

ANIMAL WELFARE

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ANIMAL WELFARE ASSESSMENT/ AUDIT REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR PROJECTS UNDER ANIMAL HEALTH

Under **Animal Health (Improvements to Animal Handling and Housing)**, producers can apply to complete eligible projects as listed in the project categories **New Construction, Modification, or New Technologies to Improve Animal Housing and Equipment to Improve Animal Handling**. Both project categories require the applicant to provide:

- A first-time operational/farm-wide audit or assessment against a National Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals (Codes of Practice), a national commodity-specific farm animal care program, or a market-driven animal welfare program (e.g. North American Meat Institute Audit), which demonstrates the need for the project – which may be completed by the applicant or by a qualified third party, such as a licensed veterinarian or certified animal welfare auditor.

In addition, the following are also required for projects proposing structural modifications or new construction:

Site sketch for proposed structural modifications or new construction;

Quote or proposal to support costs of structural modifications or new construction (including project dimensions and anticipated stocking densities).

Producers can also apply for cost-share funding to have a qualified third-party, such as a licensed veterinarian or certified animal welfare auditor, complete the assessment or first-time audit under the project category **Education, Training, Assessment and Planning**.

A producer can submit an audit report (not a self-assessment or self-declaration) for a national animal care program in order to meet this requirement. A national animal care program is not the same as a food safety or quality assurance program. The Canadian Quality Milk (dairy cattle) or Canadian Quality Assurance (pork) programs are not animal care programs. Here are some examples of the Animal Care programs currently being implemented in Canada:

- Canadian Pork Council's Animal Care Assessment (ACA) Program
- Turkey Farmers of Canada's Flock Care Program
- Chicken Farmers of Canada's Animal Care Program
- Egg Farmers of Canada's Animal Care Program

If you are considering providing an audit report for one of the National Animal Care programs listed above, to meet requirements for an **Animal Health (Improvements to Animal Housing and Handling)** project under **Canadian Agricultural Partnership**, it must meet the following:

- Have been completed by a third-party auditor (qualified to audit that specific program).
- Demonstrate need for the project. You do not need to provide the entire audit, as the audit may be many pages in length. However, the portion of the audit **MUST** demonstrate need for the project i.e., demonstrate where the farm is not meeting program requirements.
- Provide proof that the audit was completed by a certified auditor (i.e., sign off page showing the auditor's printed name signature, and farm or producer name).
- Ideally, as part of a corrective action request, the report should detail possible actions to correct the issue, and whether or not correction is necessary to maintain or obtain your certification.

Not all commodities in Ontario have access to a National Animal Care Program. Animal care programs are built on the same principles as the Codes of Practice.

The Codes of Practice are intended to promote sound management and welfare practices through recommendations and requirements for housing, care, transportation, processing and other animal husbandry practices. The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) facilitated development of the Codes of Practice in consultation with industry. The Codes of Practice for various commodities can be found at <http://www.nfacc.ca>

Each Code contains 'Requirements' and 'Recommendations':

Requirements - refer to either a regulatory requirement, or an industry imposed expectation outlining acceptable and unacceptable practices.

Recommended Practices - complement a Code's Requirements, promote producer education and can encourage adoption of practices for continuous improvement in animal welfare outcomes. Recommended Practices are generally expected to enhance animal welfare outcomes, but failure to implement them does not imply that acceptable standards of animal care are not met.

The Codes serve as educational tools and reference for regulations, and form the foundation for animal care assessment programs. If using one of the National Animal Care Programs above, you should be able to reference a Code Requirement or Recommendation, which parallels the assessment requirements.

For those commodities that do not have a national animal care program, the Requirements and Recommendations found in the Codes of Practice can serve as a guideline for completing an assessment. An assessment against the Codes of Practice can be conducted by the applicant or a qualified third-party, such as a licensed veterinarian, and must meet the following requirements:

- If you are having the licensed veterinarian come to the farm to complete the assessment, at a minimum the licensed veterinarian should review your farm against all of the requirements listed in the Code. You may also consider having them review the recommendations with you as well. The assessment should include all of the Code requirements and allow the licensed veterinarian to specify if the farm is meeting the requirement, not meeting the requirement, or that the requirement is not applicable to the operation. This can be accomplished by creating a list of all of the requirements for that particular industry.
- The Codes cover housing, care, transportation, processing and other animal husbandry practices. Provide the section of the assessment that demonstrates need for the project (i.e., demonstrates where the farm is not meeting Code requirements).
- Provide proof that the assessment was completed by a licensed veterinarian (i.e., letter confirming the licensed veterinarian visited the farm to complete the assessment, licensed veterinarian's contact details and signature).
- Ideally, the assessment should also detail discussions for taking action to correct issues.

Note: Audits and assessments completed by a qualified third party, such as a licensed veterinarian or certified animal welfare auditor, will receive additional merit.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. More information about the program for farmers, as well as upcoming application deadlines, can be found [here](#).

