

Federal Government Approach to Animal Care

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Government interest in animal care issues

Growing Forward Policy Framework Approach

Three policy outcomes are being pursued:

1. A Competitive and Innovative Sector
 2. A Sector that Contributes to Society's Priorities
 3. A Sector that is Proactive in Managing Risks
- Animal care contributes to all these outcomes, and is one approach that has been directly identified for achieving outcome #2
 - *Enabling the sector to respond to increasing consumer demand for food produced in a manner that is environmentally responsible and that considers animal care*

Federal Legislated Roles (Animal Cruelty, Humane Slaughter, Humane Transport)

- Implications for animal health, sanitation
- Implications for productivity & economic losses
- Implications for loss of property
- Consistent with public expectations of what "ought" to be done

Relatively easy for federal gov't: Common good, reasonable consensus, within federal jurisdiction

Future Role for Federal Government?

- Governments and industry have a shared role to play in good stewardship and must work together
- Public expectations for gov't to facilitate or assist with:
 - research
 - national standards?
 - adherence to standards??
 - representation of products in the market???
 - other public interest????
 - ethical behaviour?????
- New technologies and production systems?

Animal Welfare & Quality of Life

- Can we define quality of life for humans?
- Can we define quality of life for animals?
- Expectations of what ought to be done (ethical perspective) for animals versus what animals actually perceive and need are not necessarily the same.

Quality of life is a complex expression of well-being that doesn't lend itself well to measurable outcomes.

Defining Aspects of Animal Care

- Focused on animal outcomes
- Science-based criteria
- Stresses on the animal are not just physical, but also physiological and psychological
- If stressors always exist, when is an animal beyond its normal ability to cope?

Activities

- Research
- Regulatory role (CFIA)
- Animal Health Strategy
- Food Quality & Method of Production
- Competitive and profitable industry
- Risk management
- Labelling and product representation
- Facilitating standards implementation
- Enabling market access

Final Thoughts

- AAFC supported the creation of NFACC to enable all stakeholders to co-operate in developing a Canadian approach
- A consistent and long-term approach to addressing animal welfare is not just an option for those in the livestock business
- The vast majority of producers are good responsible stewards. Poor animal care hurts everyone.
- Co-operation is essential

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