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I. Velander J. Venneman

SEGES
EFFAB, Rue de Trèves 61, B-1040, Brussels, Belgium

Summary

Within the European Union, animal farming generates approximately 60% of total agricultural and aquacultural output. They are at the start of the food chain and have a direct responsibility to provide to farmers. They must deal with a wide range of stakeholders. In society, increasingly interested in health, welfare and other aspects of animal production, Code EFABAR the commitment to responsible breeding. This voluntary Code is designed to provide users with a practical guide to help them to achieve sustainable and balanced farm animal breeding. The first Code EFABAR was launched in 2006 and revised in 2013 and 2017. The Code EFABAR is an initiative of the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB) The Code of three different sections; a general statement, a part on sustainable breeding and a section on technologies. The sustainable breeding section addresses in the species-specific templates six different categories: Food Safety and Public Health, Product Quality, Genetic Diversity, Resource efficiency, Environment and Animal Health and Welfare. Adoption of the Code EFABAR will help organizations to communicate with all kind of stakeholders about their breeding objectives, breeding program and the use of breeding and reproduction techniques. The Code EFABAR can also be a guide for internal process in the breeding organizations.

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Introduction

Within the European Union, animal farming generates approximately 60% of total agricultural and aquacultural output. They are at the start of the food chain and have a direct responsibility to provide to farmers. They must deal with a wide range of stakeholders. In society, increasingly interested in health, welfare and other aspects of animal production, Code EFABAR the commitment to responsible breeding. This voluntary Code is designed to provide users with a practical guide to help them to achieve sustainable and balanced farm animal breeding. The first Code EFABAR was launched in 2006 and revised in 2013 and 2017. The Code EFABAR is an initiative of the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB) The Code of three different sections; a general statement, a part on sustainable breeding and a section on technologies. The sustainable breeding section addresses in the species-specific templates six different categories: Food Safety and Public Health, Product Quality, Genetic Diversity, Resource efficiency, Environment and Animal Health and Welfare. Adoption of the Code EFABAR will help organizations to communicate with all kind of stakeholders about their breeding objectives, breeding program and the use of breeding and reproduction techniques. The Code EFABAR can also be a guide for internal process in the breeding organizations.
agricultural and aquacultural output. Animal breeding plays a crucial role in the global food supply chain. Farm animal breeders are at the start of the food chain and have a direct responsibility to provide. Animal breeders must deal with a wide range of stakeholders, including customers, policy-makers, consumers, citizens etc. in the development of breeding. In Europe, involved in agriculture most consumers are distant from the origin of the food production. Consumers deserve reliable information about the way their food is produced and how need and concern are taken into consideration. In a society increasingly interested in health, welfare, environment and other aspects of animal production, it is important that animal breeders take responsibility for their part of the animal production chain. Therefore, transparency about the various aspects of food production is important.

Code EFABAR, the commitment to responsible breeding, is a Code of good practice for farm animal breeding organisations. This voluntary Code is designed to provide users with a practical guide to help them to achieve sustainable and balanced farm animal breeding, whilst delivering improved transparency for wider society. The use of Code EFABAR demonstrates that breeders carry out responsible breeding. The Code is applicable to many farmed animal species, and species-specific templates have been developed for cattle, pigs, poultry and fish. The first Code EFABAR was launched 2006 and revised in 2013 and 2017. The Code EFABAR is an initiative of the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB) and the organization is issuing Adoption Certificates. The two main objectives of Code EFABAR are to be the standard instrument for defining and maintaining sustainable and responsible farm animal breeding and to create transparency for the society. The aim of this paper is to describe some benefits for to adopt/certify the Code EFABAR.

**Parts of the Code**

The code constitutes of three different section; a general statement, a part on sustainable breeding and a section on technologies.

**General Statements**

Implementing the Code EFABAR must comply with the following general statements:

- comply with all relevant national and EU legislation e.g. zootechnical, animal welfare and animal health related.
- consult and collaborate with international, national and regional authorities for the development and implementation of policies to support economic, environmental and social sustainability of the animal breeding sector.
- maintain high standards of biosecurity to minimize transmission of diseases.
- ensure the health and welfare of the animals under their care.
- ensure balanced breeding to produce sufficient, safe, nutritious and healthy food,
whilst considering genetic diversity, resource efficiency, environment, animal health and animal welfare.

**Sustainable breeding**

The sustainable breeding section addresses in the species-specific templates six different categories. Each category is divided into a breeding element, describing the breeding objectives and breeding program, and a management element, presenting the activities at the organizations own premises.

1) **Food Safety and Public Health**

are aware of the potential risk of transmitting diseases from animals to humans. They are also aware of the risk of antimicrobial resistance.

2) **Product Quality**

Product quality is a key issue for and therefor always on their radar. The most appropriate animals in a population are selected for their key traits to improve the product quality for various consumers. Besides, more and more attention is paid to the breeding of animals that can produce specific products for specific consumers.

3) **Genetic Diversity**

Ensuring enough genetic diversity in breeding populations is a prerequisite for sustainable breeding programs. Also in general breeding organisations are aware of the necessity to maintain genetic diversity for conservation and (future) breeding purposes.

4) **Resource efficiency**

Resource Efficiency is an integral part of sustainability. The increasingly globalized market for animal products requires to breed more resource efficient animals (both input and meet the growing demand for animal products while simultaneously meeting the growing shortage of natural resources.

5) **Environment**

Reducing the environmental footprint, including the influence of animals on and the adaptation of animals to climate are essential elements in breeding programmes.

6) **Animal Health and Welfare**

Improving animal health and animal welfare is not only essential for the profitability of animal production, but also for meeting societal expectations about these issues. Often animal welfare is closely related with animal health. are also aware of animal welfare issues not related directly to animal health.
Breeding and reproduction techniques

The Code specifically addresses the use of technology within both breeding and reproduction.

Benefits of adoption/certification

The adoption of the Code EFABAR will help to communicate with all kinds of stakeholders about their breeding objectives, breeding program and the use of breeding and reproduction techniques. Consumers and citizens in general have less direct involvement in agriculture and deserve information about what do regarding health, welfare, environmental and other aspects of animal production. The Code EFABAR can help domestic and foreign authorities to be well informed about the development within the breeding. The Code EFABAR can facilitate this with an informative description. Both domestic and international customers can get a better understanding of expected future genetic gain through information available in the Code EFABAR. In between partners, it is important to have a shared understanding of and how to solve problems. In such a joint project, the Code EFABAR can be an asset for partners to find common mutual understanding. During the procedure to adopt the Code EFABAR the internal processes new goals and methods evaluated. The Code EFABAR is also a tool in the internal work to keep high standard in the handling of animals.

List of References

http://www.responsiblebreeding.eu/