

Summary of Council meeting on 21 October 2010

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This is the summary report of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) plenary meeting on 21 October 2010, chaired by Professor Christopher Wathes in London. Present to welcome the FAWC members were Nigel Gibbens, Chief Veterinary Officer for the UK, and Sarah Hendry, Director, Food and Farming Group, Defra. The Council meets three times a year. Working groups that convene more frequently undertake much of the preparatory work.

Discussion centred on:

- Report from the Chief Veterinary Officer, including a discussion about the reconstitution of FAWC as an expert committee and the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review;
- Draft Opinion on Osteoporosis and Bone Fractures in Laying Hens;
- Draft Opinion on Mutilations and Environmental Enrichment in Piglets and Growing Pigs;
- Advice to the Welsh Minister for Rural Affairs on the welfare of sheep in Great Britain;
- Draft Opinion on sheep leg health;
- Presentation on “Does membership of a farm assurance scheme reduce the risk of non-compliance with welfare codes and legislation – what’s the evidence?”;
- Draft report of the Education, Communication and Knowledge Application Group;
- Draft report of the Economics Working Group on Economics and Farm Animal Welfare;
- Updates on the work of the Standing Committees and Working Groups; and
- An update on the activity of Defra’s Animal Welfare Team.

Chairman’s Report

- The Chairman reported on meetings aimed at building relationships with FAWC’s stakeholders in GB and Europe, including the European Forum of Animal Welfare Councils and the Defra Animal Welfare Team, FAWC’s sponsor within Defra.
- FAWC’s Open Meeting had been held in July. The Chairman had recently given a speech at the BCVA conference on the welfare of the dairy cow.

Next meeting

17 February 2011 in Cardiff.

Further information

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