

Livestock Farming with Care

Martin C. Th. Scholten

In cooperation with: Bart Gremmen & Paul Vriesekoop



A superior sector in the Netherlands

Dutch livestock farming :

a 27 billion € /y value with 380000 job positions

The Dutch livestock sector is traditionally innovative:

- smart breeding,
- customized feed,
- eco efficiency,
- modern housing,
- animal welfare



Nevertheless, societal distrust increases!!!!

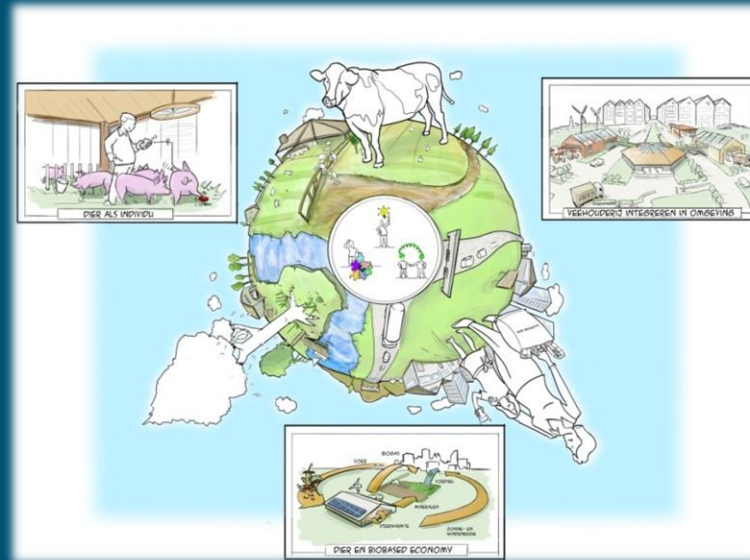
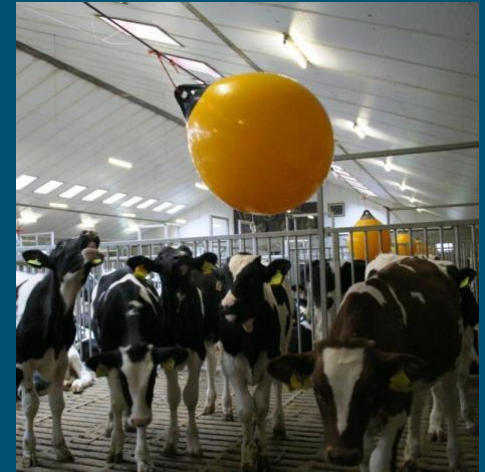
But in the spot lights: fame or blame?

- Commission Alders, a national public debate
- Commission Van Doorn, sectorial code of conduct
- House of Representatives, special committee
- 'Roos Vonk initiative', of critical non-agro scientists



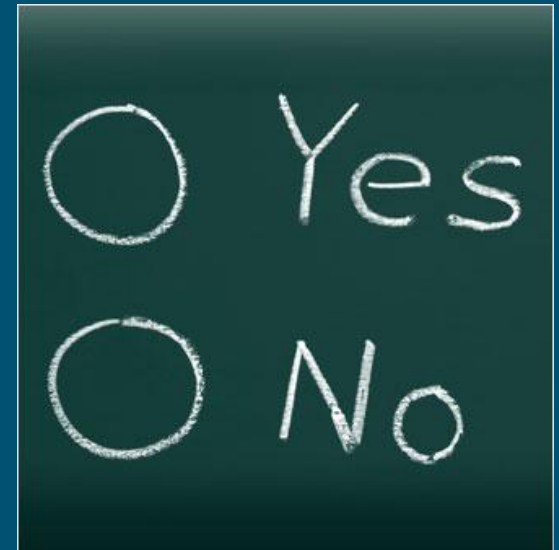
Professional views

A well-organized large-scale 'high-tech' livestock farming provides the best opportunities for decreasing the ecological footprint, the protection against diseases, and guaranteeing animal welfare; within a biobased economy



... versus public views

- Excess of nitrate in drinking water due to agriculture !?
- For 1 kg of meat you need 5 kg of grain and 16000 litres of water !?
- Antibiotics are widely used in feed !?
- You can not buy ESBL free chicken meat !?
- Modern animal farming is bio industry: meat factories !?



