



STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2010

The Farm Animal Welfare Council,
Area 511, 1A Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ
Tel: +44 (020) 7904 6534
<http://www.fawc.org.uk>

Executive summary

This strategic plan outlines the aims, objectives and work programme of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) from 2006 to 2010. It is intended to ensure that timely advice is provided to Government on farm animal welfare; the views of interested parties are taken into account in deciding on priority issues; and there is a clear focus on necessary major studies, while providing flexibility to be able to provide advice on new and immediate issues as they arise.

Terms of Reference

FAWC's terms of reference are to keep under review the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at the place of slaughter; and to advise Government and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales of any legislative or other changes that may be necessary.

The "Five Freedoms"

In considering the welfare conditions under which farm animals are kept, FAWC is guided by five ideals, known as the Five Freedoms.

Freedom from hunger and thirst – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

Freedom from discomfort – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and comfortable resting area.

Freedom from pain, injury or disease – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

Freedom to express normal behaviour – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

Freedom from fear and distress – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

How FAWC Operates

FAWC works in three main ways via i) published reports and opinions advising Ministers on specific topics, together with formal meetings with relevant officials; ii) responses to consultations, usually from Government, when required; and iii) building relationships with interested parties and opinion formers.

In the course of its work, FAWC;

- keeps the welfare of farm animals under review using specialist committees which have a watching brief;
- maintains dialogue with other national and international welfare bodies, and
- keeps sight of welfare issues and concerns of all interested parties through communication, consultation and the annual open meeting.

FAWC members are appointed by Ministers in England, Scotland and Wales. Members work in a personal capacity, not as representatives of any organisation or interest group. The membership includes those with knowledge and experience of animal welfare science and practice, veterinary medicine, livestock production, enforcement, retailing and consumer interests. In addition, a lay member was appointed for the first time in 2006 to bring a new perspective.

Future Topics for Investigation

In identifying its programme of future work, FAWC is particularly concerned about improvement of farm animal welfare by either elimination of avoidable suffering, application of new knowledge of farm animal husbandry or development of new systems of livestock production, transport and slaughter. Other drivers include the economics of livestock farming in the UK, changes in legislation and regulation, matters of public interest, developments in technology and other areas such as farm assurance and food labelling.

During 2006 to 2010, FAWC will investigate:

- Economics of farm animal welfare
- Communication of knowledge about farm animal welfare
- Animal welfare and disease

Minor reports (or opinions) will also be published on specific topics of concern.

I. Introduction

I.1 Terms of Reference

The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) was established by Government in 1979 as an independent, non-statutory, advisory body. Its precursor, the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, was set up in response to the Brambell Committee Report¹ that was published in 1965.

FAWC's current terms of reference are to keep under review the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at the place of slaughter; and to advise Government and the devolved administrations of any legislative or other changes that may be necessary.

As part of this remit, FAWC accepts the following responsibilities:

- i) to maintain a watching brief on farm animal welfare via its Standing Committees;
- ii) to maintain a dialogue with national and international welfare bodies, such as the Office Internationale des Épizooties (OIE), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) and similar welfare advisory bodies within Europe amongst others; and
- iii) to be cognisant of the interests and concerns of stakeholders through consultation during preparation of reports, and the annual open meeting.

The Chairman and head of the Secretariat are responsible for ensuring that FAWC's work is effective and efficient, as evidenced by a published strategic plan, external audit and operation within the agreed budget.

FAWC is recognised and respected world wide for its independent, critical analysis of contemporary welfare issues and has provided the model for similar advisory bodies on animal welfare in other countries. A business process review of FAWC was undertaken by Defra in 2003; all FAWC's stakeholders commented favourably on the professional competence of the Council and the way it conducted its business with impartiality and independence and the balanced and practical proposals in its reports.

I.2 The “Five Freedoms”

In considering the welfare conditions under which farm animals are kept, FAWC is guided by ideals that have become known as the Five Freedoms.

Freedom from hunger and thirst – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

Freedom from discomfort – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and comfortable resting area.

Freedom from pain, injury or disease – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

¹Report of the technical committee to enquire into the welfare of animals kept under intensive livestock systems. HMSO, London. 1965, Command Paper 2836.

Freedom to express normal behaviour – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind.

