Animal Care Certificate

For Livestock Farmers and Animal Care Workers

The public wants more information about where their food comes from, but at the same time, they also want a greater say in how it is raised. For animal agriculture, this means more transparency, greater input into farming practices by the public, and the need for improved education for producers on issues surrounding animal care, housing, transport and the industry Codes of Practice. An Animal Care Certificate Program can help bridge this gap.

Farm & Food Care Ontario, building upon the IMPACT Livestock Code of Practice online training modules, is well positioned to lead this initiative. Working with the University of Guelph, Ridgetown College, Farm & Food Care Ontario is launching the Animal Care Certificate Program based on the nationally developed Codes of Practice from the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). After completing an online Code of Practice module, farmers and farm employees will be given a certificate of completion. Modules are available for beef, dairy, pork, sheep and fur. The Codes of Practice presented in the online modules have been developed by NFACC, the national lead for farm animal care and welfare in Canada, and sets the standards on animal welfare to ensure farmers are providing the best possible care to their animals. This is an important resource that provides members of the agriculture industry with practical training and a means of proving knowledge of — and commitment to — nationally developed standards of care.

With support from the agricultural industry, a certification program is the next logical step in animal care training. This would provide animal care workers with a program aimed at meeting the requirements set out in the Codes of Practice. The program will run from July 2017 until the end of May 2018 where training and certification will be available free of charge.

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