

## **2025 ACPV Workshop Proposal**

### **“Current Perspectives on Poultry Welfare”**

**Co-chairs:** Kathleen Long, Kate Barger-Weathers (TBC), Ken Opengart (TBC)

**Abstract:** The wellbeing of poultry raised for food is increasingly important to customers, consumers, and animal interest groups, and has become “a part of doing business” in animal agriculture. Poultry veterinarians are uniquely skilled to provide expert guidance on the welfare and health of poultry, and have an ethical obligation to promote animal welfare.

Animal welfare research has expanded greatly in the past five to ten years supported by advancements in computing technology and artificial intelligence. Coincidentally, non-governmental organizations and animal interest groups have established an influential presence within the animal agriculture value chain. The complexity of animal welfare issues, combined with individualistic values-based perceptions of animal welfare, makes it a difficult subject for poultry veterinarians to navigate.

The 2025 ACPV workshop program has four objectives: (1) reinforce the fundamentals of poultry welfare; (2) share updates on current hot topics in poultry welfare; (3) provide an overview of scientific advances and new technologies in poultry welfare; and (4) present a variety of perspectives on animal welfare from across the value chain.

Section 1 is focused on reinforcing foundational concepts of animal welfare, including animal welfare models, program development, and assessment approaches. This session will (re)acquaint attendees with current high-level approaches to animal welfare and demonstrate transferable skills and techniques that can be applied in their places of work.

Section 2 will provide an overview of current hot topics in poultry welfare, such as in-ovo sexing, on-farm hatching, advancements in euthanasia methodologies, and environmental enrichments.

Section 3 is devoted to new research and innovation in poultry welfare with a special focus on artificial intelligence. Topics include the use of technology in animal genetics, sensors and artificial intelligence in poultry barns, and the use of vision systems in processing.

Section 4 will provide a series of perspectives on animal welfare, all of which influence the welfare standards adopted by poultry companies and legislators. The session will begin with information about consumer expectations and an overview of the regulatory landscape in Europe. Speakers will then shed light on the roles of non-governmental organizations, national animal welfare standards setting organizations, and customers of poultry companies in influencing poultry welfare standards.

## ACPV Animal Welfare Workshop Proposed Agenda

### “Current Perspectives on Animal Welfare”

Date: April 6, 2025 (day before WPDC)

Location: Calgary, AB, Canada

Introduction	8:00-8:05
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Section 1: Foundational Concepts of Animal Welfare		
Potential Title	Speaker	Time
Where did we come from and where are we now: Evolving animal welfare models	Kate Barger-Weathers	8:05-8:40
Fostering better care for our animals: A Blueprint for an effective animal welfare program	Ken Opengart	8:40-9:05
Animal welfare assessment: A comprehensive measurement approach to drive continuous improvement	Karen Christensen or Kathleen Long	9:05-9:40
Panel Q&A		9:40-10:00

Coffee Break	10:00-10:20
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Section 2: Hot Topics in Animal Welfare		
Potential Title	Speaker	Time
In-ovo sexing technologies and adoption	Sandra Vijn, Kipster or TBD	10:20-10:35
On-farm hatching technologies and adoption	NestBorn or TBD	10:35-10:50
Innovation in Poultry Lighting to Improve Welfare and Performance Outcomes	Aaron Stephan, Once or Karen Schwean-Lardner	10:50-11:05
Advances in Humane Endings ( <i>use of nitrogen and nitrogen foam in depopulation/slaughter</i> )	Mike Petrik or Marie Culhane	11:05-11:20
Enrichments to promote species specific behaviours	TBD or Karen Schwean-Lardner	11:20-11:35
Panel Q&A		11:35-11:55

Lunch Break	11:55-1:00
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### Section 3: Research and Innovation – Using Artificial Intelligence to Drive Continuous Improvement in Animal Welfare Outcomes

Potential Title	Speaker	Time
Using technology to improve genetics and advance poultry welfare outcomes	Banks Baker, PIC or Geneticist TBD	1:00-1:20
Advancing on-farm health and welfare through advanced monitoring and machine learning	Merck TBD or Ed Pajor or Tom Darbonne, Audio-T	1:20-1:40
OPTICFLOCK camera/computer system for the advancement of poultry welfare	Marian Dawkins, Oxford	1:40-2:00
Commercial application of vision systems to monitor animal welfare outcomes in processing plants	Lumachain or AI4Animals or Arrowsight	2:00-2:20
Panel Q&A		2:20-2:30

### Coffee Break

2:30-2:50

### Section 4: Customer, Consumer, and NGO Perspectives

Potential Title	Speaker	Time
Setting the stage: What do Canadian consumers expect and understand about animal welfare?	Mike Von Massow, University of Guelph	2:50-3:10
Setting the stage: Impacts of proposed/enacted regulations in Europe	Anne-Marie Neeteson or Tim Burnside, Aviagen or Birthe Steenberg or EFFAB TBD	3:10-3:30
Engaging with interest groups: How can NGOs partner with the poultry supply chain to make meaningful improvements in animal welfare?	Darren Vanstone, OCATRA	3:30-3:50
National Farm Animal Care Council: Learnings from Canada's multi-stakeholder approach to developing Codes of Practice for farmed animals	Jackie Wepruk, NFACC	3:50-4:10
A customer perspective: What do supply chain customers expect from poultry suppliers to continuously improve animal welfare?	Angela Griffiths, A&W Canada or Janet Helms, McDonald's	4:10-4:30
Panel Q&A		4:30-4:45

## 2025 Proposed ACPV Workshop Budget

	Number of Registrants		
	70	100	130
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Speaker Travel Cost (\$1200 x 9 speakers)	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 10,800.00
Meals (Breakfast, 2 Breaks)	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
Management Travel Expense (1x\$1500)	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 1,575.00
Printed Programs	\$ 367.50	\$ 367.50	\$ 367.50
RACE Certification	\$ 367.50	\$ 367.50	\$ 367.50
AV Equipment Fee (Screen Package) + Recording	\$ 5,759.25	\$ 5,759.25	\$ 5,759.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,369.25</b>	<b>\$ 24,869.25</b>	<b>\$ 25,369.25</b>

<b>INCOME</b>			
Sponsors	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 15,750.00
Registrants	\$ 10,080.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 18,720.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 25,830.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,470.00</b>

<b>REGISTRATION CATEGORIES</b>			
Registration Member	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00
Registration Non-Member	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Student	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00

<b>REGISTRANTS BY TYPE</b>			
Member (70%)	49	70	91
Non-member (20%)	14	20	26
Student (10%)	7	10	13

*Historical attendance: 80 to 120 registrants*