

Summary Report of Farm Animal Welfare Committee plenary meeting London, 13 February 2014

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, and in particular welcomed David Grumett, newly appointed ethicist on FAWC, to his first full Committee meeting. The Defra Under-Secretary of State George Eustice took part in the morning's discussions, which included updates on FAWC's ongoing work and Q&A.

Items for discussion

- Renewed concern for the welfare of farm animals in extreme weather and reiteration of FAWC's recommendations on contingency planning
- Agreement of scoping documents for new work on
 - Sustainable livestock production
 - The relationship between farmer wellbeing and farm animal welfare
 - Effectiveness of CCTV and other monitoring methods in slaughterhouses
 - On-farm killing methods
 - Free farrowing systems for sows
 - Contingency arrangements for movement restrictions on pig farms
- Detailed consideration of a draft Opinion on the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing
- Draft letter on FAWC's vision for an animal health and welfare stewardship scheme
- Updates on the reform of the farm animal welfare codes and the Red Tape Challenge
- Updates on the ongoing work of FAWC's Standing Committees and Working Groups
- Updates on the activities of the Defra Animal Welfare Team

Chairman's report

The Chairman had represented FAWC at a number of conferences and had met with Defra Animal Welfare Team Officials and the Defra Under-Secretary of State George Eustice. He had spoken at an NFU workshop and a Local Authority/AHVLA seminar on animal welfare. He had also held a very positive meeting with the British Egg Industry Council about FAWC's reiteration of concerns about levels of keel bone fractures in laying hens.

Next meetings

19 June 2014, Edinburgh
9 October 2014, London

Further information

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