

Animal Welfare training for professionals: Moving from inputs to outcomes

Dr. Antonio Velarde
Animal Welfare Subprogram
IRTA

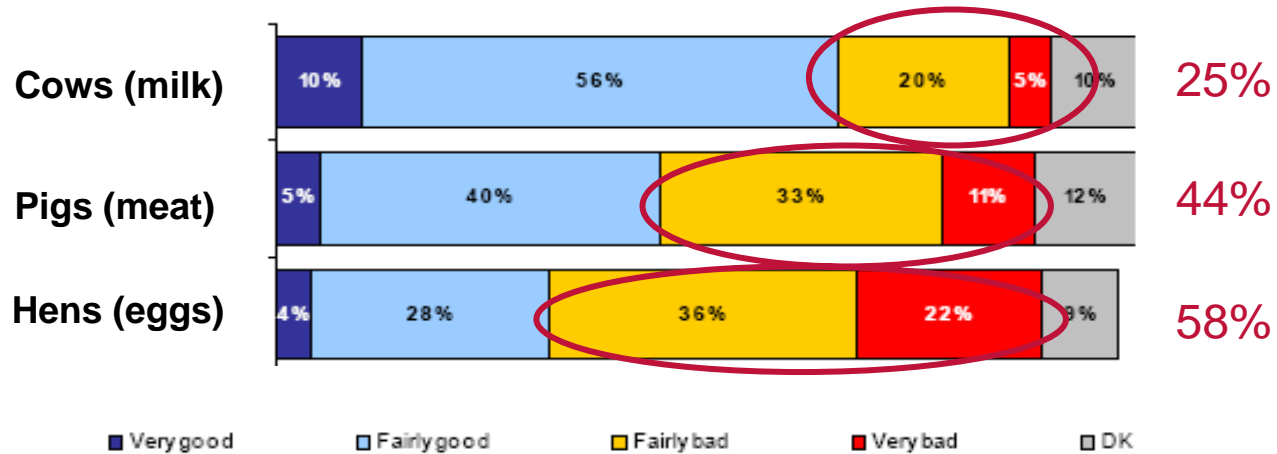
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION
1-2 October Brussels



CONTENT

1. Assessment of farm animal welfare.
2. Welfare Quality[®] assessment.
3. Methodological aspects of the training.

Public concern

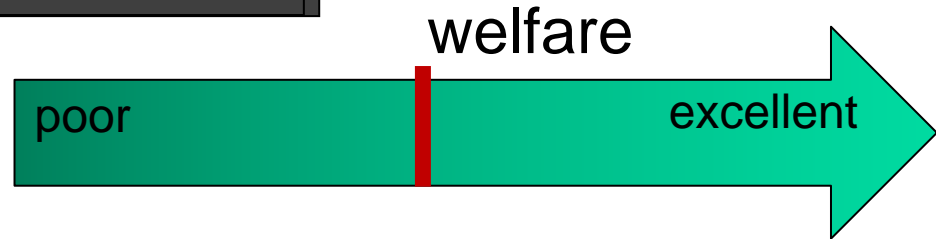


EU Commission Special Eurobarometer: Attitudes of consumers towards the welfare of farmed animals (2005)

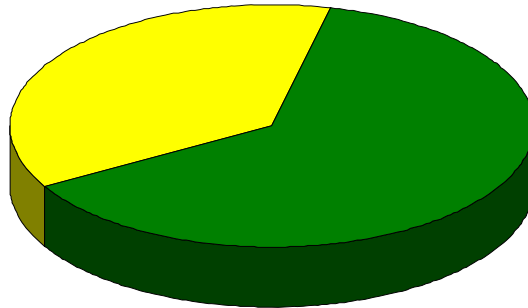
Animal welfare is an important attribute of an overall concept of 'food quality'

Way of protecting animal welfare

1. Legislation



2. Consumer choice



Survey of 29.152
European citizens
(25 countries)