Varkens in nood



Livestock perspectives in the Netherlands??



A new concept: Livestock farming with care

An approach based on care ethics

A smartly designed livestock farming,

that guarantees a **devoted (careful)** treatment of animals by the farmer,

as well as a **conscious (careful)** compliance with

professional standards and values.



Over zorgvuldige veehouderij

veel instrumenten, één concert

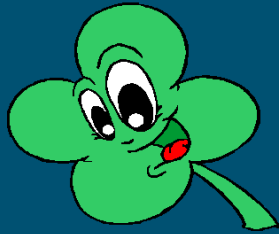
Essaybundel 2010



WAGENINGEN UR

For quality of life

Principles, standards and values



Careful livestock farming



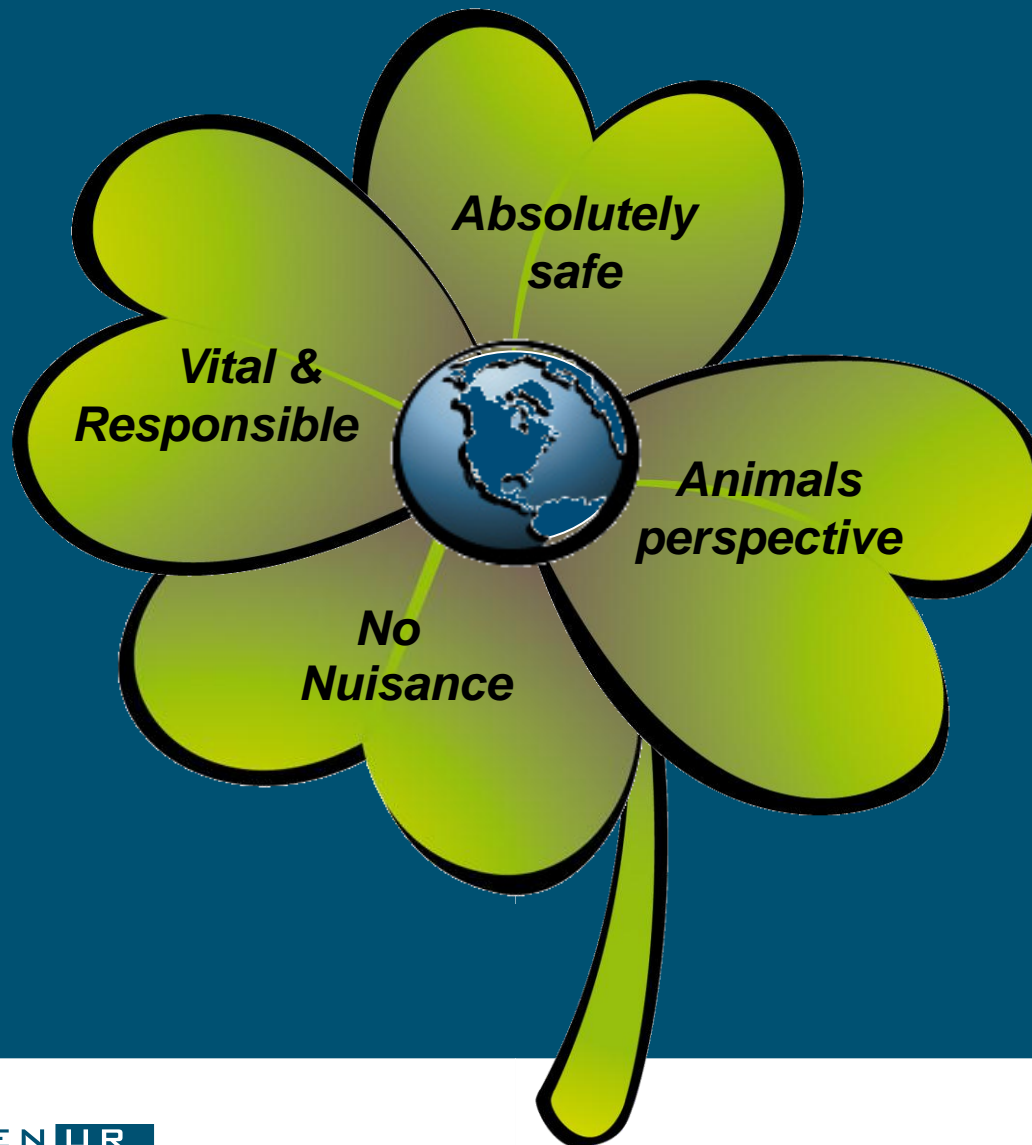
Responsible livestock farming



Sustainable livestock farming



Our 4 professional values (axioms)



1st Axiom Absolutely safe

ONE HEALTH (human & animal)

- Reduction of antibiotics

not preventive and restricted therapeutic

- Eradication of zoonosis

early identification

Banning antibiotics, reducing resistance,
