

Animal Welfare: breeders further update standards

Tuesday, 30th May 2023

Today marks the launch of the 7th edition of [Code EFABAR](#), the code of good practices for responsible and balanced animal breeding. [EFFAB](#) reviews the code every three years to guarantee it meets the latest scientific developments.

This revision comes at a time when animal welfare and commitments towards more sustainable farming, are more relevant than ever. Later this year, the European Commission will publish its proposal to revise the animal welfare legislation and broaden its scope. Code EFABAR highlights the commitments of the animal breeding sector toward sustainability and animal welfare. It also shows how breeders have implemented the concept of balanced breeding over the last 20 years.

It is essential to recognise that the concept of balanced breeding as developed in [Code EFABAR](#) is the standard used by the sector. Contrary to common belief, the breeding practises of 20 years ago (such as selection for specific traits for productivity purposes) do not apply anymore. Policymakers must clearly work on that basis when proposing future changes.

Craig Lewis, EFFAB Chairman: *“Just the same as the breeds we work with, Code EFABAR continues to evolve. Within the wider context of increased social transparency, environmental sustainability, and our ever-present desire to improve the welfare of animals. This future focused code not only outlines the current balanced breeding strategies but also has a view of how new technology could positively impact food system”.*

About EFFAB

EFFAB (European Forum for Animal Breeding) represents the sector of animal breeding and reproduction in Europe. From ruminants to insects, we aim at genetically improving various farm animal species, to better meet the challenges of sustainability and animal welfare. Technology, responsible science and innovation are key to our work and to the future of farming. www.effab.info

About balanced breeding

Balanced and responsible breeding means finding a sustainable compromise for the people, the planet, and for farmed animals between traits related to the health and welfare of animals, their environmental impacts, and the quality and quantity of production (milk, meat, fish meat and eggs) whilst keeping genetic diversity.

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