



Animal welfare research and policy in EU: state of play and perspectives

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OUTLINE

1. Animal Welfare related research in FP7
2. EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015
3. Possible future venues for AW (research)

AW research: Evolution

- Pure AW projects
- Broader projects including AW as a package: Multidisciplinary approach
- From qualitative to quantitative welfare assessment
- Coverage of new species

7th Framework Programme Update

- Cooperation specific programme
Theme 2-Knowledge Based Bio-
Economy

Seventh Framework Programme Animal Welfare

- First Call 2007: 2 projects selected, + e.g. ROBUSTMILK project
- 2008 Calls: *main line closed*
- 2009 Call: *main line closed*
- 2010 call: 3 projects selected, + e.g. SOLID project
- 2011 Call: ERA-Net on Animal Health and Welfare
- 2012 Call: *main line closed*, but EU-PLF project
- 2013 Call: Topic "Production diseases"



EU Seventh Framework Programme

Econwelfare: Good animal welfare in a socio-economic context.

Main conclusions:

- There is not one single policy solution towards welfare enhancement that will equally well fit all Member States at the same time (*however, EU wide policies contribute to improving the overall situation*)
- Need EU-wide harmonised indicators, linked to specific policy instruments to measure their effectiveness
- Welfare enhancement beyond the EU minimum level should be aimed for by market-driven and farmer-oriented policy strategies



EU Seventh Framework Programme

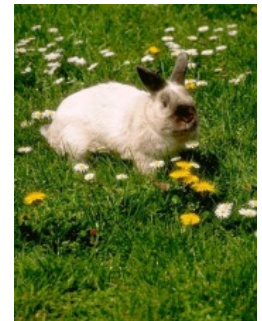
EAWP: European Animal Welfare Platform: progressing animal welfare throughout the food chain

1. A platform bringing together major companies, AW NGOs and academia
2. Exchange of knowledge
3. Developed:
 - Best practice documents
 - Strategic approach documents on 58 animal welfare related topics (exp, pig castration)

EU Seventh Framework Programme

- *Call 2010: PROJECTS STILL ONGOING*

- ❖ **Welfare Indicators:** Development, integration and dissemination of animal-based welfare indicators, including pain, in commercially important husbandry species, with special emphasis on small ruminants, equidae and turkey
- ❖ **Aware:** *Animal welfare research in an enlarged Europe*
- ❖ **Copewell:** Coping ability of farmed fish - towards a deeper understanding of fish welfare



Welfare Indicators Objectives

Main areas:

- develop welfare assessment protocols for small ruminants, equines (horses and donkey) and turkeys
- Recognise and quantify pain in domestic animals and include it in welfare assessment protocols
- Chronic diseases/pain/welfare
- Effects of prenatal stress on small ruminants and horses
- Training school on animal welfare

And also developing an AW Science Hub....

AWARE

Animal welfare research in an enlarged Europe

WP1: Research, mapping, creating interest, road shows

WP2: Education, mapping, creating interest, road shows

WP3: Awareness and implementation

WP4: Mobility desk

Positive point: Strong emphasis on new MS and
Candidate Countries

COPEWELL

A new integrative framework for the study of fish welfare based on the concepts of allostasis, appraisal and coping styles

Most important species tested: Atlantic salmon, European sea bass, and gilthead sea bream

"How fish experience their world"

4 relevant concepts:

- coping styles: links between brain function, behaviour and adaptative physiology for ability to cope with stressors
- Appraisal: how fish appraise their world and understand positive and negative stimuli
- Allostasis: evolutionarily rooted concept applied to fish
- Ontogeny: of neural function and neuroendocrine stress responses



ERA building



ANIHWA: ERA-Net on AH & AW

- Aims to increase the cooperation and coordination of national research programmes on animal health and welfare of farm animals, including fish and bees
- 30 partners from 19 countries. CA €2Mio EU contribution. Started on January 1st 2012
- **First call expected September 2012**



Work Programme 2013

Increased component of AW element in current call7

- 1. Linking genomics data to AW, production & health traits*
- 2. Intensive farming (pig and poultry sector) and impact of production diseases*
- 3. AMR in the food chain*



European
Commission

EU Animal Welfare Strategy 2012 - 2015



Introduction

First EU legislation in 1974

Community Action Plan 2006-2010

EP Resolution/Paulsen's report: May 2010

**Evaluation on the EU policy on animal welfare:
Dec 2010**

New EU Strategy: Jan 2012



Main goals of the Community Action Plan (2006-2010)

1. Upgrading existing standards;
2. High priority to promoting future research;
3. Introducing the use of animal welfare indicators;
4. Ensuring that animal keepers/handlers as well as the general public are more involved and informed;
5. Enhance external relations with EU commercial partners.



2010: The European Parliament evaluates the achievements of the European Commission and calls for further progress

- In 2010 the EP fully supports the achievements of the 2006 Action Plan
- Calls for a new EU Strategy to fully integrate animal welfare in EU policies with:
 1. A EU framework law on Animal Welfare;
 2. A European Network of Reference Centres;
 3. Stricter enforcement of the legislation;
 4. Use of indicators to evaluate AW;
 5. Application of equivalent standards to imported products.