Freedom from fear and distress – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

I.3 Modus Operandi

FAWC fulfils its remit using three primary mechanisms:

- i) Published reports, opinions and letters offering advice to Ministers on specific topics, supplemented by formal meetings with Ministers and their Chief Veterinary Officers and officials in England, Wales and Scotland;
- ii) Responses to ad hoc consultations, usually from Government; and
- iii) Strategic relationships with interested parties and opinion formers.

The main form of strategic advice on farm animal welfare to Ministers is a published report on a topic. These full reports are produced by specialist Working Groups (see section 3 below). The recommendations of each report are considered by Ministers, who then publish their decisions on each recommendation in a formal response, usually after consultation. Since its inception, FAWC has published over thirty reports (Appendix 1), and provided advice to Ministers, Select Committees and officials via responses to various requests for consultations and enquiries on farm animal welfare.

FAWC’s early reports were mainly devoted to species-specific topics and FAWC’s recommendations that were accepted by Government were largely incorporated in Codes of Recommendations for the welfare of livestock produced under the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968. FAWC’s more recent reports have addressed cross-species issues such as the welfare implications of breeding technologies and the welfare impact of farm assurance schemes.

FAWC members are appointed by Ministers in England, Scotland and Wales according to the Nolan principles on public appointments. They are drawn from a wide range of disciplines and occupations and serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of any organisation or interest group. The membership includes those with extensive knowledge and experience of animal welfare science and practice, veterinary medicine, livestock production, enforcement, retailing and consumer interests. A lay member was appointed for the first time in 2006.

2. The Strategic Plan for 2006 - 2010

2.1 Introduction

This strategic plan details the aims, objectives and work programme of the Farm Animal Welfare Council from 2006 to 2010.

From 2006, an annual work programme will be prepared that will detail the work of the Council as it is to be implemented by the Working Groups and Standing Committees. This will assist both government and stakeholders by providing advance notice of forthcoming studies.

The strategic plan aims to ensure that timely advice is provided to Government on farm animal welfare by the most efficient and effective use of FAWC's resources. It sets out the framework by which competing priorities have been decided and annual implementation plans prepared. It also provides an overall direction for FAWC's work and takes into account the views of key stakeholders when deciding on priorities (see Appendix 2). It demonstrates that the Council has a clear focus for major studies while retaining the flexibility to provide advice speedily to Ministers and Officials when required.

In discharging its primary remit, the Council has identified those topics that are of the highest priority in terms of agreed criteria for improvements of farm animal welfare by either elimination of avoidable suffering, application of new knowledge of farm animal husbandry or development of new systems of livestock production, transport and slaughter.

While the major causes of cruelty and gross suffering have largely been addressed (through primary legislation and/or Welfare Codes), complex problems which compromise welfare still exist, and these are inevitably compounded when the profitability of livestock farming is low. Current concerns include lameness in cattle, sheep and broilers and endemic disease, neo-natal mortality and the need to treat animals as sentient beings rather than commodities, amongst many others.

FAWC's new Standing Committees (see section 4 below) will provide the means by which Government's more immediate requests for consultation and advice are met efficiently and effectively, and will produce opinions on welfare issues of topical interest and importance.

A further advantage of the strategic plan is that the selection process for appointing new members will benefit from forward planning of FAWC's work programme by recruitment of new members with the appropriate expertise and experience required for particular investigations.

2.2 Drivers for developments in farm animal welfare

The interactions between the drivers are numerous and complex, demonstrating the difficulties faced by Government and others involved in livestock farming in setting and achieving satisfactory standards of welfare.

Economics of livestock farming in Great Britain

It is quite clear that the economics of livestock farming play a major role in the standards of farm animal welfare. Current concerns and developments include:

- Declining profitability of livestock farming
- Globalisation of food supply
- CAP reform – single farm payment scheme and cross compliance
- Power of retailers
- Backyard farmers
- Commodity vs. niche producers
- Aging agricultural work force
- Growth of meat consumption in China and other developing economies

Livestock farming in Great Britain contributes substantially to the national economy. In 2005, the output of livestock production and products was worth £7,794 million, 541,000 people were employed in agriculture and Great Britain was 73% self-sufficient in indigenous food². Although the profitability of livestock farming has declined in recent years, the livestock industry is still a major supplier to the food industry. At the 2005 June census, the number of livestock in Great Britain was 2.1 million dairy cows, 1.8 million beef cattle and 0.6 million heifers, 0.4 million sows and 4.4 million growing pigs, 17 million ewes and shearlings and 17.5 million lambs, 30 million laying hens, and 111 million table fowl including broilers. The large scale of consumption of livestock products in Great Britain implies that proper consideration should be given to farm animal welfare on both moral and economic grounds in order to ensure that farm animals – whether farmed in Great Britain or abroad – are kept to a standard of welfare that is acceptable to British society.

