



FAWC, Area 5E, Nobel House
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To those on the attached circulation list

19 May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on Farm Animal Welfare and Sustainable Livestock Production

The Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) has begun a review of how farm animal welfare might be impacted by (or impact upon) the sustainable agriculture agenda. Literature on the topic is considerable but few have placed animal welfare at the centre of their deliberations.

The review will be carried out by an Overview Group led by FAWC Chairman Peter Jinman and will be supported by contributions from FAWC's sub-committees. The aim is for FAWC to produce a Report in 2016.

There appear to be a number of drivers for domestic and wider policy on sustainable agriculture including: increasing food security; increasing agricultural production and efficiency; sustainable intensification; increasing financial performance; international trade; sustainable resource use; reducing impact on environment; mitigation/adaptation for climate change; protecting rural communities, etc.

FAWC believes that these drivers should not ignore or undermine farm animal welfare. The Committee has already made this point in relation to sustainable intensification (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/fawc/files/sustainable-intensification.pdf>).

Sustainable agriculture is agriculture carried out in a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of the future. Sustainability is often illustrated as a triangle with Environment, Economy and Society/Ethics at its angles. Animal welfare is usually considered in the social/ethical camp but has interactions with the other two areas.



The study will aim to address how all the livestock sectors will react to the need for sustainable increases in production as well as protecting the environment and how this will impact on farm animal welfare. We will look at not just the influence of livestock producers but also of the supply industries (e.g. feed, energy, water, equipment, housing, etc.); the wider food chain (e.g. farm assurance, levy bodies, transporters, markets, processors, retailers, food service sector); and others with influence (e.g. NGOs and environmental groups, government, academia, veterinary bodies).

You are invited to submit responses to some or all of the following questions that you wish to address, and add any further comments you see fit:

1. Where does farm animal welfare sit in the sustainability agenda and why is it important?
2. What are the current pressures on agriculture (not just livestock agriculture) that may have impacts on livestock welfare, and how are these likely to change over the next, say, 20 years? These may include pressure for reduced impact on the environment, for increased production, for food security and for financial performance. And they may apply within Great Britain or internationally.
3. The various livestock sectors have their own strategies for 2020 and beyond.
 - a) What are the current and anticipated future drivers for sustainable livestock production in each sector?
 - b) What are the outcomes anticipated in each sector resulting from these drivers?
 - c) What are the intended or anticipated animal welfare impacts?
 - d) What contributions could animal welfare improvements make to these outcomes?
4. Where the potential impacts on animal welfare are positive, how can the 'win-win' benefits be maximised? Are there examples where consideration of animal welfare can identify gains in both welfare and the other priorities identified above that would not otherwise have been found?
5. Where the potential impacts on animal welfare are negative, how can the best balance be achieved between welfare and other priorities? How can farm animal welfare be best protected within the sustainability agenda?
6. How could/should considerations for animal welfare influence the design of systems for sustainable agriculture?

How to respond

Please email your responses to fawcsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk by Friday, 11 July 2014.

Or post to: FAWC Secretariat, Defra, Area 5E, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

In addition to this consultation, as the work progresses, we may write to some organisations with specific questions. Some organisations may be invited to discussions with the Group.


FAWC may wish to visit farms that illustrate some of the approaches to sustainable livestock production. If you are aware of any likely candidates or can offer assistance in this please let the Secretariat know when you respond.

It is usual to include in FAWC Reports the names of those organisations who have contributed evidence. If you would prefer that your name is excluded, please let us know when you reply.

If you are aware of any relevant consultees who we may have omitted please let us have contact details.

Further information about FAWC can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/fawc/

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Jinman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Jinman
Chairman, Farm Animal Welfare Committee

List of consultees

2nd Pillar Projects

3663

ADAS

Agskills

Agricultural Industries Confederation

Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board

Aldi Stores

All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare

Animal Aid

Animal Air Transport Association

Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

Animal Health and Welfare Framework, Wales

Animal Health Trust

Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Animal Rights Law Centre

Argo Feeds

ASDA Group Plc

Askham Bryan College

Associated British Foods

Association of British Abattoir Operators

Association of Scottish Colleges

Assured Food Standards

Aviagen Ltd

AWSELVA

Babraham Institute

Barony College

Berkshire College of Agriculture

Bernard Matthews Foods Ltd

Bicton College of Agriculture

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

Bishop Burton College

BOCM Pauls

Brakes Group

Bridgewater College

British Cattle Veterinary Association

British Deer Farmers Association

British Deer Society

British Egg Industry Council

British Free Range Egg Producers Association

British Gas

British Goat Society

British Institute of Agricultural Consultants

British Meat Processors Association

British Pig Association

British Pig Executive

British Poultry Breeders & Hatcheries Association

British Poultry Council

British Retail Consortium

British Society of Animal Science

British Trout Association

British United Turkeys

British Veterinary Association (BVA)

