

University of Arkansas System

Division of Agriculture

Animal Care and Use Policy

The following is the Animal Care and Use policy of the University of Arkansas System – Division of Agriculture, Fayetteville (hereafter referred to as the Division). It applies to all research and teaching using live agricultural animals conducted at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville campus, the state-wide Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, or by University of Arkansas Fayetteville Campus faculty, staff, or students when acting as representatives of the University Division of Agriculture at off-campus locations.

The Division endorses and supports the responsible use of agricultural animals in research and teaching. This Policy on Animal Care and Use is designed to ensure that agricultural animal use within the Division is conducted in a humane, productive, and responsible fashion. The Division acknowledges and accepts responsibility for the care and use of agricultural animals in research and teaching, and will ensure that all individuals involved in the care and use of agricultural animals understand their individual and collective responsibilities for compliance with the Division's Policy on Animal Care and Use as well as all other applicable laws and regulations pertaining to agricultural animal care and use.

- I. The Division endorses and will comply with the following as applicable:
 - All applicable provisions of Public Law 99-198, commonly known as the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), its amendments, and the regulations formulated to implement this act (hereafter referred to as the Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR)).
 - Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (FASS Guide)
 - U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training.
 - The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (hereafter referred to as PHS Policy).
 - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulations.
 - The University of Arkansas System – Division of Agriculture Animal Welfare Assurance, as specified by PHS Policy, with the Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW).
 - American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 (or revisions)

- Commercial Industry Standards (as approved by the Agricultural Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee)
 - All applicable provisions of other federal and state statutes and regulations relating to animals.
- II. The Division recognizes the classification of agricultural animal use in research and teaching into the following two categories for the purpose of specifying the standards for animal care and use within each category. These two categories and the corresponding standards are:
- Biomedical research and teaching using agricultural animals. This is research and teaching aimed at generation or communication of knowledge that will contribute to improving the health and well-being of humans and/or animals not involved in agricultural production. For biomedical research and teaching the Division endorses the standards for animal care and use contained within two separate documents. These are 1) the AWA and its Regulations, and 2) the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide). It is the policy of the Division that each of these documents will apply to those species specified in each document. Additionally, the Division does not allow domestic dogs and cats, or non-human primates to be used for biomedical research conducted by Division faculty and staff. Demonstrations using privately owned dogs and/or cats may be permitted at the discretion of the Agricultural Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (Ag-IACUC) under the following conditions: 1) these animals may not be housed within University of Arkansas System Facilities; 2) the owner must be present at all times; and, 3) demonstrations are limited to non-invasive procedures.
 - Agricultural Research and Teaching. This is research and teaching aimed at generation or communication of knowledge that will contribute to the improvement of commercial food or fiber production from animals. For agricultural research and teaching, the Division endorses the standards for animal care and use contained within the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching (FASS Guide).
- III. The Division recognizes the Ag-IACUC as its representative in overseeing, supporting, and regulating animal care and use. The Ag-IACUC is charged with monitoring adherence to the AWA and its Regulations, PHS Policy, APHIS/USDA Regulations, and the University of Arkansas System – Division of Agriculture’s Policy on Animal Care and Use, and is empowered to develop the procedures and forms needed to carry out this task. All research or teaching using live agricultural animals is covered by the Division’s Policy on Animal Care and Use, regardless of its purpose or source of funding and must have prior written approval from the Ag-IACUC. This requires prior submission of an Animal Use Protocol (AUP) submitted by the Principle Investigator for review by the Committee. Principle Investigator (PI) may include the researcher, teacher, or trainer designated as the responsible

party for the agricultural animals used in the protocol according to applicable laws and policy regulations. Standard operating procedures detailing practices and procedures common for agricultural animals shall be kept on file in the office of the Ag-IACUC Administrator on behalf of the Institutional Official (Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research).

III. The Ag-IACUC operates in full compliance with PHS Policy, AWA, AWAR, USDA/APHIS, and/or the FASS Guide as applicable. The Ag-IACUC has the following duties, powers, and membership:

- It reviews at least semi-annually the Division's program for humane care and use of animals
- It recommends policies and procedures concerning the uses, care, housing, and disposal of agricultural animals held or used for research, teaching, or other activities.
- It inspects at least semi-annually all of the Division's animal facilities, including satellite facilities, that are actively involved in ongoing research and/or teaching.
- It reviews concerns involving the care and use of agricultural animals at the Division.
- It makes written recommendations to the Institutional Official (IO) regarding any aspect of the Division animal use program, facilities, or personnel training with the report to include violations, deficiencies, and deviations from approved practices.
- It notifies, through the IO, OLAW and USDA/APHIS, as well as the relevant funding agency, as appropriate.
- It reviews and approves, requires modifications in (to secure approval), or withholds approval of AUP's.
- It reviews and approves, requires modifications in (to secure approval), or withholds approval of proposed significant changes regarding the use of animals in ongoing activities.
- It notifies investigators and the IO in writing of decisions to approve or withhold approval of AUP's, or of modifications required to secure Ag-IACUC approval.
- It may inspect, any facilities at which an AUP is being utilized at any time.
- It is authorized to suspend any activity involving agricultural animals.
- Members are appointed by the IO.
- Membership will consist of at least the following:
 1. A scientist from the Department of Animal Science who has experience in agricultural management, research or teaching involving agricultural animals (non-poultry).
 2. A scientist from the Department of Poultry Science who has experience in agricultural management, research or teaching involving poultry.
 3. A person whose primary concerns are outside the area of biological sciences (non-animal user)

4. A representative from the surrounding community who is not affiliated with, or a member of the immediate family of anyone affiliated with the Division.
5. A licensed veterinarian who has training and experience in agricultural animal medicine.
6. Ex officio and non-voting, the Division Compliance Officer or his/her designee.
7. Ex officio and non-voting, the Division Ag-IACUC Administrator who will serve as Program Manager for the Ag-IACUC.
8. Ex officio and non-voting, the Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research who is the (IO).
9. Other members as required by Divisional needs and applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
10. The Chair and Vice Chair will be also be designated by the IO from members that have served at least one year on the Ag-IACUC.

Not more than three members shall be from the same administrative unit at the departmental level of the Division.

- IV. The Attending Veterinarian (AV) shall be appointed by the IO. On matters relating to animal welfare the AV shall normally report to the Division Compliance Officer (CO) and the Chair of the Ag-IACUC, but shall have the authority to report directly to the IO. The AV serves as a voting member of the Ag-IACUC. The AV (or appointed alternate Attending Veterinarian) provides veterinary care to agricultural animals, is available to consult with researchers as they develop research methods, and is generally available to the research community of the Division, to provide training to investigators as needed in the areas of proper animal handling, use of anesthetic agents and analgesics, acceptable methods of euthanasia, and oversight of surgical procedures. Alternate AV's shall be appointed at the discretion of the IO.
- IIIV. Anyone having an animal welfare concern or belief that the Division's Policy on Animal Care and Use is being violated should report his/her concern to the AV, Ag-IACUC Chair, or Ag-IACUC Administrator. An investigation will then be made by the Ag-IACUC Chair or other members of the Ag-IACUC appointed by the Chair. The IO and CO will be notified by the Chair of the Committee findings. If deficiencies in animal care and use are observed, the Ag-IACUC will take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with Division policy.
- IIIV. An occupational health program will be provided by the Division, in accordance with its OLAW Assurance (as applicable), for personnel who work in animal facilities or have substantial animal contact, including contact with animal tissues if there is a potential health risk. Instructors, principal investigators, facility managers, and supervisors will be expected to document compliance and assist with the risk assessment associated with their various projects.