

Shaping the Future Towards Responsible and Balanced Animal Breeding in Europe:

7th Edition of Code EFABAR

Brussels, Belgium – 13 February 2024

*The **7th Edition of Code EFABAR**, presented in May 2023 by the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB) is now ready for use. Code EFABAR caters to farmed animal species (aquaculture, insects, pigs, poultry, ruminants) across a diversity of production systems (from conventional to organics), and it is based on [responsible and balanced breeding](#) strategies. The 6 pillars of Code EFABAR range from improving the health and welfare of animals, to mitigating and adapting to climate change, and recognising the central role of animal breeding in working **with and for farmers to improve sustainability and ensure food security**.*

The release of the 7th Edition of the Code EFABAR marks a significant step forward in transparency, showing the EFFAB members' journey towards responsible and balanced animal breeding. The sector has proactively adopted the concept of balanced breeding as defined by Code EFABAR; **debunking the widespread belief that sole productivity focus strategies are still in use**. The Code proves the eagerness of the sector to reduce GHG and ensure high levels of animal health and welfare, among many others.

Code EFABAR's principles are adaptable to all animal farming systems. Updated every three years, Code EFABAR reflects the dynamic nature of modern breeding programs in responding to environmental challenges, and societal expectations. The objectives and standards of the breeding programs have deeply evolved in the last two decades. Today, for instance, [40% of the traits in poultry breeding programs focus on improving the welfare of the birds](#).

The recognition by stakeholders and policymakers of Code EFABAR as the endorsed reference of current breeding practices would lay the necessary foundation for further improvement. By coactively embracing this standard, we aim to persist in breeders' continuous efforts towards sustainability.

Code EFABAR actively contributes to a future grounded in a high level of sustainability and resilience of the EU food systems.

Commenting on the relevance of the novelties included in the code, **Miguel-Angel Higuera**, Chair of Copa-Cogeca's Working Party on Animal Health & Welfare said:

"Breeders are key partners of farmers to respond to the challenges the animal farming sector faces. By promoting responsible breeding strategies and practices, the code positively impacts the resilience and sustainability of the sector ensuring food security. The code's emphasis on genetic diversity is particularly noteworthy. As the voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives, we welcome this new version and encourage all breeders to adopt the Code EFABAR."

And **Eurogroup for Animals** stated that:

"Eurogroup for Animals welcomes the integration of Animal Welfare as a fundamental pillar within the 6 Code EFABAR pillars and the recognition by animal breeders of the Five Domains model as a comprehensive framework for comprehending and gauging animal welfare. Better welfare by avoiding negative effects but also improving positive behaviour is, for us, a major step in this new version. We believe there is potential to increase ambition in the future."

[Find out more about Code EFABAR](#)

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About EFFAB

EFFAB (European Forum for Animal Breeding) represents the sector of animal breeding and reproduction in Europe. From ruminants to insects, from conventional to organic systems, 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 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.