preventing and fighting infections

White Paper on research enabling
an 'antibiotic-free' animal husbandry

Met Nederlandse samenvatting: Intensieve veehouderij zonder antibiotica



Partners of the Knowledge Chain Infectious Diseases of Animals:



2nd Axiom Animals perspective

- Focus on the biological needs and traits of all the individual animals in the group
- Pay attention to natural and social behaviour
- Adjust the husbandry system to the animals
- Monitor animals individually



3rd Axiom No Nuisance

- Reduce odour and gas emission
- Adapt stables to environment
- Cycle thinking, efficient use of minerals
- High quality manure processing



4th Axiom Vital and responsible

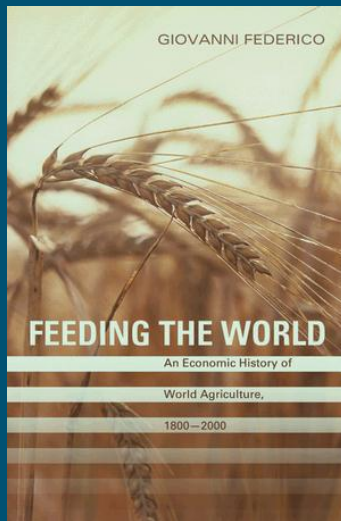
Modern entrepreneurship: player within the chain
Room for innovation and diversity

Progressive leadership: player within society
Discover best ecological and animal health means



