



NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ÉLEVAGE



Setting the Standards for Animal Care and Welfare in Canada

Animal Health Canada Forum 2022

Ottawa, Ontario

September 21, 2022

Jackie Wepruk, NFACC General Manager

Who Should Set The Standard?



Overview on NFACC's role

Who we are

- ▶ Collaborative partnership of diverse stakeholders created to share information and work together on farm animal care and welfare (50+ partner organizations)
- ▶ National lead for farm animal care in Canada

What we do

- ▶ Process for Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals
- ▶ Animal Care Assessment Framework (ACAF)
- ▶ Facilitate information sharing and communication

How we do it

- ▶ Consensus-based model of decision making
- ▶ Cultivating relationships, building trust, open communication and collaboration

Our Goal: real progress on farm animal welfare while maintaining the viability of Canadian animal agriculture



NFACC Partners – Primary Members

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
Restaurants Canada

Provincial Groups

Alberta Farm Animal Care Association

Farmed Animal Industries

Canada Fox Breeders Association
Canada Mink Breeders Association
Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance
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
Equestrian Canada
Turkey Farmers of Canada

Governments

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

Animal Welfare

Associations

Humane Canada
World Animal Protection
Coalition of animal welfare
enforcement agencies

Other

Canada's research community



NFACC Partners

Associate Members

- ▶ A & W Food Services of Canada Inc
- ▶ Agropur
- ▶ Aramark Canada
- ▶ Boehringer Ingelheim, Canada Ltd
- ▶ Burnbrae Farms
- ▶ Cactus Club Café
- ▶ Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef
- ▶ Cargill Canada
- ▶ Dairy Farmers of Ontario
- ▶ Farm Credit Canada
- ▶ Gay Lea Foods
- ▶ Kentucky Fried Chicken Canada
- ▶ Lactalis Canada
- ▶ Les Producteurs de lait du Québec
- ▶ Loblaw
- ▶ Longo Brothers Fruit Markets Inc.
- ▶ Manitoba Pork Council
- ▶ Maple Leaf
- ▶ McDonald's Restaurants of Canada
- ▶ NSF Canada
- ▶ New-Life Mills
- ▶ Recipe Unlimited Corp.
- ▶ Saputo
- ▶ Sobeys
- ▶ Walmart Canada
- ▶ White Spot Restaurants



NFACC Executive Committee

Seats available to:

