

Summary of Council meeting on 24 June 2010

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This is the summary report of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) plenary meeting on 24 June 2010, chaired by Professor Christopher Wathes in Edinburgh. Present to welcome the FAWC members were Ian Strachan and Andrew Voas representing the Scottish Government. The Council meets three times a year. Working groups that convene more frequently undertake much of the preparatory work.

Discussion centred on:

- Report from the Scottish Government Animal Welfare Team;
- Draft report of the Economics Working Group on Economics and Farm Animal Welfare;
- Framework document by the Education, Communication and Knowledge Application Group;
- Draft Opinion on bone strength of laying hens;
- Draft advice to the Welsh Minister for Rural Affairs on the welfare of sheep in Great Britain;
- Draft Opinion on sheep leg health;
- Presentation on “Consumer behaviour in relation to future animal welfare issues”;
- FAWC’s Strategic Plan 2011-2015 in the light of possible budget restrictions, and possible future priority topics for study;
- Updates on the work of the Standing Committees and Working Groups; and
- An update on the activity of Defra’s Animal Welfare Team.

Chairman’s Report

- The Chairman reported on meetings aimed at building relationships with FAWC’s stakeholders in GB and Europe, including the Scottish Environment and Rural Affairs Minister and Scottish stakeholders, the Welsh Minister for Rural Affairs and Welsh stakeholders, the Chief Veterinary Officer, and the Defra Animal Welfare Team, FAWC’s sponsor within Defra.
- Advice was being prepared for Ministers on the welfare of dairy cows in all year round housing.

Next meeting

21 October 2010 in London.

Further information

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