The Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare at the University of Guelph works to promote the welfare of animals through research and education. Partnerships with government, industry, and Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Ontario SPCA) play a key role in ensuring that specialized training programs are developed for groups outside of the university community. One such partnership involved the development of a course on Livestock and Poultry Welfare Assessment for Ontario SPCA agents in training. The course ensures that agents are prepared to assess and respond to farm animal issues.

Development of the course was overseen by a Steering Committee, including representatives from the Campbell Centre, the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, The College of Veterinarians of Ontario, the Ontario Farm Animal Council, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, who also funded the project. The first two course offerings were delivered in summer of 2009/2010 by Campbell Centre Faculty and OMAFRA staff.

The course has been successful due to the commitment of the above groups to ensuring that farm animal welfare is assessed and regulated by agents who have the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions. This partnership is supporting the development of new training modules for assessment of alternative livestock species, which will be offered in summer of 2011.