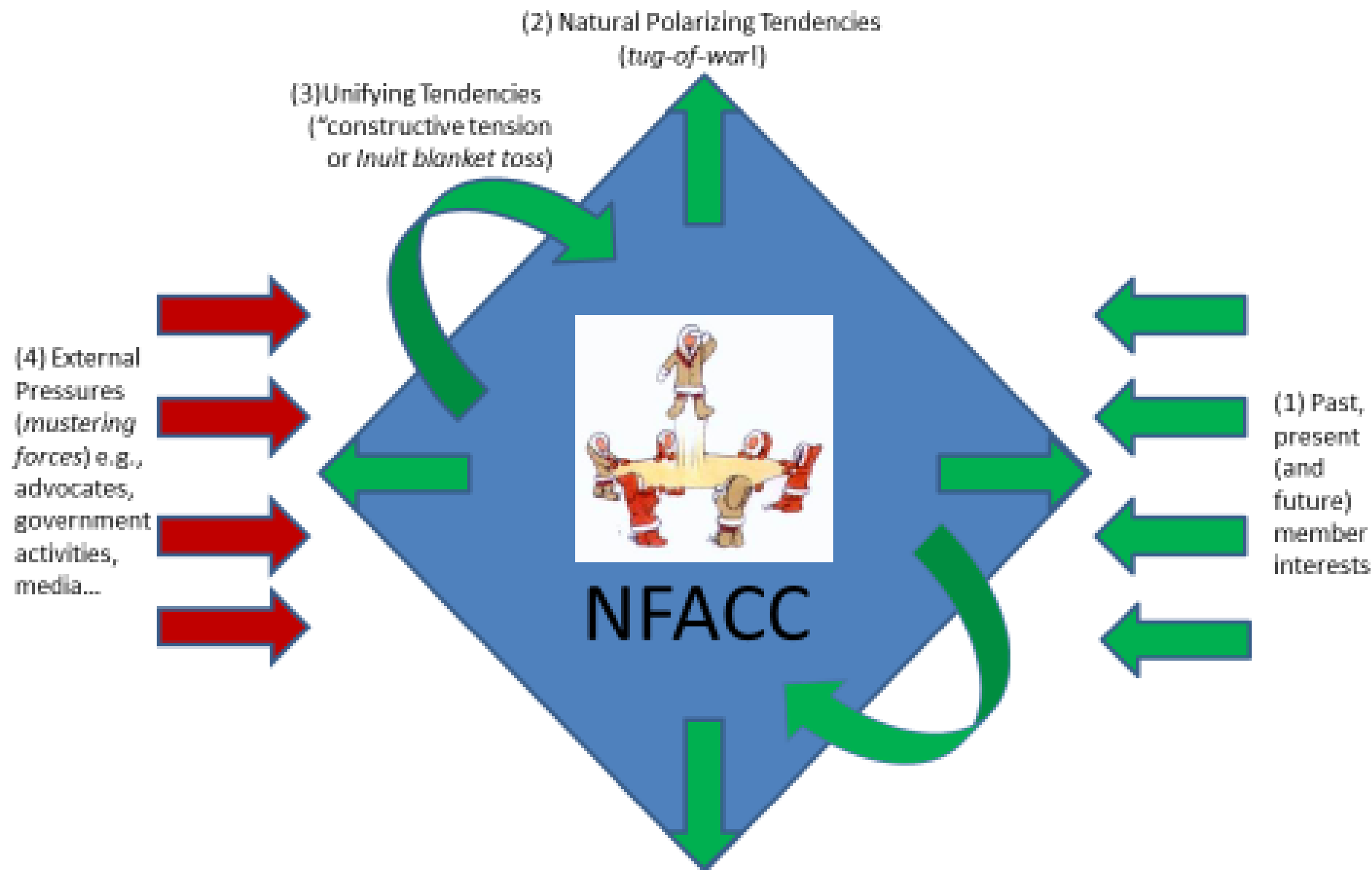
- ▶ NFACC's Chair
- ▶ National Commodity Association – 2 representatives
- ▶ National Processor Association – 1 representative
- ▶ National Animal Welfare Association – 1 representative
- ▶ National Retail, Restaurant, or Foodservice Association – 1 representative
- ▶ National Veterinary Association – 1 representative
- ▶ Provincial Farm Animal Care Councils – 1 representative
- ▶ Federal Government – ex officio – 1 representative
- ▶ Research Community – ex officio – 1 representative



NFACC Goals

- ▶ to be an inclusive forum for collaboration that leads to real and sustainable progress on farm animal welfare while maintaining the viability of Canadian animal agriculture,
- ▶ to achieve timely informed decisions through harnessing diversity, collective intelligence, science-informed approaches and empathetic dialogue,
- ▶ to build opportunities for engagement and joint initiatives along the value chain,
- ▶ to be a recognized national leader for farmed animal care and welfare in Canada.

NFACC as a Successful “Social Precipitate” ... or a Diamond



Diversity leads to better decisions

Comfortable/relaxed vs
awkward/tense

Power of
Anticipation

The pain of working
harder

The gain of
creativity/innovation

Confidence in
decisions

Diversity leads to better decisions

The shift from...

“Who’s right!” on animal welfare to...

*“What does animal welfare look like if each of us is right?”**

- ▶ Getting comfortable with awkwardness & tension
- ▶ The pain of working harder
- ▶ The power of anticipation
- ▶ The gain of creativity/innovation
- ▶ The paradox of confidence in decisions





**modified from The Next IQ: The Next Level of Intelligence for 21st Century Leaders, by Arin N. Reeves*

Advancing Animal Welfare

NFACC provides a shared reference point for collective action, access to animal welfare expertise, and a built-in stakeholder network. This offers a level of credibility and efficiency that supports public trust, sound business decisions, and policies relative to farm animal welfare.


www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/nfacc/NFACC_AR_2022_English_final.pdf



Advancing **Animal Welfare and **Public Trust** Through Codes of Practice**

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2018-MARCH 2021

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP | PARTENARIAT CANADIEN POUR L'AGRICULTURE



Canada's Codes of Practice

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

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

The Codes of Practice serve as

- ▶ Extension tools
- ▶ Foundation for animal care assessment programs
- ▶ Reference materials for regulations



Codes of Practice developed through NFACC (2009 – 2018)



Advancing Animal Welfare and Public Trust through Codes of Practice

First Ever

Developing Canada's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Salmonids: What We Heard and How We Addressed It

Introduction

In 2018, the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance initiated the development of Canada's first-ever Code of Practice for farmed salmonids (salmon, trout, char). The Code's development was led by a committee of 14 professionals, including farmers from across Canada, government, animal welfare advocates, researchers, and veterinarians brought together to collaborate on this national standard.

