



Egg Farmers of Ontario Policies, Programs & Procedures 2011

SECTION 10: Other



Recommended Code of Practice

INTRODUCTION:

The Codes of Practice are nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of different types of farm animals. The Codes cover recommended housing and management practices for animals on farms as well as transportation and processing. They are intended to encourage livestock producers, stock-keepers, handlers, transporters, and processors to adopt high standards of animal husbandry and handling.

The Codes are voluntary and are intended to be used as an education tool in the promotion of sound husbandry and welfare practices. The Codes contain recommendations to help farmers and others in the agriculture and food sector compare and improve their own management practices.

PRINCIPLE:

First and foremost, the Codes reflect our concern for the humane treatment and care of farm animals. As the Codes state:

Code of Practice for Poultry: “There is an increasing awareness that currently accepted moral standards for our society call for the prevention of any avoidable suffering. Domestication and selective breeding have made farm animals dependent on humans. Consequently, according to ethical principles, humans must accept this domestication as a commitment for humane conduct toward chickens for their ultimate well being.”

Second, the agriculture and food sector, government and humane societies recognize that even the best laws have their limitations. The Codes of Practice have been developed to augment, not replace, existing laws and regulations. The Codes allow for greater flexibility and are easier to adapt to new scientific findings and discoveries without requiring complex and lengthy legislative changes.

PRACTICES:

The Codes are based on the soundest current practices. They identify where animal welfare could be at risk and what precautions can be taken to eliminate such risks. The Codes not only outline acceptable systems and practices but also emphasize the importance of the ‘people factor’ in safeguarding the welfare of livestock. No matter how acceptable a husbandry system may be in principle, without competent stock handling, the welfare of the animal cannot be adequately provided for.

The Codes have been designed to provide recommendations for meeting the basic needs of farm animals and provide information on basic principles for raising and handling livestock. These principles are:

- Adequate air, water, and feed;
- Safe housing and sufficient space;
- Appropriate complexity of the environment;
- Regular supervision and effective health care;
- Sensible handling.

Please visit the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council website for further information:
www.carc-crac.ca