Canadian Code of Practice for Bison

International Bison Conference

July 6, 2017

Big Sky, Montana
National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)

Who we are
- Collaborative partnership of diverse stakeholders created to share information and work together on farm animal care and welfare organizations
- National lead for farm animal care in Canada

What we do
- Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals
- Animal Care Assessment Model (ACAM)
- Facilitate information sharing and communication

How we do it
- Consensus-based model of decision making
- Cultivating relationships, building trust, open communication and collaboration
NFACC Partners

**Farmed Animal Industry Associations**
- Canada Fox Breeders Association
- Canada Mink Breeders Association
- Canadian Bison Association
- Canadian Cattlemen’s Association
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
- Canadian Pork Council
- Canadian Sheep Federation
- Canadian Veal Association
- Chicken Farmers of Canada
- Dairy Farmers of Canada
- Egg Farmers of Canada
- Equine Canada
- Turkey Farmers of Canada

**Processors**
- Canadian Meat Council
- Canadian Poultry & Egg Processors Council
- Dairy Processors Association of Canada

**Animal Health Associations**
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

**Consumer Groups**
- Retail Council of Canada

**Animal Welfare Associations**
- Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
- Coalition of Provincial SPCA (BC, SK, ON)
- World Animal Protection, Canada

**Provincial Groups**
- Ontario Trucking Association
- Alberta Farm Animal Care Association

**Governments**
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Portfolio (AAFC, CFIA)
- Provincial Agriculture Departments (FPAW)

**Associate Members**
- Loblaw
- Sobeys
- Tim Hortons
- Manitoba Pork Council
- Saputo
- Burnbrae Farms
- McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada Ltd
- A & W Food Services of Canada Inc
- Elanco Animal Health, Canada
- Boehringer Ingelheim, Canada
- Maple Leaf
- Cargill Canada
- Aramark Canada
- Farm Credit Canada
- White Spot Restaurants
- NSF International
- Farm and Food Care Ontario

**Other**
- Canada’s research community
Canada’s Codes of Practice

History of Canada's Code of Practice development process

- Most farmed animal species in Canada have a Code
- Initiated in 1980
- Canadian Agri-Food Research Council led process from 1993-2003
- NFACC created in 2005 with mandate to re-establish the Code of Practice development process
Canada’s Codes of Practice

The Codes of Practice are guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals

- Our national understanding of farm animal care requirements and recommended best practices
- Scientifically informed, practical, and reflect societal expectations for responsible farm animal care

The Codes of Practice serve as

- Education tools
- Reference materials for regulations
- Foundation for animal care assessment programs
Canada’s Codes of Practice

Code development process

- A uniquely collaborative approach

- Ensures credibility and transparency through scientific rigour, stakeholder collaboration and a consistent approach

- Stakeholder commitment is key to ensure quality animal care standards are established and implemented

www.nfacc.ca
Canada’s Codes of Practice

The team

▶ Code Development Committee
   Farmers/producers, transporters, veterinarians, animal welfare and enforcement agencies, retail and food service organizations, processors, governments and researchers

▶ Scientists’ Committee

RESULT: Science and consensus-based Code
The development process begins when an industry group or specialized industry group identifies need for Code revision

2+ years to complete
Step 1: Initiation

Industry group initiates the process with NFACC
Letter of Understanding signed and announcement made
The commodity or specialized industry group organizes its Code Development Committee based on the Guiding Principles of the Codes of Practice

- Producer
- Transporter
- Veterinarian
- Animal welfare organization
- Animal welfare regulatory enforcement body
- Retail / food service organization
- Processor
- AAFC/CFIA
- Researcher/academic (Chair of Scientists’ Committee)
- Technical expertise as required
Step 2: Priority Welfare Issues Identified

NFACC strikes a Scientific Committee (SC) familiar with research on the care and management of the animals under consideration.

CDC and SC each identify list of priority welfare issues [PWI’s]

Two committees come together to collectively identify a final list of priority welfare issues for the species within the Code being addressed.
Step 3: Work Begins on Draft Documents

- CDC begins drafting Code

- SC reviews scientific literature for each priority welfare issue and develops a report following the SC Terms of Reference
Step 3: Work Begins on Draft Documents

- Humane Standards - Bison
Step 4: Peer Review

- SC report goes to the CDC – the committee ensures all the priority welfare issues have been addressed

- SC report goes for peer reviewed, finalized and made publicly available no later than when the Code is released for its 60-day public comment period.
Step 5: Draft Code

- CDC continues drafting Code using the SC report to develop requirements and recommendations around the priority welfare issues
Step 6: Public Consult (60-days)

- Final draft of Code is submitted to NFACC
- Standard reporting form submitted verifying that process was followed
- NFACC makes Code available for 60-day public comment period
- NFACC publishes SC report
Step 7: Publication

Following the public comment period the CDC considers feedback and revises draft as needed.

- CDC submits final Code to NFACC
- NFACC publishes and prints the revised Code
- Industry begins efforts to ensure implementation of Codes
Thank you
Questions now/later?