

Summary of Council meeting on 10 February 2010

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This is the summary report of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) plenary meeting on 10 February 2010, 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:

- Reaction to updated advice to Ministers on Beak Trimming of Laying Hens;
- Updated terms of reference of the Liaison Group of Animal Welfare Advisory Bodies (FAWC, Companion Animal Welfare Council, Animal Procedures Committee and Zoos Forum), and a possible next topic for study;
- FAWC's Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and possible future priority topics for study;
- Presentation entitled 'Knowledge transfer in farm animal practice improves animal welfare';
- Final report of the England Implementation Group;
- Responsibility and cost sharing in relation to animal health and welfare, and the draft Animal Health Bill;
- Presentation and debate on the new government-wide strategy on a shared vision for the food system in the UK "Food 2030";
- Report on a Nuffield Scholarship study tour to review cattle and sheep welfare in South America, Australia and New Zealand;
- Report on the Defra workshop on FAWC's report Farm Animal Welfare in Great Britain: Past, Present and Future;
- The recommendations of the independent review of FAWC;
- Debate on the effectiveness of carbon dioxide for stunning and anaesthesia in pigs;
- 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. The Chairman had recently visited broiler hatcheries to see infra-red beak treatment, gas killing and maceration of chicks.

Next meeting

24 June 2010 in Edinburgh.

Further information

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