63 % would change shopping place to buy
animal welfare friendly products

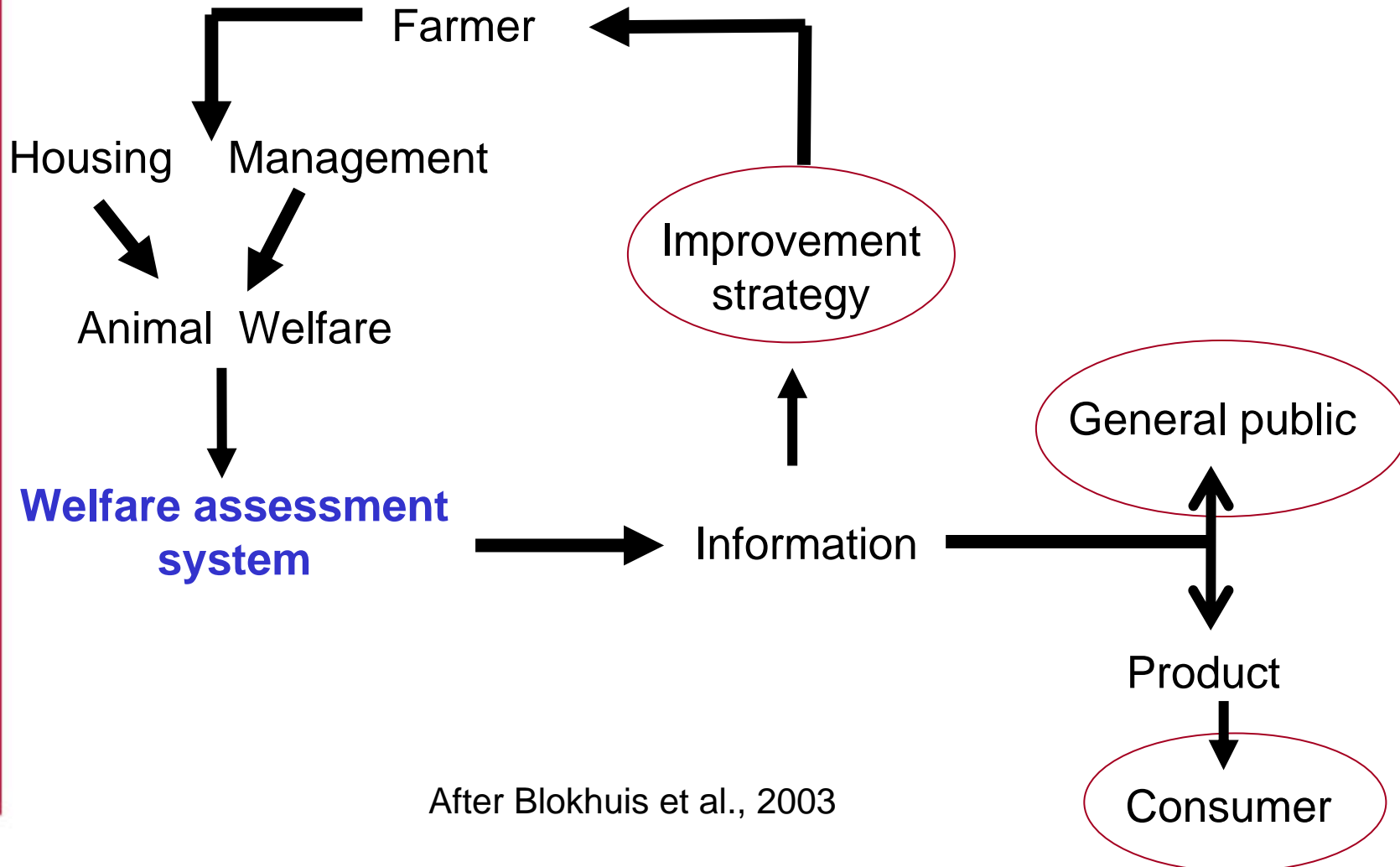
Eurobarometer (2007) Attitudes of EU citizens towards animal welfare.
Brussels: European



CONTENT

1. Assessment of farm animal welfare.
2. **Welfare Quality[®] assessment protocol.**
3. Methodological aspects of the training.

Welfare Quality[®] project



After Blokhuis et al., 2003

Potential users

- Inspectors
- Advisors
- Researchers

Measures



Criteria



4 Principles	12 Welfare criteria
Good feeding	Absence of prolonged hunger
	Absence of prolonged thirst
Good housing	Comfort around resting
	Thermal comfort
	Ease of movement
Good health	Absence of injuries
	Absence of disease
	Absence of pain induced by management procedures
Appropriate behaviour	Expression of social behaviours
	Expression of other behaviours
	Good human-animal relationship
	Positive emotional state

Potential users

- Inspectors
- Advisors
- Researchers

Measures



Criteria



Principles

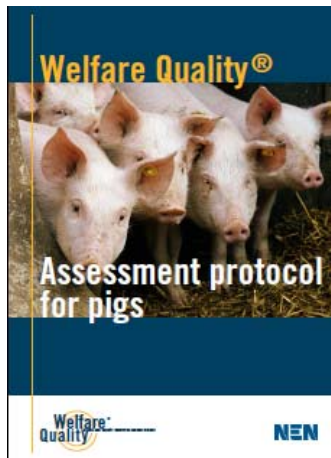


Overall assessment

Information to **customers, consumers**

Training for professionals

- Capacity to carry out the assessment in a robust, repeatable, and valid way.
- To satisfy producers and consumers.