Recent changes in legislation and regulation of farm animal welfare

Government and others' concern about farm animal welfare has led to new legislation at national, European and international levels. In England and Wales, the Animal Welfare Bill is being passed through Parliament with a similar Bill being considered in Scotland. In Great Britain, much of the basis of the national welfare legislation now derives from the European Union. The EU Action Plan on the protection and welfare of animals sets out the European Commission's plans to upgrade and add to existing animal welfare rules over the next five years. The OIE (colloquially known as the World Organisation for Animal Health) has also become the *de facto* international reference organisation for animal protection and is developing a global framework of guidelines for animal welfare. The EU is pressing for animal welfare issues to be discussed in current discussions on a new WTO agreement on Agriculture. Topical issues include:

² <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/quick/summary.xls>

- Proposals for EU Directives on broilers and laying hens
- OIE guidelines for farm animal welfare
- Council of Europe decree that farm animals are sentient beings
- New Animal Welfare Bills in Scotland, England and Wales
- EU Action Plan on animal welfare

Public interest

The interest shown by the public in farm animal welfare has been strong for many years and shows no signs of abating. Current drivers include:

- Active lobby groups
- Increasing level of disposable income in British society
- Growing awareness of animal welfare amongst some consumers
- Remoteness of consumers from farming and food production
- A perceived lack of public confidence in science
- Interest amongst consumers (and producers) in welfare provenance of food and the scope for labelling.

In a recent European survey³ (December 2005) of 44,500 EU citizens, the responses of 2575 U.K. citizens were:

- 67% believed that the level of welfare/protection of animals farmed within the EU is very poor or poor;
- 78% believed that more needs to be done to improve the level of welfare/protection of animals farmed within the EU;
- The species for which the level of welfare/protection was very poor were broiler chickens, 71%; laying hens, 64%; turkeys, 56%; and pigs, 49%;
- 76% believed that food retailers did not provide sufficient information on animal welfare conditions under which products were sourced;
- 85% would like food products to be labelled more clearly to indicate animal welfare conditions;
- 93% believed that imported foods should be produced under conditions of welfare/protection at least as high as in their own country;
- 76% believed that a better knowledge of farming practices could influence food purchasing decisions.

While this may not represent a consensus within the U.K. due to the survey's design, it is informative.

Technological and other developments

Research on farm animal welfare continues to be a priority for Government and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council with support from welfare organisations and the farming industry.

In particular, new methods to assess farm animal welfare using scientifically validated measures that can be applied on the farm are being developed. A current EU project⁴,

³ http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/consultations/internet_consultation/united_kingdom.pdf

Welfare Quality, aims to develop European standards for on-farm welfare assessment and product information systems, based upon consumer demands, the marketing requirements of retailers and stringent scientific validation. The outcome of this and other research projects will be essential if a surveillance system is to be devised so that the level of farm animal welfare can be established using a calibrated yardstick and progress checked against national or other goals.

Other significant developments in relation to farm animal welfare include the growth of farm assurance schemes. Many British livestock farms are now members of an assurance scheme. While the primary purpose of such schemes is to provide assurance about food safety throughout the supply chain, the growing emphasis on welfare is a powerful means by which levels of welfare can be raised on the farm. Taken together with labelling of food according to the standard of welfare experienced by farm animals, this will provide the consumer with greater confidence about the welfare provenance of meat and other livestock products at the point of purchase. This will be especially so if scheme membership and labels are applied uniformly to fresh, frozen and processed food used in the home, restaurant, hospital or school and sourced from either Great Britain or abroad.

3. Reports on major topics by the Working Groups

A Working Group is responsible for investigation of a topic and publication of the full and detailed report (Appendix 3). The time taken for a group's work is typically three years, but there are examples where a much longer period has been required, sometimes because of resource limitations and/or external events, e.g. the epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease. In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council it is planned that by 2007, no more than three Working Groups will be active at any one time leading to more timely investigation of a topic and publication of the associated report. In the past there have been significantly more groups operating at one time which has stretched resources.

