dairy cattle, which was approved for submission to Ministers and for publication subject to editorial amendments by the Ruminants Standing Committee. Publication due September 2009;
- Reaction to the publication of FAWC's Report on the Welfare of farmed Animals at Slaughter or Killing – Part Two : White Meat Animals (May 2009) and to published research conducted in New Zealand on the welfare of calves slaughtered without pre-stunning;
- Reaction to the Government's response to FAWC's Report on the Welfare Implications of Castration and Tail Docking of Lambs;
- Address by the Chief Veterinary Officer;
- The work of the Liaison Group of Animal Welfare Advisory Bodies (FAWC, Companion Animal Welfare Council, Animal Procedures Committee and Zoos Forum), particularly a joint discussion paper on welfare surveillance and the Group's Terms of Reference;
- The beginning of a new major investigation into Disease and Farm Animal Welfare;
- Work required to start up a new investigation into contingency planning to protect the welfare of farm animals in natural disasters or disease outbreaks;
- Presentation on the work of the EFSA Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare;
- Updates on the work of the Standing Committees and Working Groups;
- An update on the activity of Defra's Animal Welfare Division.

Chairman's Report

- The Chairman reported on meetings aimed at building relationships with FAWC's stakeholders in GB and Europe, including the Defra Animal Welfare Team and FAWC work programmes, Scottish Parliamentary Committee on pig industry, FAWC review interview, NZ High Commission.

Next meeting

29 October 2009.

Further information

Contact:

Richard Aram
Secretary of FAWC
Area 5A, 9 Millbank
c/o Nobel House
17 Smith Square
LONDON, SW1P 3JR

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7238 5016

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7238 3169

E-mail: fawcsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.fawc.org.uk