NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ELEVAGE

Challenges, Successes, & Update

Code of Practice for the Transportation of Livestock and Poultry

Betsy Sharples, NFACC Transportation Code Director

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The Code Development Process

7 Steps

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

2+ years to complete

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NFACC Code Process

➢ Step 1

▪ "The national commodity or specialized industry group submits a request to the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) to develop, update, or amend the Code of Practice."

▪ "The commodity or specialized industry group is responsible for organizing its Code Committee based on the Guiding Principles of Codes of Practice and assigning a Chair"

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Challenges

➢ No unified or official national group that represents live animal transport in Canada

▪ Initiating the Code process: identifying and inviting stakeholder participants

▪ "Selling" Code concepts to individual transporters

▪ No formal means of communicating or reviewing Code content with transporter peers

▪ Achieving "buy-in" and utilization by transporters when Code is published

▪ No Staff Liaisons to coordinate sector discussions

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Challenges

➢ Identifying and inviting <u>Transporters</u> to participate

- ▪ No coordinating body at the national level; limited numbers at provincial level

- ▪ Lack of familiarity with NFACC and Codes in general

- ▪ General reluctance for additional "rules" to follow

- ▪ Low-volume commodities = Small-scale transporters

  - • "owner" coordinates operations and drives

  - • Limited time to participate in calls/meetings

- ▪ Transporters may not see value in having a Code of Practice

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NFACC Code Process: Guiding Principles (#11)

➢ Some critical topics should be addressed in each commodity-specific Code…:

- ▪ Accommodation/Housing/Handling Facilities

- ▪ Feed and Water

- ▪ Health Pre-transport considerations

- ▪ Euthanasia

- ▪ Husbandry/Stockmanship

- ▪ Emergency Management and Preparedness, including potential hazards (e.g., barn fires, power outages)

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Challenges

- ➢ Existing Code Development Process created for On-Farm Codes

- ➢ First Code developed using NFACC process that has a focus that is not "on-farm"

- ➢ Entire approach needs to be adjusted to adapt to "off-farm" use
  - ▪ Modified **Scope**
  - ▪ Modified **Process**
  - ▪ Modified **Structure**

- ➢ Phase I established a starting point; Phase II "fine-tuning"

- ➢ Work in Progress: "constant state of flux"
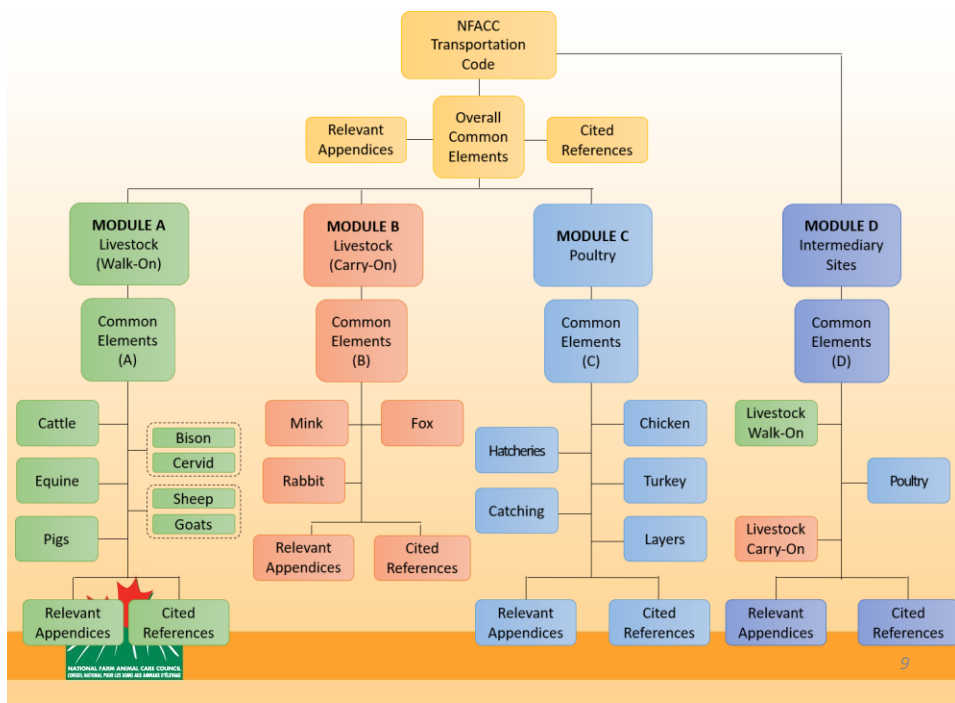
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Transport Code Structure and Process

