FAWC, Area 5a, 9 Millbank, c/o Nobel House
17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR
Tel: 020 7238 5016 Fax: 020 7238 3169

To: organisations on the attached list

22 March 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL – STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2011-2015

FAWC's Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 was published in October 2006 (http://www.fawc.org.uk/pdf/strategicplan2006-10.pdf). This identified priority farm animal welfare issues for major studies leading to Reports and shorter studies leading to Opinions. Those priorities were set after extensive consultation with Council members, Ministers, CVOs, officials, advisory groups and stakeholders.

I now seek your views on a successor Strategic Plan for 2011-2015, which will set out how FAWC will fulfil its remit over this period. I would like your comments on the farm animal welfare issues you think the Council should work on next and the priority you place on these. Some suggestions from FAWC are described in the appendix to this letter. In addition, a potential new work stream is identified and I should be grateful for your views on this.

Alternatively, if you have suggestions for other farm animal welfare issues that are suitable for Reports or Opinions, then I would also be pleased to take these on board. If this is the case, then please outline the scope of the topic and give an indication of priority.

Responses please to Richard Aram in the FAWC Secretariat by 10 May 2010 (richard.aram@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Professor Christopher Wathes

List of consultees:

2nd Pillar Projects
ADAS
Advisory Committee on Organic Standards
Advocates for Animals
Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board
Agricultural Industries Confederation
Aldi Stores
All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare
Alliance of Independent Retailers
Animal Aid
Animal Air Transport Association
Animal Diseases Research Association Moredun Institute
Animal Health Trust
Animal Procedures Committee
Animal Rights Law Centre
ASDA Group Plc
Askham Bryan College
Associated British Foods
Association of British Abattoir Operators
Association of Scottish Colleges
Assured British Meat
Assured Food Standards
Aviagen Ltd
AWSELVA
Babraham Institute
Barony College
Berkshire College of Agriculture
Bicton College of Agriculture
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
Bishop Burton College
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Bridgewater College
British Cattle Veterinary Association
British Chicken Information Service
British Deer Farmers Association
British Deer Society
British Egg Industry Council
British Free Range Egg Producers Association
British Goat Society
British Institute of Agricultural Consultants
British Meat Federation
British Pig Association
British Pig Executive
British Poultry Council
British Retail Consortium
British Society of Animal Science (BSAS)
British Trout Association
British Veterinary Association (BVA)
British Veterinary Poultry Association
Budgen Stores Ltd
Cobb Vantress Inc.
Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture
Carmarthenshire College
Campaign for the Protection of Shechita
Catholic Concern for Animals
Coleg Powys
Companion Animal Welfare Council
Compassion in World Farming

Conservative Animal Welfare Group
Consumers Association
Consumers in Europe Group
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd
DARD
Duchy College
Eurepgap
Eurogroup for Animal Welfare
Farm & Food Society
Farm Animal Care Trust
Farm Animal Initiative
Farm Animal Welfare Network (FAWN)
Farm Assured Welsh Livestock
Farmers' Union of Wales
Federation of Muslim Organisations
Federation of Veterinarians in Europe
Food and Drink Federation
Food Aware
Food Standards Agency
Freedom Food Ltd
Game Conservancy and Wildlife Trust
Game Farmers Association
Halal Food Authority
Halal Monitoring Committee
Hannah Research Institute
Harper Adams University College
Humane Slaughter Association (HAS)
Institute for Animal Health
Institute of Biology
Institute of Food Research
Institute of Grocery Distribution
Institute of Trading Standards Administration
International Fund of Animal Welfare (IFAW)
International League for the Protection of Horses
International Supreme Council of Sikhs in GB
Islamic Cultural Centre
Islamic Food and Nutrition Council
Islamic Foundation
J Sainsbury plc
John Lewis plc
LACORS
Lantra
Licensed Animal Slaughterers and Salvage Association
Linking Environment and Farming
Livestock Auctioneers Association
Local Authorities Caterers Association
Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI)
Marks & Spencer plc
Meat Hygiene Service
Middlesex University
Milk Development Council
Muslim Council of Great Britain
National Animal Health & Welfare Panel
National Association of Agricultural Contractors
National Association of Local Councils
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 Farmers' Union (Wales)
National Federation of Meat & Food Traders
National Federation of Womens' Institutes
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
National Office of Animal Health Ltd (NOAH)
National Pig Association
National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC)
National Secular Society
National Sheep Association
National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources
Network of Sikh Organisations
Nuffield Council on Bioethics
Organic Farmers and Growers
Organic Food Federation
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Pig Veterinary Society
Provision Trade Federation
Quaker Concern for Animal Welfare
Quality Meat Scotland
Queens University of Belfast
Road Haulage Association
Roslin Institute (Edinburgh)
Rowett Research Institute
Royal Agricultural College
Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE)
Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
Royal Veterinary College
Safeway Stores plc
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Science
Scottish Consumers Council
Scottish Dairy Association
Scottish Federation of Meat Traders' Association
Scottish Salmon Growers Association
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Shechita UK
Sheep Veterinary Society
Soil Association
Somerfield Stores Ltd
Sparsholt College
SUSTAIN - The Alliance for Better Food & Farming
Tenant Farmers Association
Tesco Stores Ltd
Union of Muslim Organisations of UK & EIRE
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare/Humane Slaughter Association
University of Aberdeen
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Plymouth
University of Reading
University of Stirling
University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Bangor
Vegetarian Economy & Green Agriculture (VEGA) Research
Veterinary Laboratories Agency
Veterinary Medicines Directorate
WM Morrison Supermarkets Ltd
Waitrose Ltd
Welsh Consumer Council
Welsh Local Government Association
Women's Food & Farming Union
World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
Wye College
Zoos Forum

