



CODE •
EFABAR

The commitment
to responsible breeding



Code EFABAR

**PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE BREEDING
OF FARM ANIMALS ACROSS EUROPE**

Version 2024



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INTRODUCTION

Animal breeding and reproduction form a vital part European food production systems. Across Europe, millions of animals are bred every year, including beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, laying hens and many different species of fish. The companies, cooperatives and organisations that breed animals in Europe are working to provide the highest standards of health, welfare, safety and sustainability.

Code EFABAR is a voluntary initiative of best practices to be used by EFFAB members that commit to defined criteria of responsible breeding of livestock species. It was introduced in 2006 and is reviewed and updated every three years. This document relates to the latest version of the code, published in 2024



Promoting sustainability

Farm animal breeders are an important element of the European food systems. The practices they adopt directly impact the animals that farmers rear to provide sustainable, nutritious and tasty food to EU citizens. Code EFABAR recognises the central role of sustainability in safeguarding both European and global food security for today and the future. In 2023, the six corer values of the Code were updated to align with relevant UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Code EFABAR brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including animal breeders, scientists, welfare experts and consumers



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Improved animal health and welfare



Improving animal health and welfare is essential to meet society's demands for ethical food production.

Food safety and public health



Breeding organisations work to reduce the risk of diseases of being transmitted from animals to humans. Improving resistance to diseases, they reduce the use of antimicrobials and the food waste as minimising antimicrobial resistance.

Reduction of environment impact



Reducing the environmental footprint of food production is central to breeding best practice.

The six pillars of Code EFABAR

Better use of resources



Better use of resources is central to Code EFABAR, and can be achieved through techniques like breeding animals with optimal feed use.

better production and quality of products



Product quality is a key focus for breeding organisations. The most appropriate animals in a population are selected for key traits like leanness of meat.

Preserving genetic diversity



Making sure there is a high level of genetic diversity within populations is a prerequisite for responsible breeding programmes.

PROMOTING BEST PRACTICES

Code EFABAR is designed to promote sustainability and responsibility among EFFAB members. The code is based on Europe's highly respected legislative framework for food standards and their underlying principles. EFFAB members who adopt the code are making commitment to practice responsible breeding. Code EFABAR may be used to assist to promote globally these principles of good practices

EFFAB members are improving animal health and welfare by breeding animals that are more robust and resilient to diseases

Code EFABAR objectives include:



- Defining and promoting sustainable and responsible standards for farm animal breeding
- Promoting transparency
- Setting standards that first match and then exceed current national and EU legislation
- A commitment to continuous improvement of environmental and social responsibility
- Working to meet United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Code EFABAR is an initiative of the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB)

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