Council expects that each report will lead to significant improvements in the welfare of farm animals by either elimination of avoidable suffering, application of new knowledge of farm animal husbandry or development of new systems of livestock production, transport and slaughter. Furthermore, the lifespan of each report is expected to be at least 10 years, though some of a report's recommendations may be adopted rapidly by Government and others, leading to more immediate benefits.

3.1 Selection Criteria

Analysis of the main drivers and developments in farm animal welfare suggests that potentially there are many topics for investigation between 2006 and 2010. Many of the current concerns are scientifically complex, directly exacerbated by the economics of livestock farming, complicated by the global trade in livestock products, eagerly

⁴ <http://www.welfarequality.net/everyone/26536>

championed by various lobby groups each with their own (sometimes conflicting) aims, and require consideration of other rural issues, e.g. environmental pollution. For some potential topics, there may be insufficient scientific knowledge to allow an investigation to take place, e.g. the mental well being of farm animals.

The new topics to be investigated between 2006 and 2010 were identified by systematic refinement of potential topics using the following considerations:

- i) **Rationale for the investigation.** The species and number of animals involved in British livestock farming and in other countries producing livestock products consumed in Great Britain. The duration, nature and extent of any suffering involved. The main concerns about welfare and the ethical, scientific and economic drivers, derived from scientific and other evidence, changes in livestock farming methods due to new knowledge, public or consumer pressure, economic or environmental issues. This criterion is the priority for selection.
- ii) **Legislation and regulation.** Recent or pending legislation or new regulations by the European Union, U.K. Government or devolved administrations that affect the topic. The potential requirement for new legislation, regulations or codes of welfare that may arise from the investigation.
- iii) **Implementation of recommendations.** The main stakeholders, who would be involved in or benefit from the investigation. Potential difficulties foreseen and solutions identified, arising from the investigation. Opportunities for new systems of livestock production, transport and slaughter that would lead to improved welfare.

3.2 Chosen topics for investigation during 2006 - 2010

Following the survey of stakeholders (Appendix 2), ten topics were identified for an initial appraisal by Council in February 2006. A shortlist of five topics was then submitted to Government Ministers, Chief Veterinary Officers and the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Implementation/Steering Groups in England, Wales and Scotland for their views on relative priorities. Finally, three topics were selected after further discussion by Council and these will be the subject of future investigations starting in 2007.

Over the period from 2006 to 2010, FAWC expects to publish reports on the following topics:

Topic	Estimated publication
Lamb castration and tail docking	Spring 2007
Stockmanship and farm animal welfare	Spring 2007
Slaughter of white-meat species	Autumn 2007
A long term strategy for farm animal welfare	Winter 2007/Spring 2008
<i>New topics</i>	
Welfare economics – starts 2007	2009
Knowledge transfer – starts 2008	2010
Disease – starts 2009	2011

4. The work of the Standing Committees

FAWC's objectives include a watching brief on welfare issues and it is consulted frequently. To meet these needs, three Standing Committees were established in 2005:

- The Standing Committee on Ruminants
- The Standing Committee on Pigs, Poultry and Fish
- The Standing Committee on Ethics, Economics, Education and Regulation.

Each Standing Committee has the following remit:

- to maintain a watching brief upon issues relating to farm animal welfare and the species or topics covered by the Standing Committee;
- to respond to requests for consultation and provide timely advice to Ministers and officials where needed; and
- to prepare short reports or opinions⁵ following a request by Council or Ministers.

Each Standing Committee also provides an annual report on its affairs to Council, and contributes to FAWC's effectiveness by providing an identifiable nucleus of expertise within its subject areas; develops relationships between Council members, thereby strengthening the Council as a whole; and provides a permanent and stable structure for FAWC, giving continuity to its business.

The work programme of the Standing Committees is more short-term than that of the Working Groups and accordingly it is more responsive and is subject to annual review. Between one and two opinions will be published each year by each Standing Committee. The topics for opinions to be investigated over the next few years are listed in Appendix 4; other topics will be identified in discussion with Government and stakeholders for investigation in the future.

⁵ An opinion is a brief report (~12 pages) that provides advice to Government, outlining the major causes of concerns for animal welfare and/or prospects for improvement. The scope of the opinion is restricted and may recommend that a full report by a Working Group is needed (see Appendix 3).

