



August 12, 2016

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Agri-Marketing Program, Assurance Systems Stream
Tower 7, Floor 7, Room 221
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0C5

c/o Jackie Wepruk, General Manager, National Farm Animal Care Council

Subject: Letter of support for the project entitled, “*Advancing capacity to meet market demands for farm animal welfare assurance*”

Please accept this as a letter of support for the above noted project from the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council (CPEPC). CPEPC is the Canadian national trade organization representing the interests of more than 170 Canadian poultry processors, egg graders and processors and hatcheries. Representing some of the largest agri-food corporations in Canada, our member companies process over 90% of Canada's chicken, turkey, eggs and hatching eggs.

CPEPC and our member companies are on record as noting that animal welfare and the need for consistency in the development of animal care assessment programs are vital priorities for Canadian agriculture. Our strategic plan lists, “*continuing to build on the trust with Customers and Consumers through the implementation of effective Animal Welfare initiatives*” as one of our four strategic priorities.

Canadian consumers are increasingly demanding that industry demonstrate adherence to national standards for animal care and handling through assessment programs. Such programs are necessary in order to maintain social license in animal agriculture through a “trust but verify” approach. Our customers, both domestic and international, require that our supply chains demonstrate adherence to the Codes of Practice facilitated through the NFACC process. In order to ensure that the Codes are put into practise on farm, robust animal care assessment programs must be developed and implemented.

This project proposal will build on the work already accomplished by:

1. Exploring a potential relationship between CFIA's Food Safety Recognition Program (FSRP) & NFACC's Animal Care Assessment Framework (ACAF)
2. Ensuring that key stakeholders that need to be involved and who will utilize and benefit from an animal welfare assurance system are consulted
3. Benchmarking with other assurance processes to facilitate the progression of both the FSRP and ACAF assurance processes

4. Developing a new version of Chicken Farmers of Canada's animal care assessment program. As a key partner in our biggest supply chain, having the CFC program dovetail with the NFACC ACAF is critical for CPEPC and our members.
5. Conducting an Animal Care Assessment Forum

CPEPC and our members have declared animal welfare as a pre-competitive issue. The Animal Care Assessment Framework will help minimize the risk of a fractured marketplace and promote a consistent approach that demonstrates animal welfare accountability in a sustainable manner.

As noted earlier, CPEPC and our members support the request from NFACC for this important project. If you require additional information please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Robin Horel', written in a cursive style.

K. Robin Horel
President and C.E.O.

c. CPEPC Board of Directors