This report summarizes some of the input received on priority topics during the comment period and provides insights on how it informed the final Code of Practice. The report is intended to be read alongside the actual Code (available [here](#)). It focuses mainly on [top-of-mind concerns](#) identified in NFAACC's 2019 survey not only because these topics were a focus throughout the process but also because they tended to coincide with the sections of the Code that received the most input during our 60-day public comment period.

Top of mind concerns:

- Water quality
- Biodensity (stocking density)
- Handling
- Health monitoring and management
- Euthanasia and slaughter

Lighting and feed withdrawal were also topics of interest during the comment period and are discussed in this report. The report also covers the Sea Lice section since it received the most comments of all health monitoring/management topics.

Rearing Systems and Units Section 2.3 Water Quality (p.13)

Water quality was a top-of-mind concern for survey participants and committee members alike, and the Code Committee devoted significant time and effort drafting this section for the comment period. Thanks to this, the section was received, and few changes were made in the final iteration.

The Committee considered the many thoughtful, technical comments in favor of more detailed section covering all water quality parameters but ultimately reaffirmed their initial approach, which was to address essential aspects of water quality knowing that many other credible resources address the topic more comprehensively.

The committee appreciated the comments about how good fish welfare outcomes can be achieved outside the optimal ranges for some of the parameters in the first recommended practice but made no changes since they are still good ranges to strive for.

Section 2.4 Lighting (p.15)

The many concerns about 24-hour lighting programs prompted good discussions for the committee including whether continual lighting was unnatural for fish (in the wild, moonlight provides light even under water). Given the complexity and uncertainty around moving away from continual lighting, it is still permitted in the Code. However, the Code is transparent about the welfare benefits and risks and encourages provision of dark periods. The committee also identified this as a priority research need.

Many stakeholders expressed concerns about abrupt changes in light intensity and while the committee shares these concerns, the proposed requirement for dimmers in new builds was removed but they kept the requirement about ensuring abrupt changes in light intensity are avoided (this applies to all farmed salmonids). As noted in the updated preamble, gradual light transitions can be achieved in many ways beyond installing dimmers (e.g., turning lights on/off in stages, removing tank lids gradually, having windows or other natural sources of light).

To address the concerns about strobing or flickering, the last requirement was refined to ensure that the lights (in addition to lighting systems) must be in good condition.

Public Comment Period by the Numbers

The public comment period ran from November 2, 2020 - January 7, 2021.

20 organizations and 125 individuals participated.

The Code Development Committee had 14 online meetings over several months to consider all the input and reach consensus on the Code of Practice.

Who we Heard From



TOP THREE RESPONDENT GROUPS
 Animal Welfare Advocates 43%
 Consumers 19%
 Seafood Farmers/Industry Representatives 15%

Where we Heard From



TOP THREE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS
 British Columbia 40%
 Ontario 33%
 Atlantic Provinces 7%

culture



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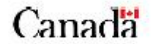
CODE OF PRACTICE



FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF

FARMED SALMONIDS

Published: 2021



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Update of the 2003 Code

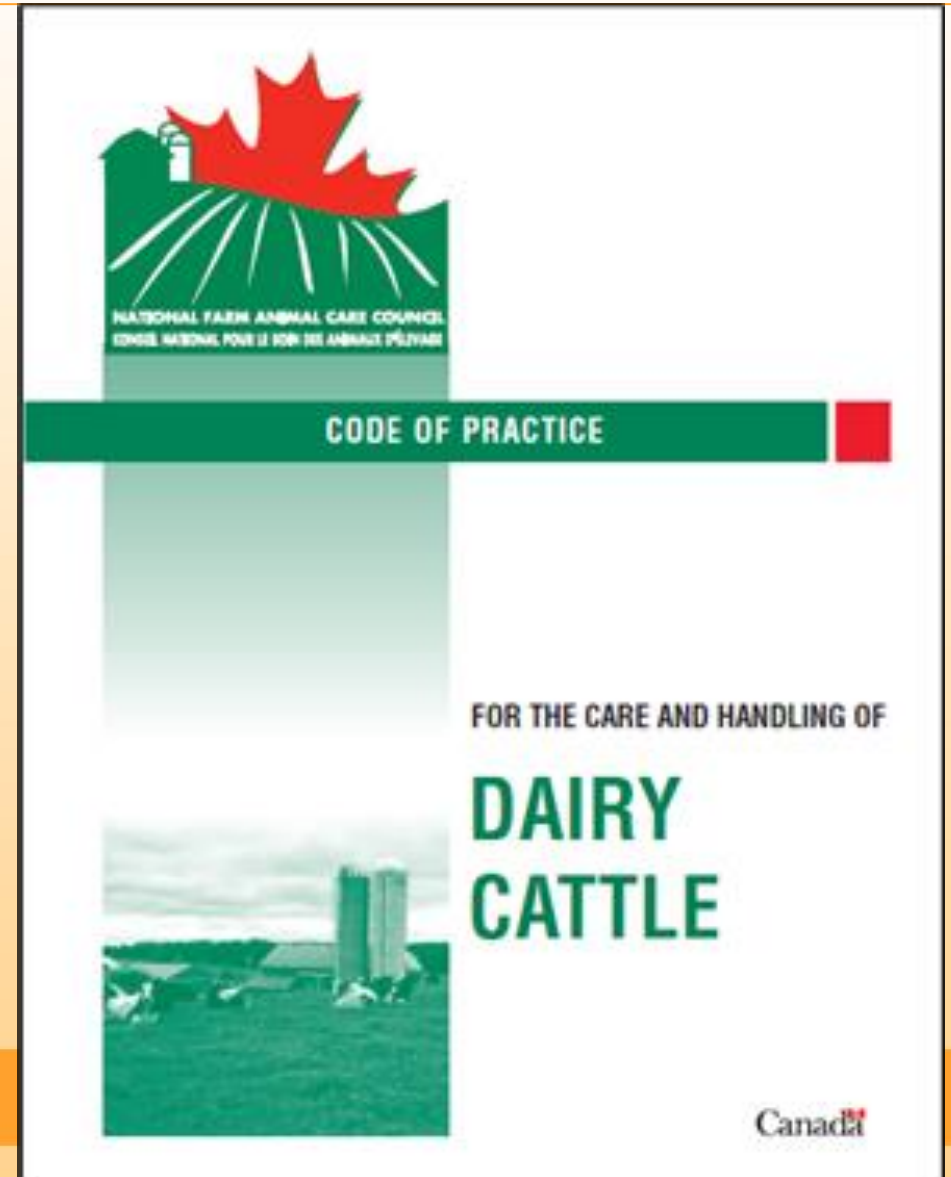
- ▶ Initiated by the Canadian National Goat Federation in 2018
- ▶ Anticipating a November 2022 release



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Update of the 2009 Code (pictured)