- ➢ Code Structure, Scope, and Process, as a starting point, decided during Phase I
  - ▪ **Structure**: One Code with a Modular approach
  - ▪ **Scope**: Mode; Vehicles; Animals; Intermediary Sites; Poultry Catching
  - ▪ **Process**: Multiple Working Groups; Editing and Review Committee; Code Development Committee

- ➢ Topics
  - ▪ **Species-specific** (e.g., behaviour, loading densities, understanding fitness for transport)
  - ▪ **Common** (e.g., driver training/competency, driving practices, condition of vehicles)

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Process: Up-Front Reliance on Working Groups

Species-Specific WGs (8)		Common Elements WGs (2)	Other WGs (1+)
• Cattle • Pigs • Equine • Sheep/Goats • Bison/Cervid	• Mink/Fox/ Rabbit • Poultry (Catching & Transport) • Hatchery Transport (Chicks & Poults)	• Overall (all species) • Livestock (Walk-On)	• Intermediary Sites • Others (?)

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Challenges

- ➢ Largest Code undertaken using NFACC process
    - ▪ 14 On-Farm Codes/Animal Types
    - ▪ Continuum includes Intermediary Sites and Poultry Catching
- ➢ Coordinating multiple groups and similar but different content
- ➢ Defining the Content
    - ▪ Common? (all animals)
    - ▪ Module-Specific? (A, B, or C)
    - ▪ Animal Type/Species-Specific?

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Challenges

- ➢ Working Groups
    - ▪ Some are larger than expected (e.g., Poultry, Cattle)
    - ▪ Reliance on and scheduling conference calls/virtual meetings
    - ▪ Slow Start: Initial in-person meeting of each WG could have helped
    - ▪ Understanding the role of Working Groups
        - • Not mini CDCs
        - • WG content subject to further review by Editing & Review Committee and Code Development Committee
        - • "Wordsmithing" not necessary

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Challenges

➤ On-Farm v. On-Road paradigm

- Those involved in on-farm Code development may find it difficult to transition to "off-farm" thinking

➤ Polarized Experiences

- On-farm Code development: understand process and approaches

- No experience/knowledge in Code development: steep learning curve

➤ Educating transporters about how a Code of Practice can provide value to them

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Regulatory Framework

➤ Health of Animals Regulations, Part XII: Transport of Animals

- Existing regulation with accompanying "*Compromised Animals Policy*" in effect until Feb/20

- Updated regulations with "*Interpretive Guidance for Regulated Parties*" takes effect Feb/20

➤ Road safety regulations for transporters

- Legal thresholds: do not apply to all transporters

➤ Other Regulatory Requirements

- Safe Food for Canadians Act & Regulations

- Provincial Transportation of Animals/Livestock Sales legislation

- Import/Export Requirements

- …

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Challenges

➢ HAR: Part XII

- Transporters may not see value in having a Code of Practice

- How to incorporate HAR into the Code

- Rewording HAR Requirements for "laymen" use (from legalese)

- Updated HAR not in effect: further clarification needed

- Regulated Parties extends beyond "transporters"; how to address different party responsibilities in the Code

- Interpretive Guidance for Reregulated Parties: "*may be further revised based on advances in relevant science, new transport related technologies, review of data from implementation experiences, and feedback from regulated parties, the public, CFIA staff and trading partners*"

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SUCCESSES AND PROGRESS

Code of Practice for the Transportation of Livestock and Poultry

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Success and Progress

➢ 3 Code Managers & 1 Code Director contacted

➢ 11 Stakeholder Outreach webinars (Jan/Feb, 2019)

  ▪ Review process; prioritize WG participation

➢ 11 WG Orientation webinars (Jun – Sep, 2019)

  ▪ Review Code process and participant expectations

➢ 8 "Species-Specific" Working Groups established (90+ participants)

➢ 3 SC Report presentations (Pigs, Cattle, Poultry)

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Successes and Progress

➢ 25+ WG conference calls/virtual meetings held/scheduled

➢ 2 In-Person WG meetings held (Poultry; Pigs)

➢ 3 In-Person WG meetings scheduled (Cattle, Mink/Fox/Rabbit, Poultry)

➢ 1 Editing & Review Committee meeting held

➢ *Transporter Roundtable* established; 1 conference call held

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Thank You

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