



Theme 5 | Animal Welfare & Codes of Practice

Animal welfare is a long-standing point of emphasis for Canadian agriculture. Though welfare is closely linked to health, key aspects of welfare that surpass the simple expectation of animals being free from disease are included, such as feelings and expressions of natural behaviour. It is important to note that the PAHS speaks to animal health and not to animal welfare explicitly, and this is viewed as a considerable weakness by many in the industry today. This omission is particularly notable given the emphasis placed on developing codes of practice by the individual industries over the last decade.

The past 5 years have been accompanied by a flurry of activity on animal welfare, with the National Farm Animal Care Council (**NFACC**) coordinating progress across a number of different species through the development and revision of Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of farmed animals. Work in this area is ongoing; however, various commodity groups throughout the livestock industry have celebrated areas of success and major strides of improvement towards updating Codes through multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.