

Animal Welfare Checklist for Producers

The following animal welfare checklist should be completed and submitted with your 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 CAP 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 (NI)	No	N/A
	Are the animals fed appropriate to their species, age and stage of production/level of exercise?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Is the feed free from mold and dust according?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is the feed stored in a secured manner?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
Water	Is there a constant supply of clean, fresh, palatable water?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is the water tested annually?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is there a plan to provide water in the event there is an interruption or contamination of the water supply?	Yes	NI	No	N/A

	Are animals who are water and feed-restricted monitored according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
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Housing and Handling Facilities

Housing Systems	Is the animal housing designed and maintained in a manner that reduces the potential for injury?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are the stalls constructed according to the type of animal and breed as per the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Do the space requirements required for group housing meet the Code of Practice for that species?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is there sufficient space for animals to escape aggression?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Do animals have visual contact with other animals?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Are the sick pens including waterers and feeders cleaned between each use?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Are measures undertaken to prevent animals from becoming overheated or cold-stressed?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is the air quality and ventilation maintained as per the Code of Practice, including managing ammonia levels?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is animal behaviour monitored to avoid situations of thermal stress?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Lighting	Does the building/facility meet the Code of Practice requirement for lighting and for	Yes	NI	No	N/A

	darkened areas (or time spent in the dark)?				
Flooring	Is the barn/stall flooring non-slip and constructed in a manner not to cause injury?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Bedding	Is the bedding dry, clean and not harmful to the animal?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Feeding and watering areas	In group housing, are the feeders and waters available to all animals?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Does each individually housed animal have access to feed bins and water buckets/automatic waterers?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are containers used for providing water and feed cleaned regularly, maintained and safe?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Are there appropriate number of nest boxes provided for the number of hens/does?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Outdoor Housing	Do the animals have access to shade and shelter (natural or constructed)?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is the condition of the animal(s) housed outside assessed according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are animals in groups managed to minimize risk of injury?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Do the space requirements required for individual or group housing meet the Code of Practice for that species?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Does each animal have access to a mud-free, well-drained area?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is ground water and grazing pasture prevented from contamination by fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides?	Yes	NI	No	N/A

Fencing and Gates	Are fences constructed and maintained to minimize injury?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A

Animal Health

Health Management	Is there a working relationship with a licensed veterinarian (Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship or VCPR)?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is there a Herd/Flock Health Management Program, developed with the herd veterinarian and being followed?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is there a written biosecurity/cleaning and disinfection and/or disease management plan in place and developed with a veterinarian?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is there a standard operating procedure for the purchase of healthy veal calves?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is there a written protocol, developed with a veterinarian, to prevent iron deficiency anemia in milk-fed veal calves?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Is the veterinarian and/or appropriate authorities advised of any reportable disease?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are accurate and detailed health records kept?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Sick and injured animals	Are animals examined daily for sickness and injury?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is there a standard operating procedure detailing protocols for the identification, care and humane treatment of sick and	Yes	NI	No	N/A

	injured animals?				
	Is the management of sick and injured animals as outlined in the Code of Practice being followed?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are medications and veterinary pharmaceuticals obtained from a veterinarian and/or reputable source?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is there a parasite control plan for internal and external parasites?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	When medications are used in food animals are the animals identified and drug withdrawal periods observed?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are vaccines and treatments stored, mixed and administered according to the veterinarian or manufacturer's recommendations?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are mortalities and culls recorded?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are records kept on which animals receive medicated feed or water?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Recognizing sickness behaviour	Is your staff knowledgeable about normal animal behaviour and recognizing ill and injured animals?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
Parturition	Are all female animals due to birth observed frequently and assistance provided if needed?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Sanitation	Is a sanitation protocol developed for each production area and followed annually?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is manure removed and stored in a manner that promotes the health and welfare of the animals?	Yes	NI	No	N/A

	Are buildings and equipment cleaned and disinfected after an infectious disease outbreak?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Pest Control	Is there a plan to control and prevent pests including rodents, small animals, wild birds, insects and predators?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Are toxic materials stored away from animals according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Are animals restrained in a humane manner according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Stockmanship skills	Are animal handlers competent in low-stress handling methods?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Mixing	Are there strategies to minimize or eliminate aggression when animals are mixed together?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is feather picking and cannibalism managed in poultry?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Breeding	Are breeding practices used that don't cause injury to the animals?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are breeding males provided with exercise according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are breeding females of appropriate age, weight, condition and maturity according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are breeding animals and animals close to and during the birth process observed	Yes	NI	No	N/A

	regularly according to the Code of Practice?				
	Are rabbit nest boxes managed to prevent neonates from exiting prematurely?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Exercise	Do the animals receive exercise as outlined in the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Horse training	Are training methods used that are not abusive or that don't intentionally cause injury?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is training equipment well maintained and does it fit the animal?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Elective Husbandry Practices	Are elective husbandry practices only carried out by competent staff?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is the equipment properly maintained and hygienic?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
Hoof care	Are hooves or nails trimmed/shod to be functional and not cause discomfort or injury?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Dentistry on horses	Are dental procedures carried out by a veterinarian or competent individual under direct veterinary supervision?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Lameness	Is lameness addressed through specific therapies, change in management or culling procedures?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Identification	Are animals identified according to the Code of Practice including analgesia and the appropriate material used?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Shearing	Are long hair breeds managed to mitigate heat stress and prevent soiling and matting of hair?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are sheared animals provided with sufficient bedding to ensure thermoregulation and	Yes	NI	No	N/A

	comfort?				
	Is shearing done as frequently as necessary to mitigate health and welfare concerns?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is the shearing equipment cleaned and disinfected as outlined in the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
Milking procedures	Are milking machines functioning and well maintained?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are the pens, ramps, milking parlours and milking machines well maintained to prevent injury, disease and distress?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is proper hygiene used to prevent mastitis?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are the personnel well trained and competent?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is low stress handling of animals used in the parlour?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Are personnel loading, transporting, handling and unloading animals familiar with the behaviour of that species?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are personnel familiar with the federal transport regulations?	Yes	NI	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	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Are unfit animals prevented from being loaded as per the Health of Animals Act?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are compromised animals transported with provisions and directly to their final destination?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are the loading and unloading facilities/areas constructed with safe and secure footholds (well-drained and non-slip)?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are animals transported with stops for water, feed and rest according to the federal transport regulations?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are intact males separated from other animals during transport?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are animals and their suckling animals segregated from other animals during transport?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are appropriate environmental conditions maintained throughout the transport process so that animals arrive at their final destination in good condition?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	Is there a plan for mass depopulation if necessary and appropriate to the species?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are those people who euthanize animals on-farm trained in the appropriate euthanasia methods?	Yes	NI	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	NI	No	N/A
	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	NI	No	N/A
Euthanasia methods	Are acceptable methods of euthanasia used and according to the Code of Practice?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Are animals treated in a humane fashion prior to euthanasia?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is death confirmed following euthanasia?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is there a secondary euthanasia step or method available if the primary method is unsuccessful?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is carcass disposal done in accordance with the code and with provincial and municipal regulations?	Yes	NI	No	N/A
	Is the equipment used for euthanasia well maintained so that it operates efficiently and effectively?	Yes	NI	No	N/A