Objective of the Partnership
The Provincial Animal Welfare Act was recently amended, making Ontario’s animal protection laws the strongest in Canada.

As a result, Ontario SPCA agents now have greater power to investigate farm animal welfare issues and lay charges, except in cases of reasonable and generally accepted practices of agricultural animal care, management or husbandry.

In response to these changes, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs partnered with the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare to develop a week-long course on Livestock and Poultry Welfare Assessment.

The course and take-home field manual are designed to assist Ontario SPCA agents in making well informed assessments of farm animal issues, and in advising producers and concerned citizens about optimal farm animal care and needs.

Outreach in Action: Course Components
The course is comprised of in-class instruction and practical field components where students visit farms to see typical farming practices first-hand.

It covers information on standard production practices for beef cattle, sheep, goats, swine, dairy cattle and poultry including egg layers, broilers, broiler breeders, turkeys, ducks, emu and rhea.

Included in production sections for each species is a list of ‘critical care control points’, outlining the most important areas where welfare could be compromised.

Outreach in Action: Course Delivery
The course has been offered twice, during the summers of 2009 and 2010. Instructors included Campbell Centre Faculty and OMAFRA staff with expertise in specific animal areas.

Continuing Partnership
The course has been successful due to the commitment of the groups involved to ensure that farm animal welfare is assessed and regulated by agents who have the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about complex issues.

This partnership is supporting the development of new training modules for assessment of alternative livestock species (bison, deer, elk, and rabbits), which will be offered in summer of 2011. New training modules for horses/equine species is targeted for summer of 2012.

The Campbell Centre
Established at the University of Guelph in 1989, The Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare was the first centre in North America dedicated to advancing animal welfare through scientific research and education.

Today, we are well recognized internationally for our expertise in animal welfare science.

With a core of eight dedicated animal welfare scientists and over 50 Associated Faculty involved in related areas, the Centre is uniquely positioned to deliver animal welfare education to audiences engaged in animal agri-food business and regulation.

To learn more or to join our e-mail list, go to: www.uoguelph.ca/ccsaw