

industry are being met. Final recommendations include the need to review funding provision and the impact of proposed education and training initiatives to ensure that both public and private requirements on the education and training of stockmen are being met.

FAWC Report on Stockmanship and Farm Animal Welfare June 2007, pp 34 A4. Produced and published by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC). Available free of charge from FAWC Secretariat, Area 511, 1A Page Street, London SW1P 4 PQ, UK and from the FAWC website: www.fawc.org.uk

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Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 have now been approved by the UK Parliament and came into force on the 1st October 2007. The Regulations cover all farmed animals in England and have been made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The 2007 Regulations replace the previous Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended), and additionally Part 1 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968 has been repealed. The changes bring farmed animal legislation into line with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Most of the 2007 Regulations are unchanged from those published in 2000 and they continue to implement European Community legislation. A general framework of the legislation protecting animals kept for farming purposes is laid out along with additional conditions covering laying hens in non-cage systems, laying hens in conventional cages, laying hens in enriched cages, calves confined for rearing and fattening, cattle, pigs and rabbits.

Perhaps the most notable area of change between the 2000 and 2007 Regulations includes the extension of the Regulations to protect animals farmed on common land as well as those farmed on agricultural land. It is estimated that 80,000 sheep are kept on common land therefore this is an important step towards ensuring the good welfare of all farmed sheep, regardless of where they are grazed. Few cattle or other species are farmed on common land.

Other slight differences between the 2000 and 2007 Regulations include a general modernisation of text and a more definite style of writing, for example 'shall' is replaced with 'must' throughout the document: 'Any animals which appear to be ill or injured must be cared for appropriately and without delay'. There are also some parts of the 2000 Regulations which have been removed to prevent duplication with the more recent Animal Welfare Act 2006. Certain provisions which previously applied to only farmed animals, such as the duty of care for owners and keepers, have now been extended to include all animals and are therefore incorporated by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 July 2007, pp 19 A4. Published by The Stationary Office Limited. ISBN 0-11-099593-7. Copies are available from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (On Farm Welfare Team), 5th Floor, 1A Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ or for download at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/si/si2007/20072078.htm>

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APC Advisory Document on Differences Between UK and Revised European Codes of Practice for the Housing of Research Animals

Within the UK the Home Office sets standards for the care accommodation of animals used in research through inspection and through codes of practice.

On the 15th June 2006, the fourth Multilateral Consultation of Parties to the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes (ETS 123) was held in Strasbourg. At this meeting the revised draft Appendix A to the convention, containing updated recommendations on the housing and husbandry of laboratory animals was unanimously accepted by the parties to the Convention, including the European Commission, and the revised Appendix A entered into force on the 15th June 2007. Within the European Community, the Commission is contracting a preliminary impact assessment on different options for the revision of Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes, and this, together with the changes to Appendix A of the Council of Europe Convention, will necessitate changes to the UK codes of practice.

The Housing and Husbandry Sub-Committee of the Animals Procedures Committee has produced a document aimed at bringing to the attention of laboratory managers differences between the current codes of practice for the housing of laboratory animals and the revised recommendations set out in Appendix A to the European Convention ETS 123. This document highlights areas where there are significant differences between the existing UK codes of practice and the revised Appendix, so that users can take steps to ensure that their housing reflects present knowledge and good practice. As the authors of the report write: "This will have immediate advantages in terms of animal welfare, may improve the quality of the science, and should help to ensure that decisions made now are likely to comply with future changes in UK legislation".

APC Advisory Document on Differences Between UK and Revised European Codes of Practice for the Housing of Research Animals August 2006, pp A4. Report by the Housing and Husbandry Sub-Committee of the Animal Procedures Committee. Published by the Animal Procedures Committee and available at the Committee's website www.apc.org.uk

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