



FAWC, 1A Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ
Tel: 020 7904 6534 Fax: 020 7904 6993

To organisations listed
in the Appendix

June 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

FAWC Opinion on Policy Instruments for Improving Animal Welfare.

In April 2007 the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) began a one year study leading up to an 'Opinion' (a short report) on policy instruments for improving farm animal welfare. The work will be carried out by the Ethics, Economics, Education and Regulation Standing Committee, chaired by Professor Richard Bennett.

Scope of the study:

This will be a review of policy instruments that might be used to help protect and improve farm animal welfare.

All farmed species and policy instruments are included within the scope of the study.

Policy instruments include;

- the use of laws (such as the Animal Welfare Act 2006),
- 'command and control' (such as animal movement controls),
- direct action (by government – such as border controls),
- public compensation (such as compensation for animals killed for disease control or welfare reasons),
- institutional arrangements (such as the establishment of FAWC),
- incentives and taxes (such as welfare payments to farmers or cross compliance),
- self regulation (for example, regulation by industry through farm assurance or other bodies),
- promoting markets (through competition laws, franchising and licensing, contracting, tradable permits etc.),
- provision of information (e.g. labelling) and
- education.

Ideas for the use of novel policy instruments or combinations of instruments are of particular interest.

The Standing Committee will also be addressing ethical issues related to roles and responsibilities of government and other stakeholders with regards to farm animal welfare. Different perspectives and different institutional arrangements on regulation by the devolved organisations will also be addressed.

Specific questions that we would welcome your views on are:

1. How can policy instruments be used to protect / improve the welfare standards of the food we eat?
2. How can we adapt existing policy instruments, or develop new ones, to provide appropriate incentives for animal welfare improvements?
3. What should be the relative roles of government and industry?
4. What examples of effective policy instrument initiatives to protect / improve animal welfare are you aware of?
5. Which particular policy instruments would help your sector deliver better welfare?

If you have any comments about policy instruments for protection and improvement of farm animal welfare, within the scope of the study, please send them to me at the FAWC Secretariat, 1A Page Street, London, SW1P 4PQ (email: Barbara.Silberstein@defra.gsi.gov.uk) by 31 August 2007.

In addition to this consultation exercise, we may write to some organisations with specific questions as work progresses. Some may also be invited to discussions with the Committee. Normally FAWC reports list the names of the organisations that gave evidence. Should you prefer to be excluded from the list, please let us know when you reply.

If you believe there are any important omissions from the list of consultees, I should be obliged if you would let me have the name and address of an appropriate contact.

Further information on the role of FAWC is on our website: www.fawc.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Barbara Silberstein
FAWC Secretariat

APPENDIX

ADAS
Advocates for Animals
Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland
Animal Aid
Animal Diseases Research Association Moredun Institute
Animal Health Trust
Animal Health
ASDA Group Plc
Assured Food Standards
AWSELVA
Babraham Institute
Better Regulation Commission
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
British Association for Shooting and Conservation
British Chicken Information Service
British Institute of Agricultural Consultants
British Organic Farmers
British Pig Association
British Pig Executive
British Poultry Breeders & Hatcheries Association (BPBHA)
British Poultry Council
British Retail Consortium
British Society of Animal Science (BSAS)
British Veterinary Association (BVA)
Compassion in World Farming
Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd
Council of Europe
Country Landowners & Business Association
Countryside Alliance
Dairy Industry Federation
Dairy UK
DARD
Defra
European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
English Nature
EuroFAWCs attendees
EU Commission
Farm & Food Society
Farm Animal Care Trust
Farm Animal Welfare Network (FAWN)
Farmers' Union of Wales
Food Standard Agency
Freedom Food Ltd
Halal Food Authority
Hannah Research Institute
Humane Slaughter Association (HAS)
Institute for Animal Health

Institute of Biology
Institute of Food Research
Institute of Trading Standards Administration
International Fund of Animal Welfare (IFAW)
Islamic Cultural Centre
Islamic Foundation
J Sainsbury plc
LACORS
League Against Cruel Sports
Livestock Auctioneers Association
Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland
Local Government Association
London School of Economics and Political Science
Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI)
Marks & Spencer plc
Meat Hygiene Service
Meat and Livestock Commission
Morrisons
National Animal Health & Welfare Panel
National Association of Agricultural Contractors
National Beef Association
National Consumer Council
National Consumer Federation
National Council of Shechita Boards
National Council of Women of Great Britain
National Farmers Union
National Farmers' Union of Scotland
National Federation of Meat & Food Traders
National Federation of Womens' Institutes
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
National Game Dealers Association
National Gamekeepers Association
National Office of Animal Health Ltd (NOAH)
National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC)
Northern School of Game and Wildlife
National Sheep Association
Office International des Epizooties (OIE)
Regulatory Policy Institute
Road Haulage Association
Rowett Research Institute
Royal Agricultural College
Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE)
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
Royal Veterinary College
Safeway Stores plc
Sandhill Veterinary Services
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Science
Scottish Consumers Council

Scottish Farmers Union
Scottish Federation of Meat Traders' Association
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SEERAD
Society of Chief Trading Standards Officers
Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland (SCOTSS)
Soil Association
Somersfield Stores Ltd
SUSTAIN – The Alliance for Better Food & Farming
Tesco Stores Ltd
The Countryside Party
Trading Standards Institute
Union of Muslim Organisations of UK and EIRE
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare/Humane Slaughter Association
University of Aberdeen
University of Birmingham
University of Leeds
University of Newcastle Upon Tyne
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Plymouth
University of Reading
University of Stirling
University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Vegetarian Economy & Green Agriculture (VEGA) Research
Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Viva
Waitrose Ltd
Welsh Assembly Government, Countryside, Environment and Planning Department
Welsh Consumer Council
Welsh Local Government Association
Women's Food & Farming Union
World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)