



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 10 and 11 March 2015 meeting were:

- **Field trip** – The Committee visited Whangara farms at the invitation of NAWAC member and Chairperson of the Whangara Farms Board of Management, Ingrid Collins. Highlights included viewing high-tech weather stations and the poplar nursery - which in time will provide extra shade & shelter for animals across the property.
- **Deputy Chair elected** - The Animal Welfare Act 1999 requires the committee to elect one of its members as its deputy chairperson at its first meeting each year. Virginia Williams was elected as deputy chair.
- **Work programme update** –
 - **Farrowing crates** – The subcommittee has been visiting many different types of pig production systems and continues to review scientific literature to determine whether there are changes to the information already contained in the [2010 code report](#) for the pig code of welfare. An economic analysis on the potential impact of phasing out farrowing crates will be underway as soon as possible.
 - **Dairy cattle housing** – Work is continuing, with the aim of an amendment to the dairy cattle code of welfare being out before the end of the year.
 - **Companion Animals in Temporary Housing** – This code of welfare is nearing the final stages of post-consultation work.
- **Animal Welfare Amendment Bill: Progress on regulations** - The Bill, if passed, will allow NAWAC to recommend directly enforceable animal welfare regulations. A NAWAC subcommittee has been working closely with a working group co-ordinated by MPI to come up with a first draft set of regulations.
- **Presentations** – on the 10th March, Whangara Farms general manager Richard Scholefield and accountant Chris Torrie talked to NAWAC about the structure and management of Whangara Farms. The next day, Dr Mark Fisher gave a presentation on the provision of shade & shelter for livestock in New Zealand, covering how it can improve welfare and what can be done to improve the situation.
- **Next meeting** – May 20th in Wellington at Pastoral House.

The other agreed meeting dates for 2015 are Wednesday 4th August and Wednesday 4th November. There will be a joint NAWAC/NAEAC meeting on 3rd August.