

Summary of Council meeting on 29 October 2009

Introduction	Discussion	Chairman's Report	Next Meeting	Further Information
--------------	------------	-------------------	--------------	---------------------

This is the summary report of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) plenary meeting on 29 October 2009, chaired by Professor Christopher Wathes in Cardiff. Present to welcome the FAWC members were Elin Jones AM, Minister for Rural Affairs in the National Assembly Government and Professor Christianne Glossop, CVO Wales. The Council meets three times a year. Working groups that convene more frequently undertake much of the preparatory work.

Discussion centred on:

- A welcoming address from Elin Jones AM;
- Reaction to the report of the review of FAWC carried out during 2009 and the action that would be needed to address the recommendations made by the reviewer;
- Debate on a structure for a report on economics and farm animal welfare;
- Debate on and agreement to the scope of a new Opinion stud on lameness in sheep;
- Initial reaction to the Report on Farm Animal Welfare in Great Britain: Past, Present and Future and preparation for a workshop with GB Governments Animal Welfare Teams and delivery agencies;
- Reaction to the publication of the Opinion on the Welfare of the Dairy Cows;
- Updated advice to Ministers on Beak Trimming of Laying Hens and next steps for FAWC and Government;
- The work of the Liaison Group of Animal Welfare Advisory Bodies (FAWC, Companion Animal Welfare Council, Animal Procedures Committee and Zoos Forum), particularly a joint discussion paper on welfare surveillance and the Group's Terms of Reference;
- Presentation on 'Animal welfare viewed from the social sciences';
- Updates on the work of the Standing Committees and Working Groups;
- An update on the activity of Defra's Animal Welfare Division, including a presentation on the gathering and use of farm inspection data.

Chairman's Report

- The Chairman reported on meetings aimed at building relationships with FAWC's stakeholders in GB and Europe, including the Defra Animal Welfare Team, FAWC's sponsor within Defra, the Open Meeting, Defra Animal Welfare R&D Team and the CEO of Animal Health. The Chairman had also held two meetings with Minister of State Jim Fitzpatrick on the implementation of the Meat Chicken Directive and the Recent Report on Farm Animal Welfare in GB: Past Present and Future.

Next meeting

10 February 2010.

Further information

Contact:

Richard Aram
Secretary of FAWC
Area 5A, 9 Millbank
c/o Nobel House
17 Smith Square
LONDON, SW1P 3JR

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7238 5016

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7238 3169

E-mail: fawcsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.fawc.org.uk