5. Strategic relationships

Maintaining a dialogue with key stakeholders is important to ensure that work of the highest priority is undertaken. In particular, FAWC will build on existing relationships with the following:

- i) The Implementation/Steering Groups in England, Wales and Scotland that are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain;
- ii) Other UK animal welfare advisory bodies, particularly the Companion Animal Welfare Council, the Zoos Forum and the Animal Procedures Committee, where there may be scope for collaboration on investigation of particular topics of common interest; and
- iii) European animal welfare advisory bodies that have a similar advisory purpose to FAWC, with a view to forming a forum entitled the European Forum of Animal Welfare Councils, EuroFAWCs.

6. Communication

FAWC is committed to a culture of openness. This is indicated in its Publication Scheme, which has been prepared in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2001.

Reports on animal welfare issues and the Annual Review are initially circulated widely in hard copy by the Secretariat. Other advice or responses on consultations to Government, summaries of plenary meetings of Council and the annual public meeting are published on the internet (www.fawc.org.uk) and hard copies of Reports and Annual Reviews are available free from the Secretariat.

The Annual Review typically covers the terms of reference of Council and background to the establishment and the past workings of FAWC; summaries of advice and responses to consultation sent to Government (and others) during the year; reports on Council, Working Group and Standing Committee activities carried out during the year and plans for the next year; membership; a statement on the register of members interests (available on request); a statement on guidance to members; costs for the year and the source of income (Defra); the Secretariat's organisation and contact details; and a list of publications.

Minutes of FAWC Working Groups are not normally made publicly available because they are both internal documents assisting the development of work in progress and can involve detailed consideration of issues relating to organisations and individuals. FAWC will endeavour to answer all requests for information subject to the resources available and any particular individual or commercial confidentiality.

Appendix I

Reports published by FAWC since 1979

Report on Welfare Labelling, 2006

Report on the Welfare Implications of Farm Assurance Schemes, 2005

Report on the Welfare of Farmed Animals at Gatherings, 2005.

Report on the Welfare Implications of Animal Breeding and Breeding Technologies in Commercial Agriculture, 2004

Report on the Welfare of Farmed Animals at Slaughter or Killing: Part I – Red Meat Animals, 2003. PB8347

Foot and Mouth Disease 2001 and Animal Welfare: Lessons for the Future, 2002. PB 6455

Interim Report on the Animal Welfare Implications of Farm Assurance Schemes, 2001. PB 5797

Report on the Implications of Cloning for the Welfare of Farmed Livestock, 1998. PB 4132

Report on the Welfare of Broiler Breeders, 1998. PB 3907

Report on the Welfare of Dairy Cattle, 1997. PB 3426

Report on the Welfare of Laying Hens, 1997. PB 3221

Report on the Welfare of Farmed Fish, 1996. PB 2765

Report on the Welfare of Pigs Kept Outdoors, 1996. PB 2608

Report on the Welfare of Turkeys, 1995. PB 2033

Report on the Welfare of Sheep, 1994. PB 1755

Report on the Priorities for Animal Welfare Research and Development, 1993. PB 1310

Report on the Welfare of Broiler Chickens, 1992. PB 0910

Report on the Welfare of Laying Hens in Colony Systems, 1991. PB 0734

Report on the European Commission Proposals on the Transport of Animals, 1991. PB 0687

Advice to Ministers on the Handling and Transport of Poultry, 1990. PB 0125

Report of the Enforcement Working Group, 1990. PB 0124

Assessment of Pig Production Systems, 1988

Advice to Agricultural Ministers on Transportation of Unfit Animals, 1988

Report on the Priorities in Animal Welfare Research and Development, 1988

An Assessment of Egg Production Systems, 1986

Report on the Welfare of Livestock at Markets, 1986

Report on the Welfare of Livestock when Slaughtered by Religious Methods, 1985

Report on the Welfare of Farmed Deer, 1985

Report on the Welfare of Livestock (Red Meat Animals) at the Time of Slaughter, 1984

Report on the Welfare of Poultry at the Time of Slaughter, 1982

Advice to Agriculture Ministers of Great Britain on the Need to Control Certain Mutilations of Farm Animals, 1981

Report on the Animal Welfare Implications of the Harvesting of Deer Antlers in Velvet, 1980

Appendix 2

Survey of stakeholders' assessment of priorities for future investigation

Responses received from stakeholders to FAWC's on-line survey in December 2005 provided a clear indication of the relative importance attached to suggested topics for future FAWC investigations. It also provided an overview of species-specific and cross-species topics generated by stakeholders themselves. The following summary is based on the responses received from a wide cross-section of 100 stakeholders. The questionnaire was not open to members of the public.

