# Minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

Venue: Fitzwilliam Hotel, Dublin.

Date: 27th October 2005.

Present: P Fottrell (Chairman), T O’Donnell, M A Bartlett, K Kinsella, S O’Laoide,

A McCarthy, J Stack, D Sparrow, B Bent, A Hanlon, Tom Doyle,

Teresa O’Halloran (Secretary).

Apologies: B Earley, C Connor, M Blake, D Deane, J Cahill, S Foley.

Chairman welcomed N O’Connell, DARDNI, representing C Connor and P Brangan, DAF, representing M Blake.

# PRESENTATIONS:

Council received a presentation from Mr Cathal Cowen, Teagasc Food Marketing Research Group, on ‘Welfare Quality - Science and society improving animal welfare’. Further information can be obtained on [www.welfarequality.net](http://www.welfarequality.net). A question and answer session followed. Secretary to circulate Programme and Presentation to Council.

Apologies were received from Mr P Rogan, Chief Veterinary Officer, DAF, who was unable to give his presentation on ‘On-Farm Deaths/Analysis of CMMS data’ due to illness. Chairman, on behalf of Council, extended his best wishes to Mr Rogan. It is hoped to schedule presentation for a later date.

**1. MINUTES**

Minutes adopted with one amendment.

# MATTERS ARISING

***Ritual Slaughter Without Stunning***

Secretary still trying to obtain New Zealand position and hopes to have this for next meeting. Secretary also to circulate document to be provided by CIWF re. slaughter/stunning/review of EU Slaughter Directive.

# FARM ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION GUIDELINES–BROILERWELFARE

Chair reported that group are currently preparing a ‘*Best Practice’* booklet, which will apply to both free-range and intensive chicken rearing systems. The next meeting is scheduled for 22nd November and it will take a few more meetings before final document is produced. CIWF agreed to provide an RSPCA document to Chair for circulation to his working group. Also, Dr A Hanlon agreed to provide Secretary with details of a broiler welfare survey conducted by Prof. D Broom.

# 4. RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FAWAC PUBLICATIONS

A general discussion took place as to what impact FAWAC publications are making. Chairman stated that it would be important to get some measurement and that perhaps there is a need to engage a professional organisation to undertake some research on behalf of FAWAC and to initiate a public awareness campaign. . Some members suggested that the FAWAC Webpage on DAF Website was too obscure and asked that a link be put onto the front page. DAF Website appeared to be targeting farming organisations however there is a need to engage the consumer more. It was also felt that there should be some means for the public to provide feedback on contents of FAWAC Webpage. Chairman said that this item is to remain on the agenda.

# REPORT FROM MEETING WITH ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE DUBLIN (ICCD)

Chair of this sub-group said that a meeting had taken place on 19th September with ICCD at which each side outlined their perspectives and concerns. It was agreed that scientific documentation would be submitted to ICCD for consideration. They are to revert to sub-group at the end of Ramadan (3rd November).

Chair also stated that he had recently discussed the use of a Stunning Assurance Monitor with Mr Steve Wotton, Division of Food and Animal Science, Bristol University, UK.

# 6. WORKING GROUP ON CO-OPERATION (EWS)

Chair of this group reported that three meetings had taken place since Council had last met. EWS has now been rolled out in the North West Region and it is hoped to have it fully rolled out to the other three regions by the end of 2005. To date EWS is operative in Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Donegal, Roscommon, Mayo, Sligo, Longford, Leitrim and Galway. The representatives from IFA/ISPCA/DAF in each of these counties have been asked to meet at local level. ISPCA said that good communication is the key to success of EWS. ISPCA do not have a presence in every county and in some cases will have to depend on the services of a voluntary inspector and not a professional inspector. IFA said that they too had received positive feedback

# 7. UPDATE RE. ‘REPORT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF VETERINARYMEDICINES IN IRELAND’

A major discussion took place regarding current developments in this area, particularly in light of consultation process currently being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Food on the proposed legislation entitled *Animal Remedies Regulations 2005.* Council had at the last meeting expressed serious concern that the recommendations contained in the above report might not be taken on board and that this could have serious consequences for animal welfare. All felt it was critical that the concerns of Council be taken on board before any legislation in this area is adopted. DAF stated that they had addressed some of the concerns and had taken on board some of the recommendations contained within the report however these Regulations will have to be revisited in 2007 in light of exemption criteria contained therein. It was agreed that Council would engage further with DAF closer to 2007.

# 8. EU REVIEW OF SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS LEGISLATION

CIWF pointed out that the EU has started a process of review on slaughter legislation; no documents are available yet for comment or discussion. People can however submit their views on-line for consideration. CIWF agreed to provide information on this item to Secretary for circulation to Council members.

Further discussions took place with regard to the on-farm slaughter of 4,000 pigs. CIWF stated that Council needed to establish, as a general principle, the circumstances in which DAF permitted the use of captive bolt pistol to slaughter animals.

DAF clarified position regarding receipt of video of these events. Chairman stated that position reached at last meeting remains the same. It was agreed that Chairman would write to Minister for Agriculture and Food outlining Council’s concerns at the events surrounding the slaughter of these pigs including making available to Council the final report of its internal investigation.

# ELECTRO-IMMOBILISATION (EI)

DAF stated that a consultation of stakeholders had taken place and that views submitted were under consideration by the Minister. Disbudding is still an issue and it was felt that there is a need to get the message to farmers to disbud. Dr A Hanlon made reference to Norway, where dehorning must be performed before the age of 6 weeks by a veterinarian. Usually, sedation is used and local anaesthesia must be used, and from 2005, some form of long lasting painkiller. Veterinary Ireland expressed the view that if EI is to be prohibited, then it should be done on a phased basis with a total ban on de-horning animals over a certain age – a strategic approach is needed. IFA stated that the two-week period for de-horning is too tight. DAF responded that a change to the two-week time frame would require a change of primary legislation. Chairman requested that Council be updated on EI via email before next meeting.

# TRANSPORT

DAF gave an overview of current state of play re. Regulation 1/2005 referring also to documents supplied in meeting folder. Stakeholders are being consulted. CIWF stated that under the Regulation, Member States can draw up an implementation plan. Chairman suggested that Council could draft a ‘Good Practice’ guide. This would come under the 2006 Programme.

# PROGRAMME OF 2006

Chairman suggested that Secretary list targets set for 2005 and outline to what extent programme was achieved.

# AOB

*Slaughter of Cattle in Lebanon*

CIWF asked if any progress had been made with regard to provision of education and training to Lebanese slaughterhouses. DAF reported that it had been in contact with other EU countries on the matter but there was little to report due to Avian Flu developments. DAF is keeping the matter under review and will report at next meeting. CIWF to provide DAF with a list of contacts.

# 13. UNIVERSITY FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE (13-15 Sept. 2005)

Dr A Hanlon agreed to report back to Council.