



CODE-EFABAR

A Code of Good Practice for farm animal breeding and reproduction

The Challenge

Genetic modification and cloning are of concern to the general public and as such animal breeding, genetics and reproduction sectors are regularly in the news. At the start of the food chain, farm animal breeders have a direct responsibility to provide quality genetically improved livestock (cattle, pigs, poultry, and fish) to farmers. They indirectly influence food safety and public health, product quality, efficiency, environment, animal health and welfare, and genetic diversity. The European Farm Animal Breeders have created a **Code of Good Practice** for Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction to ensure that animal welfare and environmental standards are maintained.

This code, named **CODE-EFABAR**, was developed as a joint cooperation between farm animal breeders - through the European Forum for Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB) - and professional input on communication, certification and ethics. The Code will help breeders to demonstrate in a transparent and verifiable way what their animal welfare and environmental goals are and how they achieve them. Animals used for breeding are a special case as their genetic makeup is passed on to future generations of stock.

The Code sets out the goals of animal breeding organisations, the way in which these goals are pursued, and the rules or standards that govern the activities of breeders. It applies to pig, poultry, cattle and aquaculture and covers standards in the areas of animal health and welfare, product quality, biodiversity and economic sustainability.

Project Objective

They key aims of the Code were:

- To become the standard instrument, in Europe, for defining and implementing good practice in farm animal breeding;
- In this way, to give guidance and reassurance to European breeders in a field that is both complex and of growing importance
- To create greater transparency in the relationship between the European breeding and reproduction sector and the public.

Output Highlights

Code description

The code has a section on General Statements where the breeder can look for a broad idea of what the Code requires. This section contains general principles, with which organizations implementing the Code



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EATiP Thematic Area of Relevance

TA1: Product Quality, Consumer Safety and Health

TA2: Technology and Systems

TA3: Managing the Biological Lifecycle

TA4: Sustainable Feed Production

TA5: Integration with the Environment

TA6: Knowledge Management

TA7: Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare

TA8: Socio-Economics and Management

Key Words

Animal welfare, Good practice, sustainability, product quality

Project Information

Contract number:

506506

Contract type:

Specific Targeted Innovation Project

Action line:

FOOD-2003-T5.3 Development of cost-effective tools for risk management and traceability systems for zoonotic agents and marine biotoxins in seafood

Duration:

18 months (01/01/2005 – 31/12/2007)

Coordinator:

Mrs. Anne-Marie Neeteson - European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders, EFFAB Secretariat
Benedendorpsweg 98, 6862 WL Oosterbeek, The Netherlands

Tel:

+31 26 339 15 38

E-mail:

effab@effab.info

Project website:

www.code-efabar.org

www.effab.org



must comply.

Sustainability

Sustainability addresses six target areas that need to be balanced in sustainable farm animal breeding. These are: food safety and public health, product quality, genetic diversity, efficiency, the environment, and animal health and welfare. This section of the code, like the one that follows on technology, is both prescriptive and descriptive. It contains recommendations, but it also provides information about the way in which breeders currently accommodate the six areas of value.

Technology

The Code provides information on a range of technologies used in modern breeding and reproduction. It discusses animal identification and data recording, Marker Assisted Selection (MAS), artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer (ET). The aim is to explain how these technologies are employed in the European breeding and reproduction sector, and to connect this with the goal of sustainability. The code illustrates the limits of technology use imposed by ethics and public perception. It indicates, for example, that genetic modification and cloning of adult cells are not currently undertaken by European breeders owing both to technological problems and consumer concerns.

The Full Report:

The full Code-EFABAR can be downloaded from the EFFAB web site, visit www.code-efabar.org, www.effab.org

Next Steps – Suggested Actions/Follow On



Policy

- Breeding organisations can adopt the Code or have it certified in a running management scheme. However, implementation of the Code will be voluntary. In addition, the Code's provisions are intended to complement, and do not replace, both existing national and European legal obligations and other, already introduced Good Practice initiatives.



Knowledge Transfer

- Commitment to continuous improvement is an integral part of the code: every two years the code will be reviewed by EFFAB, in consultation with stakeholders. EFFAB will also be responsible for encouraging businesses to implement its recommendations and will provide training and advice on the practical implications, costs, and advantages of abiding by the Code.
- Training courses (approximately 10 per year) are given on adapting Code-EFABAR. A workshop for companies involved in breeding was also organised.



Environment

- It has the potential to allow the standardisation of environmental improvements in breeding (including aquaculture)

Other

- CODE-EFABAR has the potential to have a significant positive effect on animal welfare. As it is one universal tool it can facilitate communication internationally and across species. It can be ISO certified - however, as yet the uptake of the Code is voluntary and so is limited in this respect.

Related Publications/Projects

SEFABAR - Development of international sustainability standards across species, in collaboration with stakeholders and NGO's and industry.