FAWC STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2015
Potential Topics for Reports, Work Streams and Opinions

Suggested topics for reports

Please rank each topic in order of priority and suggest additional topics as nececessary, each with a brief supporting statement

a) Animal welfare research and development
FAWC last investigated this topic in 1993. Defra and the devolved administrations spend several millions of pounds annually on farm animal welfare R&D; this is complemented by expenditure by the farmers, levy bodies and others. This report would build on the achievements of the current (public) research programme by prioritising causes of suffering in farm animals and suggesting ways to improve their quality of life.

b) Evidence base for farm animal welfare
Government and commercial policies for livestock farming and farm animal welfare should be based upon evidence. Which types of evidence are most suitable and which should be given little credence? How should different types of evidence be balanced? Is a meta analysis of evidence required? How should the precautionary principle be applied? Using exemplars, e.g. the ban on battery cages for laying hens, this study will provide objective guidance on the evidence base for policy.

c) Farm animal welfare legislation, regulation, enforcement and surveillance
UK legislation and regulations provide the basis of the minimum standards of farm animal welfare. Is UK negotiation on EU legislation effective? How appropriate are current legislation and regulations and are changes needed to ensure that each and every farm animal has a life worth living? How effective and efficient are current methods of enforcement and welfare surveillance? Should private schemes of surveillance be melded with public schemes?

Suggestions for a new work stream

Please comment on the usefulness of this potential new work stream

d) Impartial, expert information on farm animal welfare
FAWC advocates that independent, impartial, expert information about farm animal welfare should be readily available to citizens, particularly since current sources may be biased and inaccurate and based on vested interests. Given its expertise, experience and reputation, FAWC could provide such information. Is this a good use of FAWC's resources? Via which media should information be made available to citizens? What are the best formats to use? Which topics should be tackled within the next 5 years?

Suggested topics for opinions

Please rank each topic in order of priority within an area, e.g. Ruminants, and suggest additional topics as necessary.

Ruminants

R1 Lameness in cattle
R2 Welfare of the cow and calf at calving
R3 Management of cull sheep and cattle
R4 Welfare of sheep; 1994[1]
R5 Welfare of farmed deer; 1985

Ethics, Economics, Education and Regulation

E1 Environmental (climate) change and farm animal welfare
E2 Role of veterinarians in farm animal welfare (a recommendation in the recent Lowe Report)
E3 Assessment and weighting of positive welfare indicators
E4 Farm animal welfare inspections and data interpretation
E5 Educating and training hobby farmers about farm animal welfare
E6 Responsibility and cost sharing for farm animal welfare
E7 Impact and usefulness of welfare codes

Pigs, Poultry and Fish

P1 Confinement of pigs
P2 Mutilations and environmental enrichment for sows and boars
P3 Welfare of broiler breeders; 1998
P4 Welfare of laying hens; 1997
P5 Welfare of farmed fish; 1996
P6 Welfare of pigs; 1996 (outdoors) and 1988 (indoors)
P7 Welfare of turkeys; 1995
P8 Welfare of broiler chickens; 1992

[1] Date of previous FAWC report. Opinions would update past reports by addressing the following main questions. Has the welfare of 'x' improved, deteriorated or stayed the same since 19yy? Is the welfare of 'x' now satisfactory? If not, what steps should be taken to ensure that each animal has a life worth living?