

CAMPAIGN AGAINST FACTORY FARMING

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9 April 2005

Hon David Carter
National Party Agriculture and Housing Spokesperson
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Carter

Thank you for meeting with Debra Ashton, Mark Eden and myself on April 6 to discuss the issue of severe confinement in layer hens and pigs.

CAFF looks forward to the formulation and promulgation of a full set of animal welfare policies relating to factory farming by the National Party following discussion with caucus, as agreed at our meeting. CAFF will be developing a document on party stances on factory farming, and this will be distributed throughout our networks to the growing number of New Zealand voters who are will base their votes on this issue. We would therefore appreciate a National Party policy statement by the end of May at the latest.

At the meeting we made the point that NAWAC had discounted scientific evidence that hens and pigs suffer in severe confinement when making their recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture. Because of this, CAFF have little confidence in the ability of NAWAC to offer independent advice on animal welfare matters to the Minister of Agriculture.

We enclose for your information three scientific reports confirming that layer hens suffer more in battery cages than well run alternative systems. One of these was conducted in New Zealand under New Zealand conditions. NAWAC did not mention any of these reports in their own report on the *Layer hen code of welfare*. Nor were these reports mentioned in two reviews commissioned by

MAF Policy and cited in the NAWAC review.

We also enclose a copy of a peer-reviewed publication reviewing sow welfare and concluding that severe confinement of sows is unacceptable from a welfare perspective.

Again thank you for taking the time to meet with us.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Michael Morris
Scientific Adviser