In deciding on priorities for future FAWC reports, the majority of respondents identified the number of animals involved and the degree/duration of suffering as the highest priority, followed by the availability of scientific and other evidence and the profitability of livestock farming. Other useful considerations identified by stakeholders broadly related to the economics of welfare, working with stakeholders across the food chain and the evidence base for welfare assessment. In assessing species-specific topics for future FAWC reports, top priority was given to the welfare of broiler chickens followed by pigs kept indoors, dairy cattle and laying hens kept indoors. The top cross-species topic was animal disease and welfare, followed by the economics of farm animal welfare, knowledge transfer, welfare surveillance and monitoring, including assessment.

Finally, when asked to identify three important topics that FAWC should investigate over the next five years, top priority was given to both animal disease and welfare and the economics of welfare, closely followed by welfare surveillance and monitoring and the welfare of broiler chickens.

The topics to be investigated by FAWC between 2006 and 2010 were as follows:

Topic	Previous report	Short listed by Council	Selected for investigation
Animal disease and welfare	None	Yes	Yes
Economics of welfare	None	Yes	Yes
Assessment, surveillance and monitoring of welfare	None	Incorporated in current study of welfare strategy	
Knowledge transfer about animal welfare	None	Yes	Yes
Welfare of pigs (indoors)	None	Yes	No
Welfare of game birds	None	No	Opinion#
Welfare of broiler chickens	1992	No	No
Welfare of sheep	1994	No	No
Welfare of dairy cattle	1997	Yes	Opinion#
Welfare of laying hens	1997	No	Opinion#

Aspects of these topics will be studied by the Standing Committees and published as opinions.

Appendix 3

Normal stages in investigation of a topic by FAWC

Full scale study of a broad topic culminating in a published report (2-3 years)

- 1 Identify topic in Strategic Plan
- 2 Agree the scope of the investigation, appoint chairman and members of the working group, agree timescale of the investigation
- 3 Invite consultation in writing from stakeholders
- 4 Literature and information search, analysis and review
- 5 Practical visits to farms, companies, markets or abattoirs
- 6 Oral evidence from key stakeholders
- 7 Drafting of report
- 8 Submission of draft report to Council
- 9 Consultation meetings with key stakeholders on draft report
- 10 Approval of report by Council
- 11 Submission of report to Ministers and publication on FAWC website

Short term study of a specific welfare issue leading to an opinion (up to 1 year)

- 1 Topic identified in Strategic Plan or initiated by request from Government or Council
- 2 Agree scope and identify which Standing Committee will deal with investigation
- 3 Focussed literature and information search
- 4 Limited visits (if necessary)
- 5 Oral and written evidence from selected stakeholders
- 6 Drafting of report
- 7 Draft opinion to Council for approval
- 8 Submission of opinion to Ministers and publication on FAWC website

Advisory letter or response to consultation (2 weeks – 3 months)

- 1 Topic identified by request from Government or Council
- 2 Identify Standing Committee, Working Group or selected members to deal with request
- 3 Information search (if necessary)
- 4 Advice drafted and comments sought from members
- 5 Discussion at a meeting if possible or via e-mail
- 6 Check draft with Council via e-mail
- 7 Submission to Government (usually officials) and publication on FAWC website

Appendix 4

Initial list of topics for opinions by the Standing Committees

Standing Committee on Pigs, Poultry and Fish	Standing Committee on Ethics, Economics, Education and Regulation	Standing Committee on Ruminants
Beak trimming for hens	Policy instruments for improving animal welfare	Longevity of the dairy cow
Skeletal health in laying hens	Sustainability and farm animal welfare	Lameness in cattle
Laying hen cage enrichment		Lameness in sheep
Game birds		Zero grazing of cattle

Printed for the Farm Animal Welfare Council in the UK,
October 2006, on material containing 80% post-consumer waste and 20% elemental chlorine free pulp.

Copies of this and other Council publications can be obtained from:

The Farm Animal Welfare Council Secretariat,
Area 511, 1A Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ
Tel: +44 (020) 7904 6534
<http://www.fawc.org.uk>

© Crown copyright October 2006
Copyright in the typographical arrangement and design rests with the Crown.

This publication (excluding the logo) may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright with the title and source of the publication specified.