ANIMAL WELFARE

CHECKLIST FOR PRODUCERS

The following animal welfare checklist should be completed and submitted with your cost-share funding application. It is only used as a tool to help guide you in identifying gaps or opportunities for projects to improve your animal care. Please have the Code of Practice for your particular species of animal(s) nearby so you can refer to it as you complete the checklist. Please note that this checklist covers ALL species groups that are eligible for Canadian Agricultural Partnership (the Partnership) funding so questions may not apply to you in all situations.

The Codes of Practice can be found here: <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice>

Feed and Water

Nutrition and Feed Management	Are the animals provided with feed daily to maintain health and meet their physiological needs?	Yes	Needs Improvement N/I	No	Not Applicable N/A
	Are the animals fed appropriate to their species, age and stage of production/ level of exercise?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are neonatal animals provided with colostrum or a commercial colostrum substitute in an amount and frequency and required by the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the feed free from mold and dust according?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the feed stored in a secured manner	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Body condition score	Are corrective actions taken if the BCS is too low or too high according to the Code of Practice for that species, age and stage of production/ level of exercise?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Water	Is there a constant supply of clean, fresh, palatable water?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the water tested annually?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there a plan to provide water in the event there is an interruption or contamination of the water supply?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are animals who are water and feed-restricted monitored according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

Housing and Handling Facilities

Housing Systems	Is the animal housing designed and maintained in a manner that reduces the potential for injury?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
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Housing Systems cont'd	Are the stalls constructed according to the type of animal and breed as per the Code of Practice?	Yes	Needs Improvement N/I	No	Not Applicable N/A
	Do the space requirements required for group housing meet the Code of Practice for that species?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there sufficient space for animals to escape aggression?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Do animals have visual contact with other animals?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Facilities for sick and injured animals	Is there a hospital/sick pen/stall/facility to separate and treat injured or diseased animals?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are the sick pens including waterers and feeders cleaned between each use?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Environmental management: Temperature, ventilation and air quality	Is the temperature of the barn suitable for the species, stage of production and for the time of year?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are measures undertaken to prevent animals from becoming overheated or cold- stressed?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the air quality and ventilation maintained as per the Code of Practice, including managing ammonia levels?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is animal behaviour monitored to avoid situations of thermal stress?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Lighting	Does the building/facility meet the Code of Practice requirement for lighting and for darkened areas (or time spent in the dark)?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Flooring	Is the barn/stall flooring non-slip and constructed in a manner not to cause injury?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Bedding	Is the bedding dry, clean and not harmful to the animal?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Feeding and watering areas	In group housing, are the feeders and waters available to all animals?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Does each individually housed animal have access to feed bins and water buckets/ automatic waterers?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are containers used for providing water and feed cleaned regularly, maintained and safe?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

Enrichment	Are environmental enrichment methods used that are safe for the animal and cleaned and disinfected as required? (e.g. toys, rooting material, climbing obstacles, dust baths, tubes, tunnels)	Yes	Needs Improvement N/I	No	Not Applicable N/A
	Are there appropriate number of nest boxes provided for the number of hens/does?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Outdoor Housing	Do the animals have access to shade and shelter (natural or constructed)?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the condition of the animal(s) housed outside assessed according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are animals in groups managed to minimize risk of injury?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Do the space requirements required for individual or group housing meet the Code of Practice for that species?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Does each animal have access to a mud-free, well-drained area?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is ground water and grazing pasture prevented from contamination by fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Fencing and Gates	Are fences constructed and maintained to minimize injury?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the fencing material of appropriate strength, size, material and types for the species and according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

Animal Health

Health Management	Is there a working relationship with a licensed veterinarian (Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship or VCPR)?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there a Herd/Flock Health Management Program, developed with the herd veterinarian and being followed?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there a written biosecurity/cleaning and disinfection and/or disease management plan in place and developed with a veterinarian?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there a standard operating procedure for the purchase of healthy veal calves?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there a written protocol, developed with a veterinarian, to prevent iron deficiency anemia in milk-fed veal calves?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are animals observed as often as the Code of Practice requires based on their age and stage of production for health issues?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

Health Management cont'd	Is the veterinarian and/or appropriate authorities advised of any reportable disease?	Yes	Needs Improvement N/I	No	Not Applicable N/A
	Are accurate and detailed health records kept?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Sick and injured animals	Are animals examined daily for sickness and injury?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there a standard operating procedure detailing protocols for the identification, care and humane treatment of sick and injured animals?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the management of sick and injured animals as outlined in the Code of Practice being followed?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are medications and veterinary pharmaceuticals obtained from a veterinarian and/or reputable source?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there a parasite control plan for internal and external parasites?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	When medications are used in food animals are the animals identified and drug withdrawal periods observed?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are vaccines and treatments stored, mixed and administered according to the veterinarian or manufacturer's recommendations?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are mortalities and culls recorded?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are records kept on which animals receive medicated feed or water?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Recognizing sickness behaviour	Is your staff knowledgeable about normal animal behaviour and recognizing ill and injured animals?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are surgical procedures (not performed by a veterinarian – see Code of Practice) performed using appropriate anesthesia and analgesia and by a trained and competent person?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Parturition	Are all female animals due to birth observed frequently and assistance provided if needed?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Sanitation	Is a sanitation protocol developed for each production area and followed annually?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is manure removed and stored in a manner that promotes the health and welfare of the animals?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

