

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Food Safety Authority Updates Recommendations for Transport of Farm Animals

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

One of the goals of the EU's Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy is to enhance the EU's animal welfare legislation. The enforcement of existing legislation on animal welfare during transport has proven difficult in past years. At the request of the European Commission, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published a set of scientific opinions with suggestions for new legislative initiatives to improve animal welfare during the transportation of cattle, small ruminants, equidae, pigs and farm birds and rabbits.

On September 7, 2022, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published a [set of updated animal welfare recommendations](#) for the transport of various farm animals. Separate recommendations were published for cattle, small ruminants, equidae, pigs, and farm birds and rabbits. The five new scientific opinions are intended to support the European Union's (EU) ongoing review of animal welfare (AW) legislation as part of the EU's Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy.

The new EFSA recommendations suggest new standards for space, maximum temperatures, and maximum journey times to improve the welfare of farmed animals during transport. These recommendations will likely serve as the basis for reviewing existing animal welfare directives, most of which have been implemented over a decade ago, in coming months. As the new legislation will likely include regulations, which are directly applicable in all member states (MS), an important European Commission goal will be to enforce a more harmonized application of the new standards across MS. The uneven implementation of existing AW legislation, including poor enforcement at the MS level, has long been the source of animal transport challenges, mainly of transport by boat, irritation about competition distortion between MS, and AW abuse reports from the European Parliament and the European Court of Auditors.

Attachments:

No Attachments.