(www.welfarequality.net)

- Scope
- Basic principles
- Collection of data
- Calculation of scores

- **Training and validation in the methods and protocols.**



CONTENT

1. Assessment of farm animal welfare.
2. Welfare Quality[®] assessment protocol.
3. **Methodological aspects of the training.**

1. Concept of animal welfare

Multidimensional :

- Five freedoms (FAWC 1992)
- Welfare Quality®



Four principles and 12 criteria

2. Animal welfare measures

- **Welfare assessment requires the combination of several measures**
- **Discussion of the best indicators :**

- **Validity:**

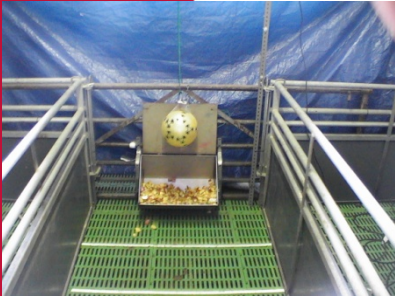
- Concurrent validity (comparison with validated measures)
- Predictive validity (effects of treatments)
- Consensus between experts

- **Reliability**

- Intra-observer
- Inter-observers

- **Feasibility on farm**

- Limited amounts of animal handling, time, cost, skills,...



2. Animal welfare measures

INPUTS

RESOURCE- BASED PARAMETERS

- Density
- Feeding, drinking space
- Temperature
- Type of floor. Etc.

MANAGEMENT-BASED PARAMETERS

- Euthanasia criteria
- Castration procedures
- Hygiene
- Management of sick animals. Etc.

OUTCOMES

ANIMAL-BASED PARAMETERS

- Wounds
- Tail biting
- Body Condition
- Social behaviours
- Bursitis
- Panting; Shivering

2. Animal welfare measures

Criteria	Resource-based	Animal-based
Thermal comfort	Temperature Ventilation	Shivering, huddling, panting,
Ease of movement	Ramp	Slipping, falling
Positive emotional state	Light, noise	Reluctant to move, turning back



2. Animal welfare measures

Inputs ('What' or 'How much' of different resource)



- High practicability and repeatability.
- Individual differences (genetic, experience)
- Difficult to compare farming systems

Outcomes



- Physiological, health and behavioral measures
- Reflection of the welfare state
- Comparison between farming systems
- Sensitive to fluctuation in the welfare status
- Transparent to stakeholders

2. Animal welfare measures

Inputs ('What' or 'How much' of different resource)



- When no animal based measure is available
- To diagnose causes of poor welfare
- To advice on ways to improve animal welfare

Outcomes



Measures to be preferred to assess animal welfare state

2. Animal based measures

Require good understanding of

- **Physiology**

- **Health**

Recognition of symptoms of certain lesions, diseases and signs of pain.

- **Behaviour**

Normal behaviour

Mechanisms used to cope with difficult environments.

3. Training course

- To use the tool in a uniform and reliable way



1. Classroom presentations :

- Rationale, execution and scoring of measures
- Exercises with photos and video clips
- Evaluation

Bursitis



Training on the assessment



2. Farm visit:

- Description 'ad hoc' of the assessment measures and data collection
- Evaluation of the measures by direct observation.
- Statistical evaluation of on-farm data.



Conclusions

- In all the assessment system, a critical 'component' is the assessor.
- Capacity to carry out the assessment in a robust, repeatable, and valid way.
- The Welfare Quality® protocols contain standard description of the measures, data collection, sample size and the order in which the different measures should be carried out.
- To standardise the implementation of the assessment and achieve a high repeatability between assessors they have to be trained:
 - Classroom presentations and exercises, using photographs and video clips.
 - On practical field exercises on farm.



Thank you for your attention

Antonio.Velarde@irta.es