



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is an independent statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on animal welfare matters. Its functions include recommending codes of welfare for issue, and making recommendations on legislative proposals including regulations relating to surgical procedures and traps and devices, and identifying research needs. It also promotes the development of guidelines for the use of traps and devices, and hunting and killing animals in a wild state.

Key items discussed at the 06 August 2014 meeting were:

- **Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010 amendments -**
 - Dairy cattle calves: The humane destruction amendment to the dairy cattle code of welfare was issued on 4 June 2014. It was noted that training farmers in the use of captive bolt guns is continuing, with MPI and DairyNZ working together to ensure the new minimum standards are implemented in the 2014 season.
 - Dairy cattle housing: Work is ongoing on this amendment.

- **Pigs: Farrowing Crates** – The Minister for Primary Industries had announced that he had requested NAWAC to investigate options for moving away from farrowing crates at a recent pork industry conference.

A new subcommittee was established to look at this issue.

- **Systems Review** - The systems review subcommittee, tasked with leading changes to the way NAWAC addresses its work priorities in the future, described the progress in their work programme since the last quarterly meeting.

A proposed work programme on the drafting of regulations, which will be able to be put in place once the Animal Welfare Bill has been passed, was approved by NAWAC. A project team was established that would carry out the work. This work will be NAWAC's top priority for 2014/15.

- **Wildlife: Proposal to Prohibit Snare Traps** – The proposal by the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was considered. It was agreed that the wild animal subcommittee would consider whether a restriction or prohibition on snares was required, using the RNZSPCA report as a starting point to inform their work.