

WelFur

Our future, our reputation



THE ANIMAL WELFARE PROJECT ON FUR-FARMED SPECIES



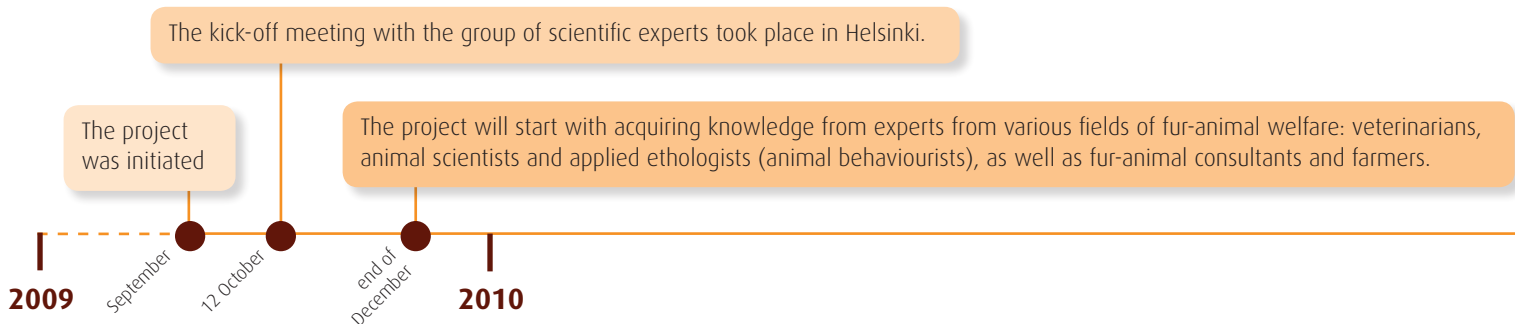
THE ANIMAL WELFARE PROJECT ON FUR-FARMED SPECIES

> Background

Today our society is more and more interested in the origin of animal products, and therefore **modern animal production has to be transparent**. Information on the welfare status of farm animals is an essential feature of this transparency. Before information on the welfare of the animals can be presented to the consumer and to the general public, there must be viable ways to collect reliable and valid data. During the period 2004-2009, the EU-funded Welfare Quality® project developed general principles and criteria for animal-welfare assessment at farm level: **good feeding, good housing, good health** and **appropriate behaviour**. Detailed welfare-assessment protocols have been published for cattle, pigs, laying hens and broiler chickens. They all have a firm scientific basis.



> Timeline





> Aims

These WQ® protocols are species-specific and can be further developed provided that sufficient scientific knowledge on the biology and welfare of a species is available. Welfare of the most important fur-farmed animals, the mink (*Mustela vison*), the fox (*Alopex and Vulpes families*) and the finnraccoon (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) has been scientifically studied over the last 25 years. The general objective of the **WelFur** project is to **set-up a welfare-quality-like project on fur-farmed animals**. The main outcome will be welfare-assessment protocols for the mink, the fox and the finnraccoon. The implementation of these protocols at farm level is within the scope of **WelFur**.

The welfare-assessment protocols for the mink, the fox and finnraccoon will be ready by the end of December.

The publication of the related scientific papers will take place at that time. The implementation phase at farm level will start immediately from 2011.

end of
December

2011



> Partners

The **WelFur** project is being carried out in co-operation between :

- **University of Kuopio**
(UEF, Department of Biosciences)
- **MTT Agrifood Research Finland**
(MTT, Animal Production Research)
- **Aarhus University**
(AU, Department of Animal Health and Bioscience)
- **University of Copenhagen**
(UC, Department of Biology)
- **Norwegian University of Life Sciences**
(UMB, Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences)
- **Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences**
(SLU, Department of Animal Environment and Health)
- **University of Utrecht**
(UU, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Animals in Science & Society)
- **Experts from the original Welfare Quality® project**
- **European Fur Breeders' Association (EFBA)**.

EFBA has appointed a group of three external scientific reviewers to conserve the quality of the scientific work, the independence of any recommendations and the alignment with the original Welfare Quality® project.



MORE INFORMATION

European Fur Breeders' Association
Avenue des Arts 3-4-5
B-1210 Brussels
Belgium

☎ +32 2 209 11 70

✉ +32 2 209 11 79

✉ info@efba-eu.com

www.efba-eu.com