

PRESS RELEASE

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Breeders launch Code of Good Practice for animal breeding

Code-EFABAR, the voluntary code of good practice for farm animal breeding and reproduction is re-launched in Brussels this week. With the new Code-EFABAR, animal breeders show their commitment to responsible breeding and go beyond existing legislation. Mr. Denis Simonin, European Commission / DG Sanco, praised this breeders' initiative to work together to improve practice. The Danish Pig Research Centre received the first certificate of the new Code-EFABAR.

Code-EFABAR, the commitment to responsible breeding, is a voluntary Code of Good Practice initiated for and by the animal breeding and reproduction sector. Code-EFABAR, which was initiated in 2006, is re-launched this week in Brussels, after an intensive review and update.

'This is an interesting initiative, to address key issues and adapt to new developments', said Denis Simonin, Directorate-General Health and Consumers, 'doing this together as industry is important for competitiveness.'

Farm animal breeders stand at the beginning of the food production chain. Gerard Albers, chair of the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB): 'Breeders have a direct responsibility to provide sustainable and healthy livestock for farmers'. Code-EFABAR aims at delivering improved transparency for wider society on how breeders contribute to a responsible and healthy livestock sector. 'EFFAB feels committed to encourage responsible breeding. We are proud that Code-EFABAR contributes to this', added Albers.

Code-EFABAR is designed to provide breeders with a practical guide to help achieve sustainable and balanced farm animal breeding. The Code addresses codes of conduct to ensure optimal food safety and public health, animal health and welfare, resource efficiency, reduced environmental impact, and product quality. The Code is reviewed every three years to be up to date with the latest developments and to request a continuous improvement of breeding practices.

During the launch several breeders illustrated the role of Code-EFABAR to support responsible breeding in their company. 'The Code is a practical tool to help us continuously improve our breeding programmes in combination with social responsibility for animal welfare and the environment', said Wiepk Voskamp (CRV). According to Sven Arild Korsvoll of Aquagen, Code-EFABAR is valuable for increasing transparency to clients and society. 'The Code helps us in the communication with our clients and with our staff. It is easily implemented and fits well within our existing management schemes.' The Code, initiated in Europe, influences breeding practices globally. Frédéric Fagnoul (Hubbard Breeders): 'Code-EFABAR has become a global standard in our company for quality control.'

Ingela Velander of the Danish Pig Research Centre received the first certificate of the new Code-EFABAR for the period 2014/2016. Velander: 'Code-EFABAR has helped our industry a lot to increase transparency nationally and to the consumers. The Code has been very valuable for us, internally and externally.'



Code-EFABAR, the commitment to responsible breeding, is an initiative of EFFAB – the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders.

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