Global Animal Welfare
Animal Welfare and the Sustainable Development Goals

Dr Rebecca Doyle
GASL introduction

Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock

How livestock production can impact on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

• Facilitate dialogue
• Generate evidence
• Advocate practice and policy change

Animal Welfare and the SDGs
AWAN introduction

Action Networks

- Animal Welfare
- Closing the efficiency gap
- Dairy Asia Partnership for Health and Prosperity
- Global Network on Silvo-Pastoral Systems
- Livestock antimicrobial partnership (LAMP)
- Livestock Environmental Assessment Performance Partnership (LEAP)
- Livestock for Social Development
- Restoring value to grasslands
- Waste to worth
AWAN introduction

Share practical examples and evidence of how animal welfare contributes to the SDGs and sustainable animal management in production and non-production systems

Animal Welfare Action Network

Animal Welfare and the SDGs
Animal welfare and the SDGs

**Positive signs for welfare**

- The FAO’s vision for sustainable livestock production treats animal welfare as a priority
- All continents now have regional strategies for animal welfare
- Consumer behaviour, governmental processes and international expectations include animal welfare

**Risks to welfare**

- Push for intensification of production
- Push for dramatic reduction in consumption
Animal welfare and the SDGs

Doyle et al 2018, UFAW Hong Kong
Animal welfare and the SDGs

The Donkey Sanctuary and World Horse Welfare, 2017

Photo credit Rebecca Doyle
Animal welfare directly influences the SDGs.

Essential part of the production system, from farm to consumer, regardless industry scale or farmer size.
Equid welfare in Lesotho

Photo Credit: World Horse Welfare
Equine welfare in Lesotho

Horses are the cultural symbol of Lesotho, but yet their perceived value is incredibly low

‘Invisible species’ in the household

• World Horse Welfare
• University of Lesotho
• Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security’s livestock extension staff

Photo Credit: World Horse Welfare
Equine welfare in Lesotho

Farriers and saddlers refresher training, 10 years after initial initiative

Household surveys (n=539)
- 2 (1.9) equines per household, 3 (3.3) in remote highland areas
- Only ¼ felt that their income could cover the needs of their equines
- >2/3 will spend less than $35.00/yr on medication/care & nothing on supplementary forage or concentrates

Photo Credit: World Horse Welfare
Equine welfare in Lesotho

Diverse engagement for sustainable improvements

• Owner awareness: Awareness about footcare, creates sustainable demand and viable business for the farriers
• New partners: human development organisation that uses horses and their owners to transport medical samples and HIV test results
• Capacity building: with ICWE, held OIE Focal Point Regional Seminar

Photo Credit: World Horse Welfare
Ewe welfare in Australia

Photo Credit: Rebecca Doyle
Ewe welfare in Australia

- MLA funded: measure and benchmark sheep welfare – improve welfare, reduce losses, increase efficiency

- Welfare assessment at 32 different farms in Victoria at mid pregnancy and weaning
- 100 ewes assessed at each visit; 6,200 total
- Six welfare indicators: BCS, fleece condition, skin lesions, tail length, dag score and lameness

Ewe welfare in Australia

Ewe welfare is good
• 86.9% of the ewes were in adequate BCS (2.5–3.5)
• 91% had good fleece condition
• 69.2% had no skin lesions
• 97.1% had low dag scores
• 95.3% had no lameness

Photo Credit: Elsa Glanville
Ewe welfare in Australia

- Welfare risk: short tail length
- 85.7% of ewes had tails shorter than 3rd palpable joint
- Based on the risks from ewes with short tails, costs per farm have been estimated at $79/100 ewes per annum
- Further work into the knowledge, attitude and practices of farmers around docking is underway
Ewe welfare in Australia

- While the welfare of the flock was good, ewes in need of further care were identified at all farms.
- More ewes needed further care at weaning than pregnancy 3.3% vs. 2.6%.
- Top six farms (20%) consistently had <2% ewes needing further care.

Photo Credit: Elsa Glanville
Ewe welfare in Australia

We propose that a target of 2% for animals in need of further care is a useful starting point to encourage continuous improvement for the welfare of extensively managed ewes.

Photo Credit: Elsa Glanville
Community Conversations in Ethiopia

CCs is a participatory approach that encourages discussion and exploration of issues, and actions to solve them. Used to create change on gender relations and zoonotic disease

Now we’re trialling it to encourage animal welfare and productivity improvements
Community Conversations in Ethiopia

- Interviews and focus groups to develop content
- All participants, including children, described welfare to include
  - Affective states
  - Biological functioning
  - Natural behaviour

Photo credit: ILRI/ Camille Hanotte
Community Conversations in Ethiopia

- Farmers described feed as their greatest production limitation
- Free access to water was not common practice
- Injuries and castration are common practice, but wound caring is not

- Regional veterinary services described their own capacity as a constraint to animal welfare
Animal welfare is a pillar of sustainable production and livelihoods, and is directly connected to the SDGs

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photo credit: ILRI/Stevie Mann