

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Food Safety Authority Opens Public Consultation on Animal Welfare Guidance Methodology

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

As part of the European Green Deal's Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F), the European Commission (EC) aims to review EU legislation for animal welfare and align it with the general sustainability goals. In particular, the EC has requested the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) provide scientific opinions for new animal welfare initiatives. EFSA will use a harmonized methodology in drafting these opinions, and they will be released throughout the year. Therefore, EFSA is seeking public comments on its draft guidance methodology. The public consultation is now open until March 28, 2022.

Animal Welfare Update:

On February 14, 2022, EFSA [announced](#) the launch of an [open consultation](#) on the draft guidance methodology it will use for a series of scientific opinions on the welfare of farmed animals. The consultation runs until March 28, 2022. The European Commission requested these opinions to guide its future animal welfare (AW) initiatives as part of the European Green Deal's Farm to Fork ([F2F Strategy](#)). The scientific opinions, which are due between June 2022 and March 2023, will cover the welfare of animals during transport, as well as on-farm welfare of specific species, particularly calves, laying hens, broilers, pigs, ducks, geese and quail, and dairy cows.

The methodology guidance document will define harmonized methods and strategies to be applied consistently across the opinions. Among other things, the guidance will list and describe the welfare consequences of husbandry conditions that are known to affect animals. A new methodology for assessing welfare by comparing the conditions that animals experience on farms to "natural" conditions (e.g. if they were given unlimited space) will also be included.

For reference, these are European Commission presentations sharing more information on animal welfare objectives within the F2F Strategy:

- https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2020-06/aw_platform_20200615_pres-02.pdf
- https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2020-11/comm_ahac_20201029_pres-05a.pdf

Attachments:

No Attachments.