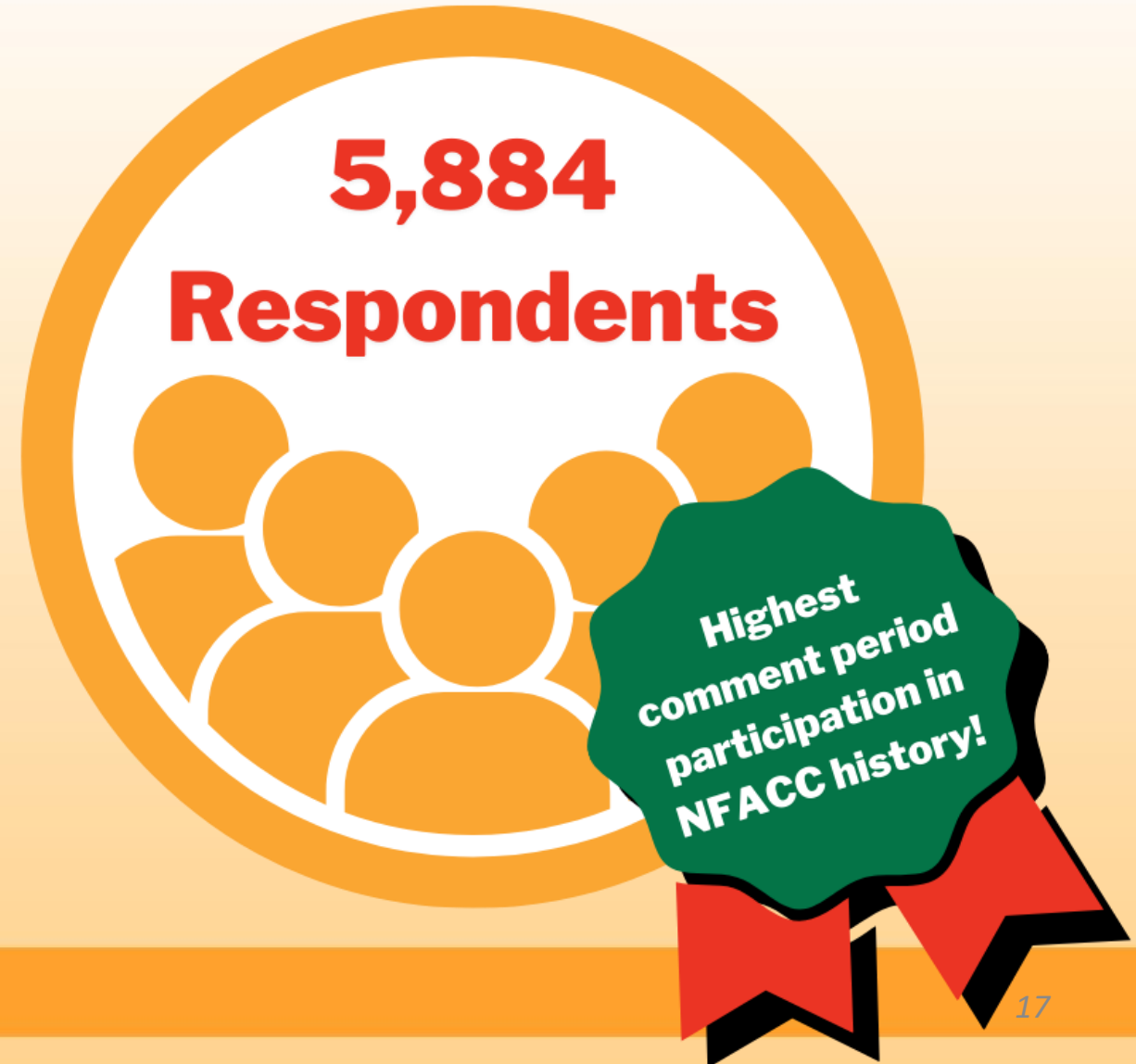
- ▶ Initiated by the Dairy Farmers of Canada in 2019
- ▶ Public comment period: November 29, 2021 - January 27, 2022
- ▶ Projected completion: Winter or Spring 2023



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Dairy Cattle Code Public Comment Period

