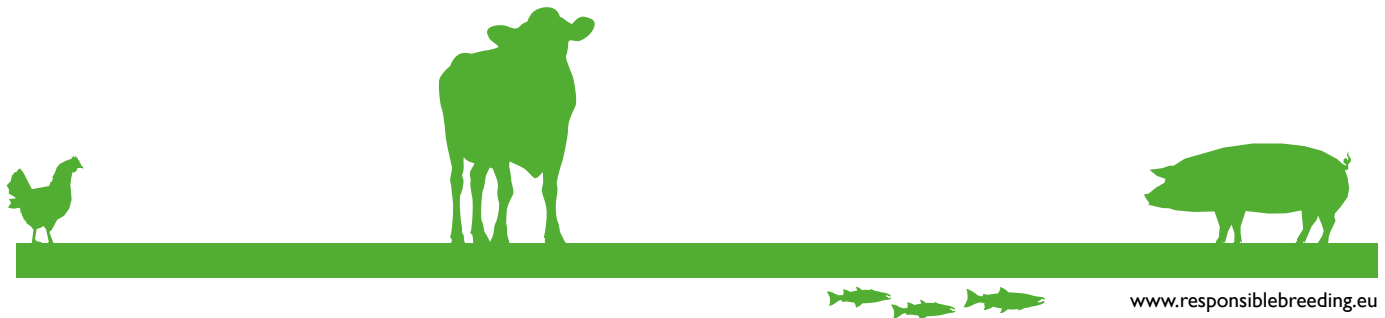




CODE EFABAR
the commitment to responsible breeding

**Code-EFABAR® is a voluntary code of good practice
for responsible farm animal breeding.**

Responsible farm animal breeding is an important part of a sustainable and healthy food supply chain. By following the Code, breeding organisations are demonstrating that they are committed to supporting a sustainable future.



THE COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE BREEDING

Farm animal breeders stand at the beginning of the food chain. They have a direct task to provide responsible and healthy livestock for farmers.

Code-EFABAR is designed to provide breeding organisations with a practical guide and tool to help achieve sustainable and balanced farm animal breeding whilst delivering improved transparency for wider society. Code-EFABAR is based on practical codes of conduct to ensure optimal food safety and public health, animal health and welfare, resource efficiency, reduced environmental impact, and product quality. Through Code-EFABAR breeders demonstrate their commitment to responsible farm animal breeding, by following high standards of animal management and thus by positively contributing to a more sustainable future.

Code-EFABAR is intended to be both transparent and verifiable. Thus it is easy to understand and to be integrated into existing management. It gives practical guidelines to put responsible breeding into practice.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CODE FOR RESPONSIBLE BREEDING

Code-EFABAR, the commitment to responsible farm animal breeding, has developed over a number of years from a series of European Commission funded projects. The projects involved a wide range of stakeholders and scientists, including animal breeders, bioethicists, welfare experts, economists, lawyers and consumers. The projects helped to define sustainability and those areas where ‘breeding can make a difference’.

Code-EFABAR was launched in March 2006. It is executed and safeguarded by the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB). The Code has been revised and updated every three years. The latest update is for 2014-2016.



IMPLEMENTING CODE-EFABAR

Breeders implementing Code-EFABAR must make clear the steps they have taken to integrate Code-EFABAR in their daily management. The Code has specific guidelines for implementation for poultry, pig, cattle and aquaculture breeders. By implementing Code-EFABAR they comply with the following five general statements:

- ✓ Comply with all relevant national and EU legislation e.g. zootechnical, animal welfare and animal health legislation.
- ✓ 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 minimise disease transmission.
- ✓ Ensure the health and welfare of the animals under their care.
- ✓ Ensure balanced selection for production, reproduction, health, welfare, robustness and environmental load.

Code-EFABAR is designed in such a way that it is possible to integrate into existing management practices and with other certification mechanisms. Breeders can choose either to adopt Code-EFABAR or to have their implementation of the Code certified.

BREEDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The production of animal products involves many global sustainability issues: animal health and welfare, environment, use of natural resources, biodiversity, food safety and public health, and production efficiency. Breeders are able to positively contribute to these challenges, by including them in their breeding programmes. Code-EFABAR has guidelines for breeders to ensure and improve:

Animal health

High standards of animal health are critical to safeguard animal welfare, resource efficiency and secure public health and food safety.

Animal welfare

Welfare encompasses the animal's general physical condition, its mental state, its biological fitness and its ability to cope with adverse environmental conditions.

Environment

Animal production involves emissions to the environment. Breeders are responsible for reducing the environmental impact of their business, and may select animals capable of reducing the environmental footprint and improving the ecological efficiency of farm animal production.

Use of natural resources

The input of natural resources for animal production is one of the main aspects causing environmental pressure. Balancing efficiency criteria in breeding forms an integral part of sustainability.

Biodiversity

Breeders carefully monitor and maintain the genetic diversity in their breeding populations, and work to minimise inbreeding.

Food safety and public health

Food safety and public health are important aspects to secure the supply of safe and healthy food. Farm animal breeders work to minimise these risks and to improve animals' natural genetic resistance to diseases, thereby reducing the need for veterinary medication and decreasing the risk of developing antimicrobial resistance.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

We are dedicated to share and discuss with you our commitment to responsible farm animal breeding. If you have questions or want more information on Code-EFABAR, please visit the website: www.responsiblebreeding.eu, or contact the office of the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB).

Code-EFABAR is an initiative of the EFFAB.

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