MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY FIFTH MEETING OF

THE FARM ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Location: Midlands Park Hotel.

Date: 12th September 2019

Present: Acting Chairperson Sean O’Laoide (Westmeath Co Co), Niall O’Nuallain (DAFM), Rob Doyle (DAFM) Sean O’Leary (IFA), Andrew Kelly (ISPCA), Conor Dowling (ISPCA), Gerald Quain (ICMSA) Alison Hanlon, (UCD), Kevin Kinsella (IFA) Desmond Morrison (ICMSA) Mairead Wallace-Pigott (VI) Eamonn Farrell (ICOS) Bernadette Earley (Teagasc)

Apologies: Professor Patrick Fottrell, Ray Doyle (ICOS)

1. Review of 74th meetings minutes.

Minutes updated with slight corrections.

1. **Dairy Herd Booklet**

Bord Bia to be contacted re Dairy herds welfare booklet, this has been done, awaiting feedback.

1. **Education**

Contact was made with Agri Aware regarding their future involvement in promoting welfare in schools. It was generally agreed by the council that there should be a module within the Agri education sector, e.g. Teagasc courses, it should have a dedicated module within the curriculum of courses.

UCD suggested education sub-committee could provide a framework of subjects that could be included in the curriculum. This was supported by DAFM. It was recognised that ethics and welfare in the Agri sector is evolving at EU level, DAFM agreed that we need to be more pro-active. It was stated that there has been lot of new entrants to dairying and they could benefit from welfare training and need to have a holistic view of the sector. Teagasc informed the council that they met Agri College teachers, included AMR and Welfare, in service training, teachers got handouts etc. There is a formal curriculum review every year in July.

1. **Scientific advisory committee update**

Discussion still ongoing, Alison Hanlon gave a presentation to Scientific committee. There has been a meeting with Department Lab vets, to discuss a retrospective study into abomasal bloat. The issue around level of feeding was raised currently 10% of Body weight but more research may be needed to establish PhD in Teagasc, 51% of dairy farms feeding OAD but over 4 weeks old. Noted that there are lot of products around and difficult to differentiate the quality of those available, no Irish milk replacer on the market.

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1. **Dairy Labour**

The issue of Dairy labour was discussed. The question of how many animals can one person manage was raised. Could a guideline or ratio be possibly developed. It was pointed out that this could be difficult and would not be a straight-line graph.

1. **Calve welfare document.**

An advanced draft has been completed by a consultant and the education committee are to meet shortly to consider this. Short timelines for replies will be given to the FAWAC and then progress.

ICOS has made it clear the industry stakeholders are waiting for this booklet and are keen to promote. Animal Health Ireland are working on material in this area also and it would be a good idea to link in with them. At the next meeting of the education group an invitation will be extended to AHI.

DAFM are to issue updated guidelines on the transport of calves shortly.

1. **Equine welfare.**

Slightly down from last year weather dependent, seizures around the same.

ISPCA has seen an increase in intake of Donkeys. Possibly an impact of being declassified as a livestock unit. The Spring and Summer have been good and feed should be plentiful.

DAFM have seen a reduction in equine related calls so far this year due to the mild Summer as 2018 was especially dry and most calls were re availability of water.

1. **Presentation by Guest Speaker**

Dr Joe Collins of the Donkey Sanctuary made a presentation around the concerns of changes to the Area of Natural Constraint scheme.

AOB.

ISCPA requested that an update on pigs be given at next meeting an invitation to IFA pig committee will be extended.

The Chair thanked Niall O’Nuallain for his service to FAWAC over the last years and wished him the best of luck on his retirement.