

The FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching

John J. McGlone

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA

The FASS Ag Guide (Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching) was revised in 2010 and published by the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS). FASS is a federation of scientific societies that includes the American Society of Animal Science, The American Dairy Science Society and the Poultry Science Association. The FASS Animal Care Committee organizes the publication and periodic revision of the Ag Guide. The Ag Guide was written by 64 professionals (animal scientists, agricultural engineers and veterinarians) with experience in farm animal care. The recent version underwent a review process in which the document was peer reviewed by three Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) containing over 30 animal welfare specialists. The document was published on line for public comments which included the opportunity for review by commercial farms and animal activists. The revision accommodated the peer and public comments as long as the suggestions were consistent with the best available science. The FASS Ag Guide is used by the USDA and by AAALAC International in oversight programs (inspection and accreditation processes, respectively) in the USA. The Ag Guide is also used in limited ways by commercial farming organizations as the basis for industry guidelines. It is expected that any international harmonization of farm animal care standards would be consistent with the FASS Ag Guide.

* Dr. McGlone is Chair of the FASS Animal Care Committee and a member of the Board of Trustees of AAALAC International