



FAWC, 1A Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ
Tel: 020 7904 6534 Fax: 020 7904 6993

To organisations listed
in the Appendix

30 April 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

FAWC Opinion on the Welfare of Farmed Gamebirds (in GB).

In April 2007 the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) began a one year study leading up to an Opinion on the welfare of farmed gamebirds in Great Britain. The detailed work will be carried out by the Pigs, Poultry and Fish Standing Committee, chaired by Stephen Lister.

Scope of the study:

Gamebird chicks or poults are imported to GB from continental Europe or bred on farm in GB. They are then reared on farm before release to the wild for shooting when the season begins (although following release they are offered some support in the form of feed and water).

The study will include the welfare of birds imported and the biosecurity implications, welfare of the breeding flocks on GB farms, welfare of reared birds prior to release and the extent of any support after release.

Shooting activities are beyond the remit of FAWC.

Species covered: Pheasant and partridge home bred or imported and reared in farmed conditions.

The Standing Committee will be visiting, over the course of the next couple of months, a representative sample of traditional and more modern gamebird farming premises. We would like to thank the Game Farmers Association and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation for their assistance in arranging these visits.

If you have any comments about the welfare of farmed gamebirds, within the scope of the study, please send them to me at the FAWC Secretariat, 1A Page Street, LONDON, SW1P 4PQ (e-mail: richard.n.aram@defra.gsi.gov.uk) by 8 June 2007.

In addition to this consultation exercise, we may write to some organisations with specific questions as work progresses. Some may also be invited to discussions with the Group. Normally FAWC reports list the names of the organisations that gave evidence. Should you prefer to be excluded from the list, please let us know when you reply.

If you believe there are any important omissions from the list of consultees, I should be obliged if you would let me have the name and address of an appropriate contact.

Further information on the role of FAWC is on our website www.fawc.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Richard Aram
FAWC Secretariat

ADAS
Advocates for Animals
Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland
Animal Aid
Animal Diseases Research Association Moredun Institute
Animal Health Trust
ASDA Group Plc
Assured Food Standards
AWSELVA
Babraham Institute
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
British Association for Shooting and Conservation
British Chicken Information Service
British Institute of Agricultural Consultants
British Organic Farmers
British Poultry Breeders & Hatcheries Association (BPBHA)
British Poultry Council
British Retail Consortium
British Society of Animal Science (BSAS)
British Veterinary Association (BVA)
Compassion in World Farming
Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd
Country Landowners Association
Countryside Alliance
DARD
Dalton's Game Consultancy Ltd
Defra
English Nature
Farm & Food Society
Farm Animal Care Trust
Farm Animal Welfare Network (FAWN)
Farmers' Union of Wales
Food Standards Agency
Freedom Food Ltd
Game Conservancy Trust
Game Farmers Association
Game Marketing Executive
Halal Food Authority
Hannah Research Institute
Humane Slaughter Association (HAS)
Institute for Animal Health
Institute of Biology
Institute of Food Research
Institute of Trading Standards Administration
International Fund of Animal Welfare (IFAW)
Islamic Cultural Centre
Islamic Foundation
J Sainsbury plc
LACORS
League Against Cruel Sports
Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland
Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI)
Marks & Spencer plc
Meat Hygiene Service
Meat and Livestock Commission
Morrisons
National Animal Health & Welfare Panel
National Association of Agricultural Contractors
National Consumer Council
National Council of Shechita Boards

National Council of Women of Great Britain
National Farmers Union
National Farmers' Union of Scotland
National Federation of Meat & Food Traders
National Federation of Womens' Institutes
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
National Game Dealers Association
National Gamekeepers Association
National Office of Animal Health Ltd (NOAH)
National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC)
Northern School of Game and Wildlife
Road Haulage Association
Rowett Research Institute
Royal Agricultural College
Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE)
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
Royal Veterinary College
Safeway Stores plc
Sandhill Veterinary Services
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Science
Scottish Consumers Council
Scottish Farmers Union
Scottish Federation of Meat Traders' Association
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SEERAD
Soil Association
Somerville Stores Ltd
SUSTAIN - The Alliance for Better Food & Farming
Tesco Stores Ltd
The Countryside Party
Union of Muslim Organisations of UK & EIRE
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare/Humane Slaughter Association
University of Aberdeen
University of Birmingham
University of Leeds
University of Newcastle Upon Tyne
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Plymouth
University of Reading
University of Stirling
University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Vegetarian Economy & Green Agriculture (VEGA) Research
Veterinary Laboratories Agency
Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Viva
Waitrose Ltd
Welsh Assembly Government, Countryside, Environment and Planning Department
Welsh Consumer Council
Welsh Local Government Association
Women's Food & Farming Union
World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)