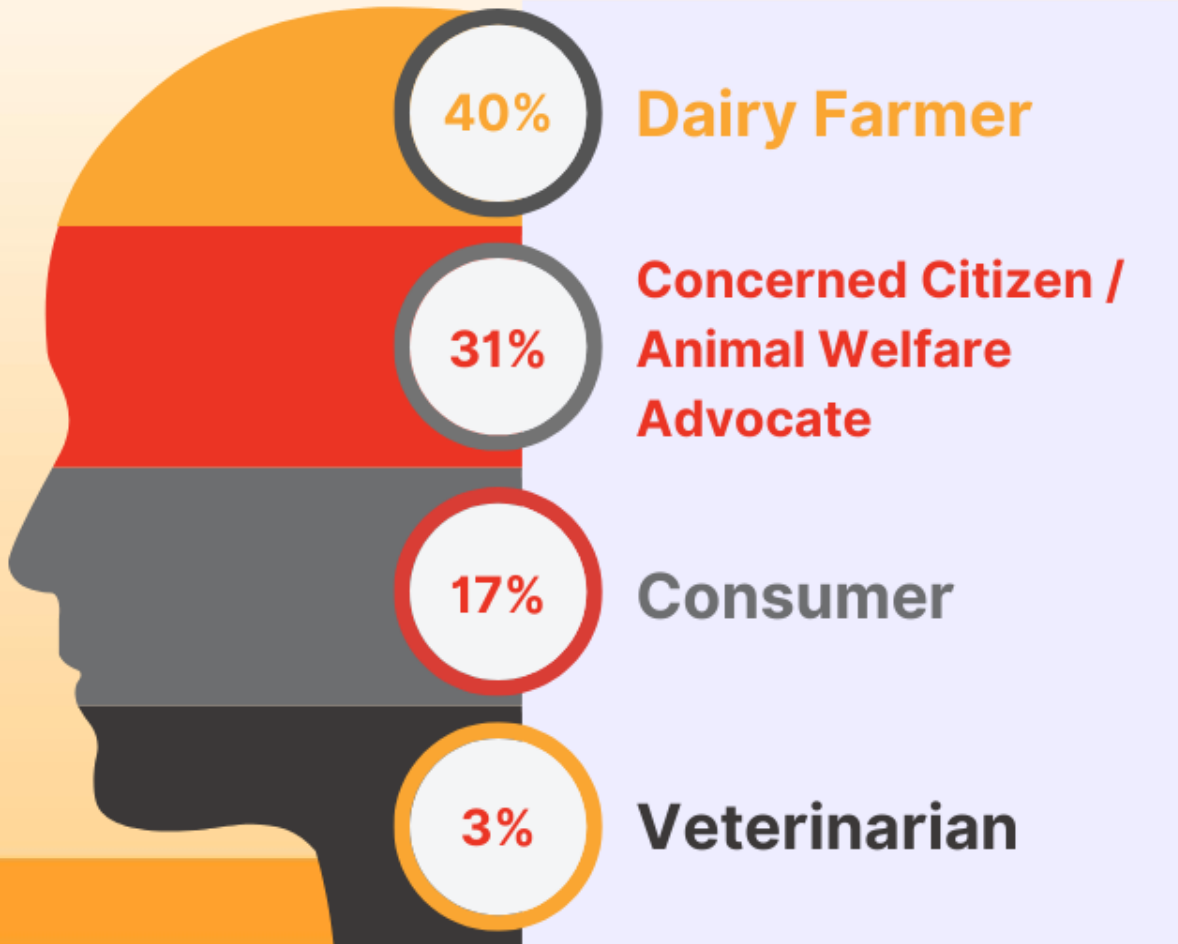
- ▶ 5,884 individual respondents and 50 organizational submissions to the public comment period (Nov 29, 2021 – Jan 27, 2022)
 - ▶ = 45,470 actual comments
- ▶ majority of responses from Quebec (48.7%), British Columbia (19.5%), and Ontario (12.6%)



