# Animal Welfare Committee Workplan

Updated: November 2026

This document sets out the Animal Welfare Committee Work Plan. It outlines:

- projects which are ongoing
- projects which will be undertaken later*
- projects completed over the past year
- changes from the previous work plan

*The workplan may be subject to change.

## Ongoing Projects

### How to safeguard the welfare of farmed animals from the effect of climate change – Part 1 poultry

This project considers how best to safeguard poultry welfare (meat chickens, laying hens, ducks, turkeys, quail, geese) from the effects of climate change.

### How to safeguard the welfare of farmed animals from the effect of climate change – Part 2 ruminants and pigs

This project considers how best to safeguard pig and ruminant welfare (sheep, goats, beef and dairy cows) from the effects of climate change.

### Welfare of Farmed Fish in Great Britain Pre-slaughter

This project reviews the welfare of farmed fish and includes an assessment of Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS).

### Welfare at Killing: Poultry Stunning

Aims at improving the welfare of poultry at killing by updating the 2009 FAWC report on the welfare of farmed animals at slaughter or killing, part two, white meat animals - GOV.UK in specific areas.

## Projects to be undertaken later

### Welfare of decapod crustaceans across the supply chain in the UK

This project will deliver a review of the welfare of decapod crustaceans in the UK. It will focus on animals that are caught, landed and handled (therefore under the protection of humans).

### Review of Defra funded research and development projects.

Provision of members to sit on steering groups, or to peer review research proposals or reports.

## Projects completed over the past year

### Non-cage systems for laying hens

This project looked at the welfare standards for keeping laying hens in non-cage systems.

The AWC report was submitted to government on 10 July 2026 and has been published on GOV.UK.

### Responsible sourcing of fur

This review considers how much fur is imported in relation to which species, where this fur is sourced from, and where it is destined; what welfare standards or other safeguards apply to that fur, and how well they provide for welfare needs; what systems, schemes and other processes apply to imported fur to ensure that these standards and safeguards are complied with, and how well do they work, and; what traceability mechanisms and arrangements apply to imported fur, and how well do these mechanisms work.

The AWC report was submitted to government on 17 February 2026 and has been published on GOV.UK.

### Review of livestock breeding and breeding technologies

This is a follow up to the Farm Animal Welfare Committee’s (FAWC’s) 2012 report on the welfare implications of breeding and breeding technologies in commercial livestock agriculture. This project involves a systematic review of evidence to support AWC in taking forward this project and to provide the Government with a sound, up-to-date evidence base on livestock breeding and animal welfare.

The AWC report was submitted to government on 3 February 2026 and has been published on GOV.UK.

### Welfare at Killing: High concentration CO2 stunning of pigs and alternatives

This project reviewed the evidence on the welfare impacts of high concentration CO2 gas stunning of pigs and of potential alternative methods.

The AWC report was submitted to government on 18 July 2025 and has been published on GOV.UK.

## Changes from the previous workplan

Following a review, the following previously planned projects – which had not yet started - will not be taken forward at this time.

- Welfare at Killing: On-farm slaughter of animals to improve welfare