Sanitation cont'd	Are buildings and equipment cleaned and disinfected after an infectious disease outbreak?	Yes	Needs Improvement N/I	No	Not Applicable N/A
Pest Control	Is there a plan to control and prevent pests including rodents, small animals, wild birds, insects and predators?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Emergency and Safety	Is there an emergency plan developed in the event of a power failure, mechanical breakdown or other emergency situation?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are toxic materials stored away from animals according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

Husbandry Practices

Handling, moving, restraining and treating animals	Are animals (and hatching eggs) moved from one area to another in a safe and humane manner and according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are animals restrained in a humane manner according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Stockmanship skills	Are animal handlers competent in low-stress handling methods?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Mixing	Are there strategies to minimize or eliminate aggression when animals are mixed together?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is feather picking and cannibalism managed in poultry?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Breeding	Are breeding practices used that don't cause injury to the animals?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are breeding males provided with exercise according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are breeding females of appropriate age, weight, condition and maturity according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are breeding animals and animals close to and during the birth process observed regularly according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are rabbit nest boxes managed to prevent neonates from exiting prematurely?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Exercise	Do the animals receive exercise as outlined in the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Horse training	Are training methods used that are not abusive or that don't intentionally cause injury?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is training equipment well maintained and does it fit the animal?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

Elective Husbandry Practices	Are elective husbandry practices only carried out by competent staff?	Yes	Needs Improvement N/I	No	Not Applicable N/A
	Is the equipment properly maintained and hygienic?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Castration and other procedures	Are procedures (castration, ear notching, tail docking, teeth clipping, tusk trimming) done on animals of appropriate age, using pain management and according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Hoof care	Are hooves or nails trimmed/shod to be functional and not cause discomfort or injury?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Dentistry on horses	Are dental procedures carried out by a veterinarian or competent individual under direct veterinary supervision?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Lameness	Is lameness addressed through specific therapies, change in management or culling procedures?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Identification	Are animals identified according to the Code of Practice including analgesia and the appropriate material used?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Shearing	Are long hair breeds managed to mitigate heat stress and prevent soiling and matting of hair?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are sheared animals provided with sufficient bedding to ensure thermoregulation and comfort?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is shearing done as frequently as necessary to mitigate health and welfare concerns?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the shearing equipment cleaned and disinfected as outlined in the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
Milking procedures	Are milking machines functioning and well maintained?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are the pens, ramps, milking parlours and milking machines well maintained to prevent injury, disease and distress?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is proper hygiene used to prevent mastitis?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are the personnel well trained and competent?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is low stress handling of animals used in the parlour?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

Transportation

Pre-transportation planning	Are animals loaded, transported, handled and unloaded by trained, competent people and in a humane fashion to avoid pain and injury? (this includes bird catchers)	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
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Pre-transportation planning cont'd	Are personnel loading, transporting, handling and unloading animals familiar with the behaviour of that species?	Yes	Needs Improvement N/I	No	Not Applicable N/A
	Are personnel familiar with the federal transport regulations?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the vehicle or container bedded with clean straw, shavings or other bedding material to provide insulation and comfort for the animals being shipped?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the space allocation/loading density on the transport vehicle/in lairage appropriate for the species according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are unfit animals prevented from being loaded as per the Health of Animals Act?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are compromised animals transported with provisions and directly to their final destination?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are the loading and unloading facilities/areas constructed with safe and secure footholds (well-drained and non-slip)?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are animals transported with stops for water, feed and rest according to the federal transport regulations?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are intact males separated from other animals during transport?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are animals and their suckling animals segregated from other animals during transport?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are appropriate environmental conditions maintained throughout the transport process so that animals arrive at their final destination in good condition?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

Euthanasia

On farm euthanasia plan	Has an on-farm euthanasia plan/protocol been developed, in conjunction with a licensed veterinarian, and followed?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there a plan for mass depopulation if necessary and appropriate to the species?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are those people who euthanize animals on-farm trained in the appropriate euthanasia methods?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are animals not meant for food, who do not respond to treatment for a condition that compromises welfare or who have an untreatable condition that compromises welfare euthanized promptly?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A

On farm euthanasia plan cont'd	Are animals who are meant for food, who do not respond to treatment and who have an untreatable condition that compromised welfare are euthanized promptly or slaughtered according to provincial regulations?	Yes	Needs Improvement N/I	No	Not Applicable N/A
Euthanasia methods	Are acceptable methods of euthanasia used and according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Are animals treated in a humane fashion prior to euthanasia?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is death confirmed following euthanasia?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is there a secondary euthanasia step or method available if the primary method is unsuccessful?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is carcass disposal done in accordance with the code and with provincial and municipal regulations?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A
	Is the equipment used for euthanasia well maintained so that it operates efficiently and effectively?	Yes	N/I	No	N/A