Mondial perspective: *responsibility to produce*

Feeding the world within the carrying capacity of planet earth



*Agroproduction
in the 21st century*



European perspective: *licence to produce*

Closing cycles and shortening chains:
farming within a bio based economy

Good animal welfare

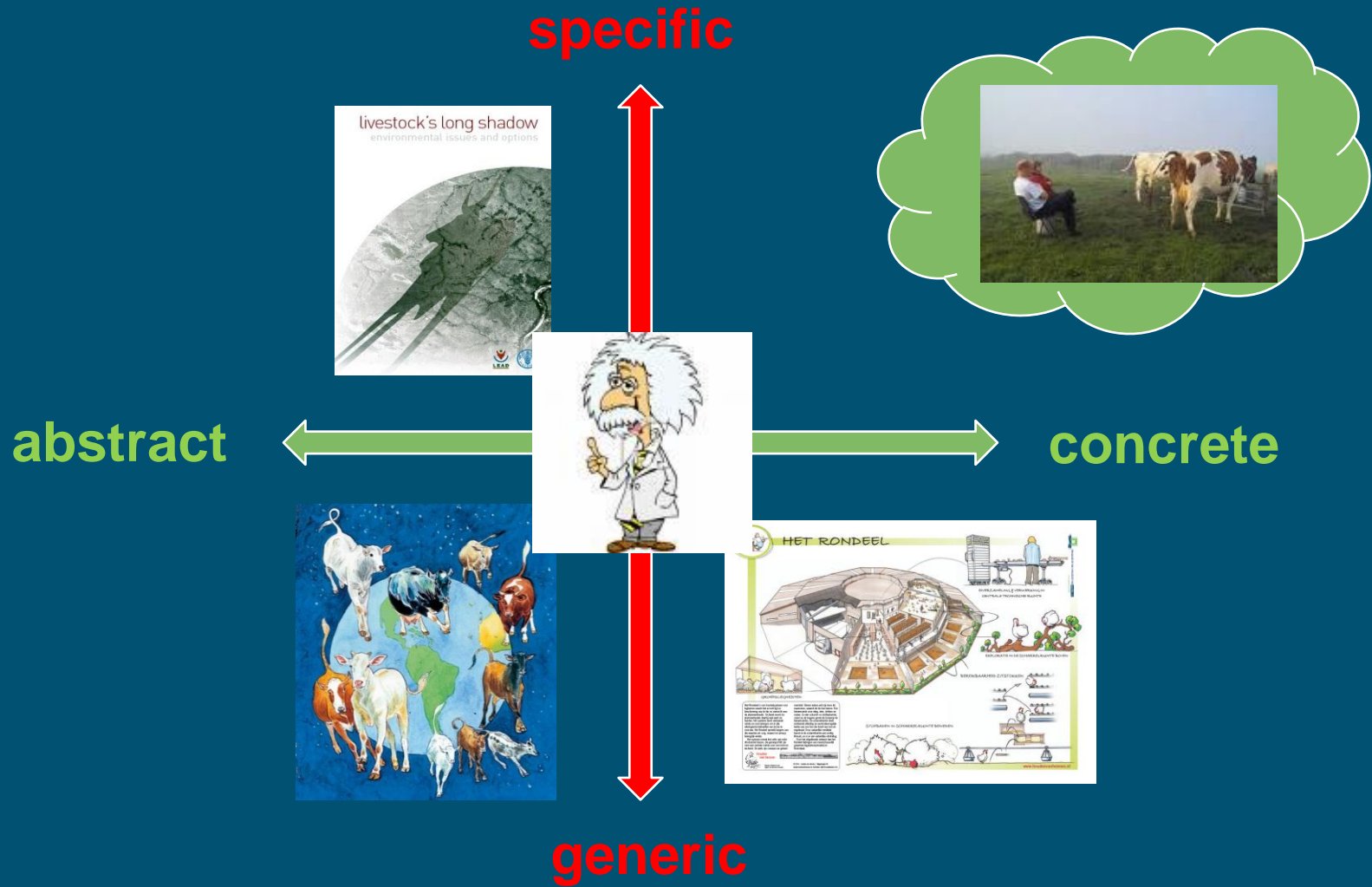


Local perspective: *licence to operate*

Customized environmental and social integration:
fit to an environment with farmers
to be proud of !



Have a scientific eye for local discourses



Prospects for the Netherlands

Towards ecological intensification

- Radical change in use of antibiotics
- An obligatory Good Management Standard
- Closing cycles (feed, manure)
- Retail guarantees animal welfare and one health
- Absolute ban of free riders
- Critical visitation of local procedures

Forecast for the farmers

| | Modal Farm Size |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Pigs | 6.700 |
| - Meat | 1.000 |
| - Sows (piglets) | 3.200 + 450 |
| - Closed | |
| Poultry | 240.000 |
| - Meat | 125.000 |
| - Eggs | |
| Goats | 1.600 |
| - Milk | |
| Cattle | 1.700 |
| - Meat (calves) | 320 |
| - Dairy | |

- **No prospects for small farms, no room for large farms**
- **A reduced number of farms, scaling up to restricted size (see table)**
- **Total sector will slightly reduce to approx. 80%**



Livestock Farming with Care

“To explore the potential of nature to improve the Quality of Life”

© Wageningen UR

