

New Manitoba barn fire prevention standards are not adequate

Livestock barn fires are happening at alarming rates. Despite efforts by CCFA and other groups to convince the Office of the Manitoba Fire Commissioner to significantly improve standards in the province for farm buildings, the recently announced revised standards are inadequate. They call for fire alarms, exit signs and sprinklers **only** when there are 75 or more employees, which is never the case in animal agriculture operations. The revised standards apply only to new farm buildings or to major renovations over 600m², thus retrofitting existing barns is not required. Older Manitoba barns – those most at risk for fire – are not required to meet the new standards.

You can help improve the **federal** fire code for farm buildings by writing:

The Standing Committee on Fire Protection,
Canadian Codes Center
Institute for Research in Construction
National Research Council of Canada, Building M-23A,
1200 Montreal Road,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R6

For further information, see <http://tinyurl.com/28cd4m8>.



Burned sows from a barn fire

credit: CEFTA

Plan ahead for the holidays!

With the holidays approaching, please consider animals in your planning. Why not plan a tasty veggie dinner for the holidays? See our recipes page for some great seasonal ideas: <http://humanefood.ca/recipes.html>.

French translators needed

Are you fluent in French and have some time to help CCFA? We are looking for volunteers to translate our recently updated fact sheets and the farm animal information pages on our website. If you are able to help, please contact Lynn at lynnk@rogers.com.

Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals is a *non-profit* coalition of 25 organizations dedicated to the welfare of animals raised for food in Canada.

Our work is only possible through donations from individuals such as yourself.

Contact us: info@humanefood.ca Our website: www.humanefood.ca.

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Animal truck accidents occurring far too often

Four livestock truck roll-overs in three weeks during October have prompted calls for mandatory certification of truckers. Hundreds of pigs and young cattle died in the Ontario accidents, or were shot by police on-site. Pigs lay dead and dying on a highway on-ramp which closed major highways for hours. Several drivers were charged with careless driving when they lost control of the vehicles on turns.

CCFA has long advocated mandatory training for truckers, but federal agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz has yet to announce much-needed revisions to Canada's transport standards which may require mandatory animal handling training.

Have your say about revised animal transport standards. Click our *Contact-your-MP* function:
http://humanefood.ca/news_take_action_bill_C-468.html.

CFIA increases fines for transport infractions

In a surprise move on October 27, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced significantly-increased financial penalties for those who mistreat and improperly transport animals. The new fee schedule is the first increase in ten years. Penalties up to \$10,000 can be imposed, more than doubling the previous maximum penalty of \$4,000 for violations under the *Health of Animals Act*. The CFIA will also be able to look back over the past five years to determine an offender's history of previous violations.

CCFA welcomes the increased penalties for violations, noting the vital importance of having CFIA inspectors in the field, and the need for them to **actively enforce the regulations**.



Tasmania is phasing out sow stalls. Will Canada be next?

Pigs are among the most intelligent species, yet mother pigs are confined in metal boxes barely larger than their bodies during their four-month pregnancies – unable to walk or even turn around. Sows suffer painful ailments and depression from the intense confinement.

Progress against sow stalls has come to Australia. The state of Tasmania has banned sow stalls, effective 2017, on recommendation of the Tasmanian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. By 2014, the state will limit the use of sow stalls to six weeks per pregnancy.



Elsewhere, effective 2013, the European Union will ban sow stalls. Several U.S. states are phasing them out through ballot initiatives or legislative change. Canada has no such progressive standards in place – yet.

Canada's voluntary code of practice for pigs is soon to undergo its first revision in 17 years. Up for discussion will be key welfare issues such as sow stalls and surgical mutilations without pain relief, including piglet castration. CCFA will be watching and commenting, encouraging change to these entrenched and inhumane practices. Stay tuned.

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