Key features of the new EU strategy (2012-2015)

The EC has integrated the EP recommendations
in the Strategy 2012/2015

A new approach having a long term effect:

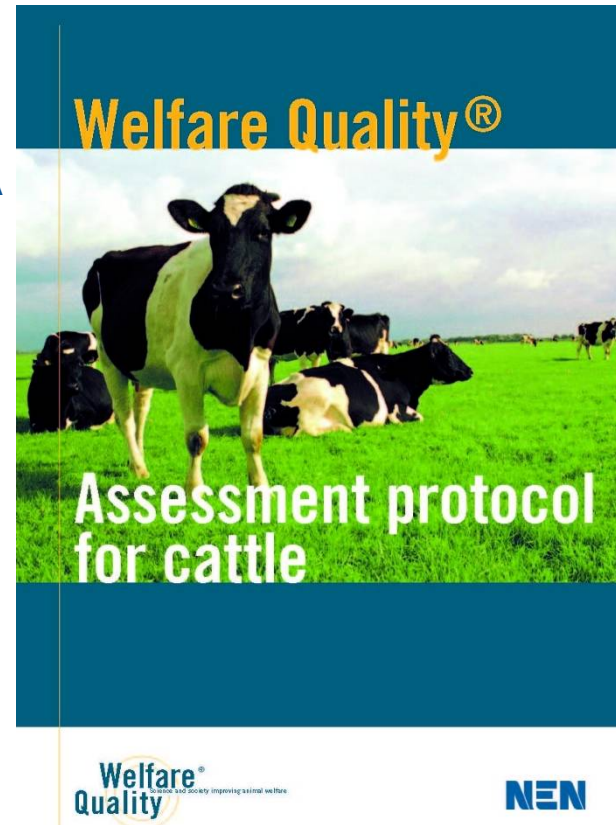
- Oriented to competitiveness of the agriculture and the quality of production, increasing citizens' knowledge.
 - ✓ *The strategy recognizes that consumers behaviour rewarding farmers represent one of the most important drivers for animal welfare investments.*
 - ✓ *More power to the consumers, more transparency and adequacy of information on animal welfare for their purchase choice!*

Objectives of the strategy

Use of outcome-based indicators:

1. Scientifically validated: Welfare Quality and risk assessment. Evaluation by EFSA
2. Already present in legislation (chicken for meat, slaughter);
3. Internationally recognised by the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)

TARGET: Simplify the EU legal framework and enhance enforcements of EU legislation by Member States.



Objectives of the strategy



Informing the citizens:

1. Ensuring consumers that animal welfare claims are transparent and scientifically relevant;
2. Adequacy of information to consumers on animal welfare for their purchase choice.

TARGET: Enhance consumer empowerment and the competitiveness of products with high added value of AW.

Objectives of the strategy

European Network of Reference Centres:

1. Technical support in the use of AW indicators;
2. Training courses for staff – Easy access to information;
3. Coordination of research in EU countries (complement existing systems).

TARGET: Support Member States and take action to improve compliance to EU legislation, better use of scientific and technical resources.

Call published in March



Objectives of the strategy

Requirements for competence of personnel handling animals:

1. Identify, prevent or limit pain, suffering and distress for the animals;
2. Know legal obligations;
3. Adequate level of competence for people responsible for the design of processes, facilities or equipment that apply to animals.

TARGET: Ensuring that handlers possess the abilities to guarantee the protection and welfare of animals and the related legal obligations.



Objectives of the strategy

Improving tools for ensuring compliance at EU level:

- FVO missions – Infringement proceedings;
- BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food) training veterinary inspectors (both in EU and Third Countries);
- Develop specific guidelines or implementing rules;
- Exchange of best practises.

TARGET: Support Member States and take action to improve compliance



Objectives of the strategy

Support to international cooperation for the implementation of AW standards:

- Bilateral cooperation through Free Trade Agreements and cooperation forums;
- Multilateral activities in the OIE and FAO;
- EU neighbourhood policy involving AW;
- Report on AW and competitiveness in a globalised world (expected for 2014).

TARGET: Ensure the competitiveness of EU livestock producers and enhance the worldwide adoption of AW standard approved by OIE.



Optimise synergies with the Common Agriculture Policy

- Most EU budget on animal welfare is spent through CAP in particular rural development measures
(70 mln € per year)
 - ✓ The funds are more directed to structural investments than education/information activities or scientific developments.
- **TARGET: Need to reinforce the action of measures of CAP: cross-compliance, rural development, promotional measures, quality policy, organic farming, etc.**



What future?

- Outcome-based animal welfare indicators;
- Integration of AW policies with the main themes of sustainability of EU policies;
- More transparency and competitiveness for products with high added value of AW;
- Better distribution of additional costs of AW along the food chain;
- Better use of resources of the CAP.



AW RESEARCH: The (possible) Future

- An integrated/multidisciplinary approach
- Coordination of research on AW
 - **ANIHWA**
 - **European Network of reference Centres**
- Achieve an effective dissemination
- Incentives for farmers
- Innovation (e.g. technology; processes; social)

**Thank
you for
your
attention
on**

