

Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## **Statements of the Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council on bovine welfare**

### **1. Tie stall housing**

It is the view of the Council that new dairy cattle barns for tied animals should not be designed or executed, nor should its construction be economically supported. Upgrading of old tie stall housing for improved animal welfare should be supported.

### **2. Slatted floors in bovine stalls**

The Council recommends that calves not be raised in fully slatted stalls. The Council wishes that measures be taken to promote beef cattle husbandry in well-littered cold loose housing instead of insulated fully slatted floor housing. For slatted pens the Council recommends rubber-coated slats.

### **3. Importing of Belgian blue bovine breed to Finland**

The Council takes a negative view on the importing of animal material from the Belgian blue bovine breed to Finland. Characteristic for the breed is the so-called double muscling, a feature complicating normal calving as well as animal movement. Normal breeding presents a risk to the welfare of the breeding cow and the calf, so calving is via caesarean section. Finnish slaughterhouses oppose the importing of animal material from this breed. They refuse to slaughter or trade in pure Belgian blue animals or bovines cross-bred from Belgian blue. Also the Finnish Veterinary Association opposes the importing of the Belgian blue cattle.

Helsinki, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

On behalf of the Production Animal Welfare Council

Hannu Saloniemi, Professor emeritus  
Chairman, Production Animal Welfare Council

Satu Raussi, Director of Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare  
Secretary, Production Animal Welfare Council

#### **Additional information on the Production Animal Welfare Council**

Government decree on the Production Animal Welfare Council, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

<http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2009/20090330>

Tasks and composition of the Production Animal Welfare Council

[http://www.mmm.fi/fi/index/etusivu/tiedotteet/091119\\_tuotantoelainten\\_neuvottelukunta.html](http://www.mmm.fi/fi/index/etusivu/tiedotteet/091119_tuotantoelainten_neuvottelukunta.html)

Minutiae and statements of the Production Animal Welfare Council

<http://www.mmm.fi/fi/index/etusivu/elaimet/tehvnk.html>

Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare EHK

<http://elaintenhyvinvointikeskus.edublogs.org/>