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Top Roles of Respondents

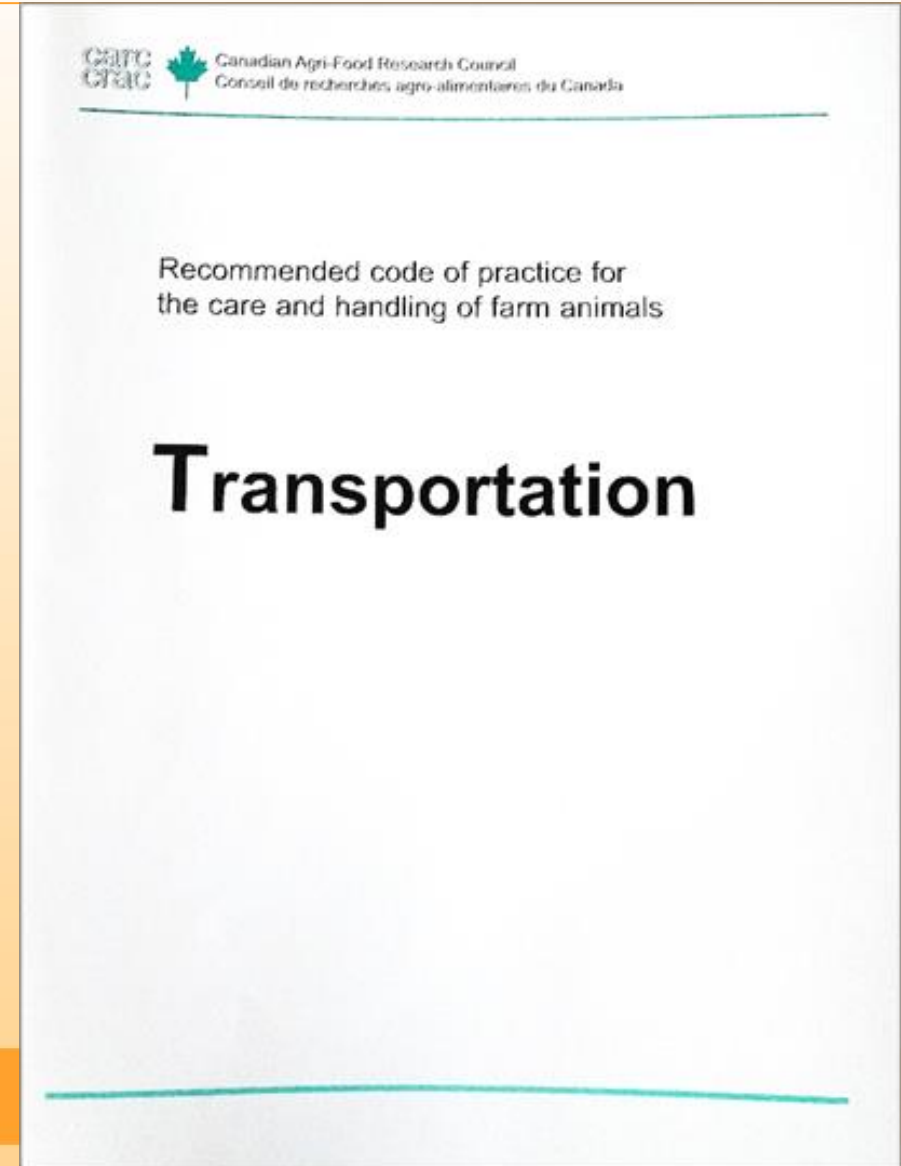
Dairy Cattle Code Public
Comment Period



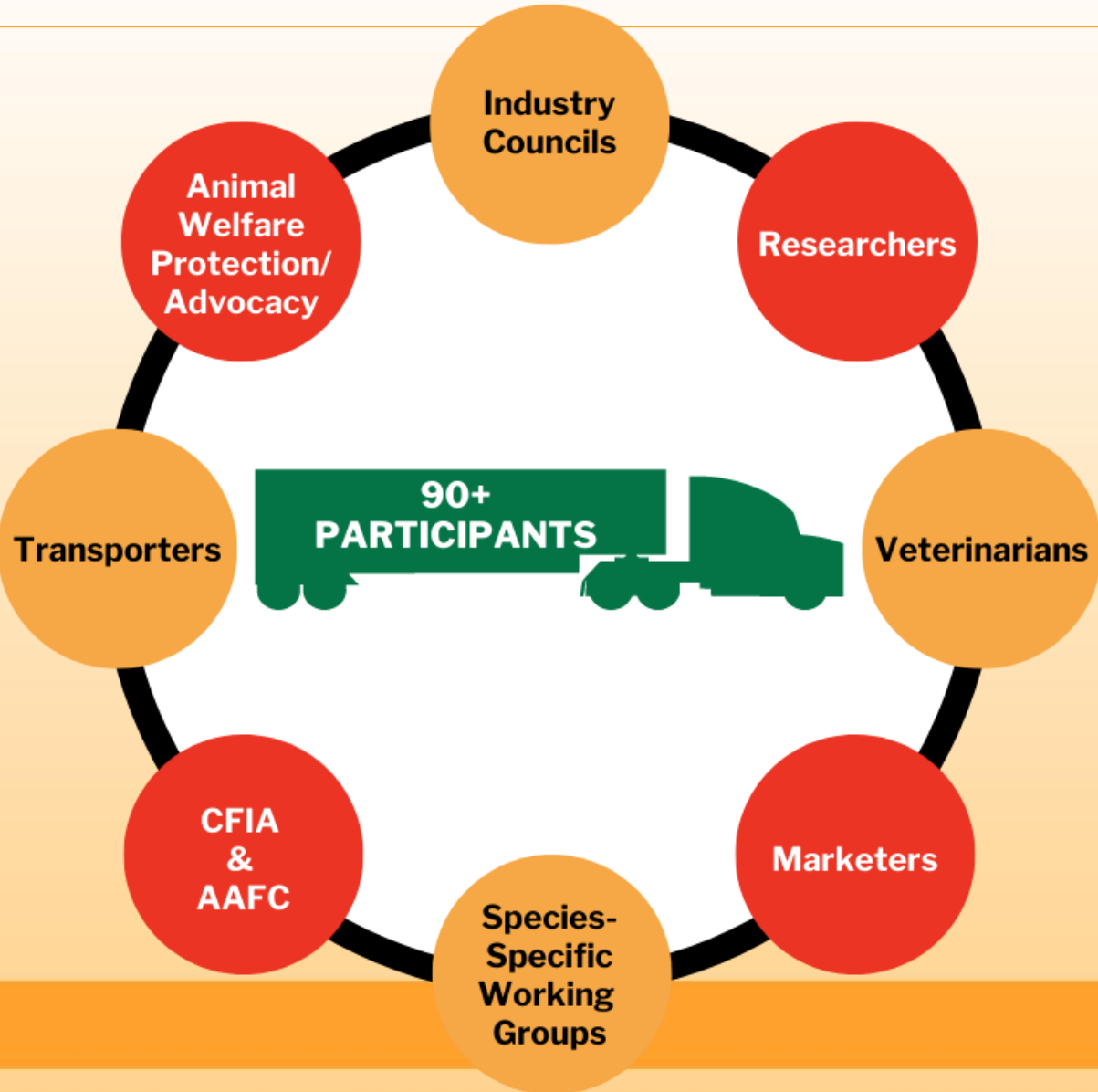
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Update of the 2001 Code (pictured)

