

NAWAC Pigs Subcommittee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

- Provide evidence-based animal welfare advice to the Minister responsible for animal welfare to support a move away from the current use of farrowing crate systems and mating stalls.

Expectations for work delivery

- Review the animal welfare performance of available farrowing systems in order to identify those systems that align with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- Provide clear and timely advice that will assist a transition to farrowing systems that will be acceptable to consumers and future proofed.
- Draw on advice and expertise from various groups and individuals outside the subcommittee across the country and around the world, who can inform and challenge the members' thinking.
- Practical and economic considerations may be noted by NAWAC but must not override animal welfare considerations. MPI will perform the economic analysis and prepare Regulatory Impact Statements as required based on NAWAC's preliminary findings.
- Ensure the code working group is informed by NAWAC's thinking on farrowing crates and mating stalls and vice-versa.

Membership

Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Arnja Dale, Craig Johnson, Nick Poutu, Grant Shackell, Karin Schutz.

Timelines

	Pigs Subcommittee	Code Working Group
December	15 December initial meeting 16 December expert speakers 17 December farm visit	Introductory meeting
January	Continued farm visits and expert speakers Update Minister	
February	Continued farm visits and expert speakers if necessary Report farrowing crate and mating stall progress to NAWAC	1 – 2 workshops

March	Finalise farrowing crate and mating stall recommendations	Additional workshops if necessary Report code review recommendations to NAWAC Pigs Subcommittee
April	Subcommittee convenes to finalise entire draft code	
May	Report draft code to NAWAC NAWAC recommends draft code to Minister for public consultation	

Administration

- Discussions held by the subcommittee are not shared outside of meetings without notice to other members and the Chair, and approval from the Minister, including through the media and social media.
- Members work together as a team and will be free and frank with information and advice, and respectful of each other's views.
- Agendas are agreed by the subcommittee at each meeting.
- The subcommittee will meet face-to-face at least once and otherwise as needed; meetings can be by web meeting and work can be by email.
- Costs and, if necessary, an honorarium for time, can be claimed back per established MPI policy.
- Members are expected to attend every meeting.
- The subcommittee will report back to the Minister an update on progress and next steps by the end of January 2021, and with an amended code of welfare that includes new standards for farrowing crates and mating stalls by May 2021.
- Conflicts of interest are registered.