British Veterinary Poultry Association

Budgen Stores Ltd

Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture

Carmarthenshire College

Central Science Laboratory

Cherry Valley Farms Ltd

City University (London) Institute of Health Sciences
Cobb Breeding Company Ltd
Coleg Powys
Compass
Compassion in World Farming
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd
Countryside Alliance
DairyCo UK
Davidsons Animal Feeds
Defra
Duchy College
Duffields (Animal Feed)
EDF Energy
English Beef and Lamb Executive
English Nature
Environment Agency
Eon
Faccenda Chickens
Farm & Food Society
Farm Animal Care Trust
Farm Animal Initiative
Farm Assured Welsh Livestock
Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association
Farmers' Union of Wales
Farming and Livestock Concern UK
Federation of Muslim Organisations
Federation of Veterinarians in Europe
Food and Drink Federation
Food Aware
Food Climate Research Network
Food Ethics Council
Food Standards Agency
Forum for the Future
Freedom Food Ltd
Friends of the Earth
Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust
Game Farmers Association
Genus Breeding Ltd
GLW Feeds
Grampian Country Food Group
Greenpeace
Green Alliance
Green Energy
Halal Food Authority
Halal Monitoring Committee
Hannah Research Institute
Harper Adams University College
HCC Meat Promotion Wales
Hendrix
Holstein UK
Humane Slaughter Association (HSA)
Hy-Line UK
Institute for Animal Health
Institute of Food Research
Institute of Grocery Distribution
Institute of Trading Standards Administration
J Sainsbury plc
John Lewis plc
LACORS

Lantra
Licensed Animal Slaughterers and Salvage Association
Lidl UK
Linking Environment and Farming
Livestock Auctioneers Association
Local Government Association
Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI)
Marks & Spencer plc
Middlesex University
Moredun Institute
Muslim Council of Great Britain
National Animal Health & Welfare Panel
National Association of Agricultural Contractors
National Beef Association
National Consumer Council
National Consumer Federation
National Council of Women of Great Britain
National Farmers Union
National Farmers' Union of Scotland
National Farmers' Union (Wales)
National Federation of Meat & Food Traders
National Federation of Womens' Institutes
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
National Pig Association
National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC)
National Secular Society
National Sheep Association
National Standing Committee for Farm Animal Genetic Resources
NPower
Natural Environment Research Council
Nuffield Council on Bioethics
OfGem
OIE – World Organisation for Animal Health
Onekind
Organic Farmers and Growers
Organic Food Federation
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Pig Veterinary Society
Poultec Training Ltd
Quality Meat Scotland
Road Haulage Association
Roslin Institute (Edinburgh)
Rowett Research Institute
Royal Agricultural University
Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE)
Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
Royal Veterinary College
Rural and Industrial Design and Building Association
Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Science
Scottish Consumers Council
Scottish Dairy Association
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Government
Scottish Power
Scottish Rural College
Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Shechita UK

Sheep Veterinary Society
Small Farm Association
Soil Association
Sparsholt College
SSE
Sun Valley Foods Ltd
Sustain
Sustainable Food Trust
Tenant Farmers Association
Tesco Stores Ltd
The Food Commission
Traditional Farmfresh Turkey Association
Union of Muslim Organisations of UK & EIRE
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
University College, London
University of Aberdeen
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
University of Newcastle Upon Tyne
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford, Environment Change Institute
University of Plymouth
University of Reading
University of Stirling
University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Bangor
University of York
Vegetarian Economy & Green Agriculture (VEGA) Research
Vegetarian International Voice for Animals (VIVA)
Veterinary Public Health Association
WM Morrison Supermarkets Ltd
Water UK
Welsh Consumer Council
Welsh Government
Welsh Local Government Association
Women's Food & Farming Union
World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
Wye College