

# Introduction to Animal Welfare Assessment

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SACL



# Aims of today

In 10 minutes:

1. Define – what is animal welfare?
2. Look at what affects the welfare of farm animals
3. Consider approaches to assessing welfare

# Some definitions

- Welfare = 'the state of an animal as it attempts to cope with its environment' (Fraser & Broom 1990)
- 'The welfare of a sentient animal is determined by its capacity to avoid suffering and sustain fitness.' (Webster 1995)
- natural living, biological functioning and subjective experience (Verhoog et al 2004)
- 'good welfare = fit & feeling good' Webster (2005)
- 'Whole happy and healthy' Mullan (2007)

# FAWF definition

Animal welfare is about ensuring the wellbeing of the individual animal from the animal's point of view.

It includes animal health and encompasses both the physical and psychological state of the animal.

The welfare of an animal can be described as good or high if the individual is fit, healthy and happy (free from suffering and in a positive state of wellbeing).

To put it another way, the animals are healthy and have what they want.

# Welfare – Five Freedoms

- Freedom from hunger & thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress

(Farm Animal Welfare Council 1993)

# Legislation



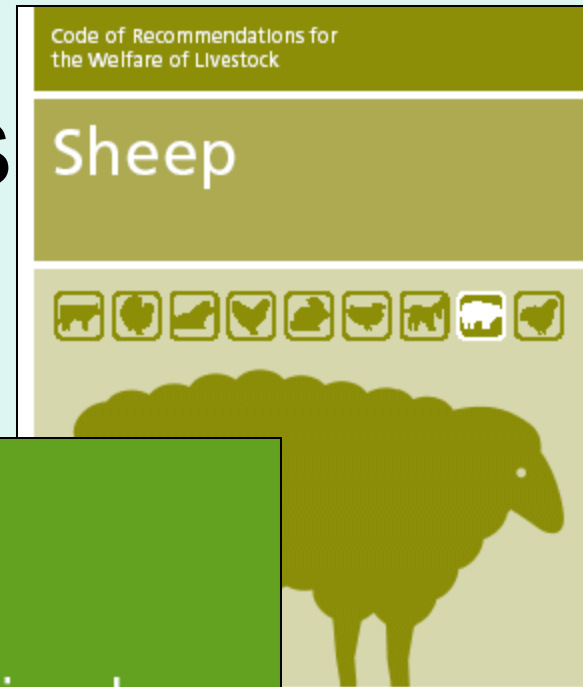
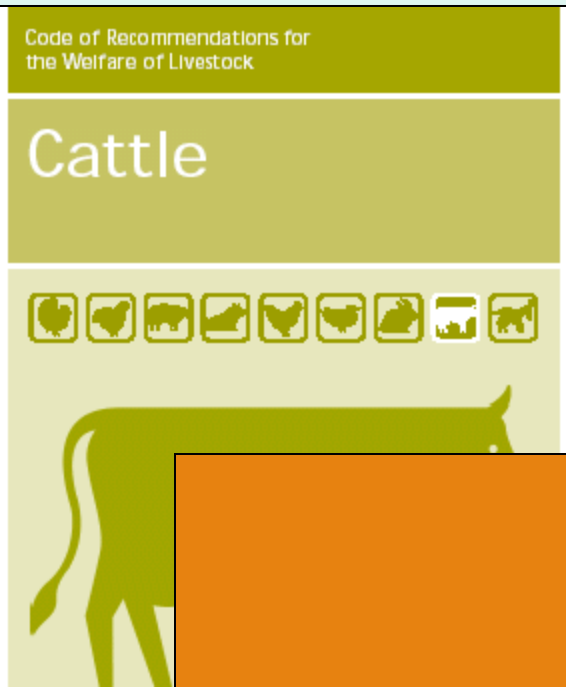
» welfare of farmed animals (England) 2007

» welfare of animals transport order (2006)



» welfare of animals (slaughter or killing) regulations (1995)

# Welfare Codes



Soil Association  
Certification Limited



**STOCKMAN**



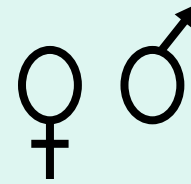
e.g. training

**ENVIRONMENT**



e.g. housing /diet

**ANIMAL**



e.g. breed, breeding

**INPUTS**

**WELFARE?**

**OUTPUT**

**PHYSICAL CONDITION**



**Soil Association  
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**BEHAVIOUR**



**RECORDS**



USDA





# Welfare - concerns

Emotions

Economics



# Approaches to Measuring Welfare

- **Empirical** - cortisol, heart rates, catecholamines
- **Resource/Input** - housing, feeding, stockmanship
- **Output/animal based** – physical, records, behaviour
- **Qualitative vs quantitative** – descriptive terms
- **Positive/negative aspects** – play, grooming

# Examples of welfare assessment

- Austria – TGI/ANI - 35 minimum score
- Norway – Organic Cow Comfort
- UK – Tesco, M&S, Sainsburys, Waitrose
- UK – Pig Industry – output parameters
- EU – Welfare Quality
- UK – inclusion of animal based parameters in inspection FF, SACL





**Skin lesions**

Animal  
based/outcome  
based measures



**Swollen Hocks**

**Physical**



**Feather loss**



**Body Condition Score**



**Mastitis**



**Mortality rate of finishers**

**Animal based/outcome based measures**

**Records**



**Hocks burns**



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**Peak egg production**



**Ranging behaviour**



**Oral behaviour**

**Animal based/outcome based measures**

**Behaviour**



**Flight distance**



**Skin Irritation**