- ▶ Initiated in 2018 by...
- ▶ Complex and challenging due to:
 - ▶ Lack of a national transportation lead
 - ▶ # of livestock and poultry species/types covered (90+ people are involved on WGs and the Code committee)
 - ▶ Lack of in person meetings (pandemic related issues)
 - ▶ An already robust regulatory environment



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At-a-glance: Transportation Survey Results



CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY: TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Scan of Regulatory and Operational Considerations

June 2017

Updated: May, 2019

Prepared for the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)

Prepared by: Betsy Sharples

Vantage Management & Consulting Services



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- ❖ Beef cattle
- ❖ Bison
- ❖ Chickens, Turkeys, and Breeders
- ❖ Equine
- ❖ Farmed Fox
- ❖ Farmed Mink
- ❖ Pigs
- ❖ Pullets and Laying Hens
- ❖ Rabbits
- ❖ Sheep
- ❖ Veal Cattle

Consensus Decision Making

DID YOU

NFACC operates using a consensus model for decision-making. This ensures that minority voices around NFACC are heard and are empowered. While a major criticism of NFACC is that it is “industry heavy” the reality is that our decision-making model has been an equalizer amongst all NFACC members.

KNOW?



Consensus Decision Making

WHAT DOES CONSENSUS MEAN AT NFAACC?



AGREEMENT

Characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues.

Consensus does not necessarily imply complete agreement.



ALL PARTIES INVOLVED

Consensus is the result of a process that takes into account the interests and concerns of all parties.

Everyone has the opportunity to be heard.

Any latent issues must be explored to the satisfaction of all involved.



THE CONSENSUS MINDSET

Ideas proposed must consider and reflect all party's interests. Those involved must ask themselves: "Can I live with the proposal under discussion?"

If they cannot, they must suggest a solution that also considers the interests of others.

Strategic Planning Exercises

Step One - Focus Groups

- ▶ Do we have enough common ground to rebuild relationships and continue working together?

Answer was: Yes, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us.

Next Steps

- ▶ Keep the conversations going
- ▶ Define terminology and articulate expectations
- ▶ Governance review and decision-making protocols

NFACC Operations – Membership Funded

DID YOU

NFACC's operations are funded through membership fees. Every primary and associate member of NFACC, except for governments and researchers, contributes to NFACC's annual budget.

KNOW?



THANK YOU

“It's not differences that divide us. It's our judgments about each other that do.”
— Margaret Wheatley

Questions?

