

## FACT SHEET

### ***What is the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep?***

The *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep* is a guideline of sheep management and animal care practices developed to promote sound decisions in housing, care, transportation and other key animal husbandry practices.

This *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep* replaces its predecessor developed in 1995 and published by the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council. The development of this new Code was initiated by the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) and carried out with support from the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF).

The Code Development Committee responsible for the development process consisted of a diverse range of stakeholders including producers, transporters, veterinarians, national and provincial animal welfare associations, retail and food service organizations, processors, researchers, academia, provincial government representatives, national industry group representatives and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and/or Canadian Food Inspection Agency staff. The development process followed an extensive list of guiding principles aimed at creating a Code of Practice endorsed by a full range of stakeholders.

### ***Using the Sheep Code of Practice***

The *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep* addresses key management components including:

- Environmental Conditions
- Facilities
- Feed and Water
- Health Management
- Husbandry Practices
- Transportation
- Euthanasia

For each of these components, the Code provides both 'required' practices and 'recommended' practices.

Required practices refer to either regulatory requirements or industry expectations of acceptable practices. The consensus is that requirements are a minimum standard to be implemented by all animal care providers, providing an acceptable level of animal care. Failure to apply required practices may lead to industry-compelled corrective actions and are enforceable if the practice is a legislative requirement.

Recommended practices go beyond the minimum required practices, encouraging producers to enhance animal welfare outcomes to a 'gold standard'. Failing to meet recommended practices does NOT imply that an acceptable standard of animal care has not been met.

Electronic copies of the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep* are available on the NFACC website at [www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca) or on the OSMA website [www.ontariosheep.org](http://www.ontariosheep.org) and paper copies are available through OSMA at 519-836-0043 or email [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org).