Building Animal Welfare Indicators into Farm Assessment

Global Agenda MSP
October 2014
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World Animal Protection

Who are we?

• Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
• International presence: 17 offices in 15 countries
• Intergovernmental engagement: Permanent representation on OIE animal welfare working group; engaged in Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock
• Memoranda of Understanding with expert organisations e.g. China Veterinary Medical Association
• Pragmatic and pro-farming approach. Focus: positive long term engagement on shared interests
Farm Animal Welfare: Good for People, Business and Greater Sustainability

- Economics, business, livelihood
- Environment
- Public health
- Water, land and natural resources
- Sufficient and safe food production

Animal welfare in food production
Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock: Consensus

“Integrating respect for socially desirable outcomes that are not the immediate focus of Agenda related activities including, but not limited to, public health, biodiversity and animal welfare”
Aspects of Animal Welfare

- Physical: Health, growth, reproduction
- Mental: Suffering, Stress
- Natural: Environment, Behaviour
Principles underpinning animal welfare assessment

Five freedoms
- Pain Injury and Disease
- Hunger and thirst
- Shelter
- Fear and distress
- Natural behaviour

Broadly supported (OIE etc.)

Welfare Quality
Four main principles:
- Good feeding
- Good housing
- Good health
- Appropriate behaviour

Scientific body of knowledge on behaviour and welfare
Animal welfare is relevant to all types of production (McInerney, 2004)
Relevance of animal welfare to sustainable livestock - examples

• Good animal welfare systems can provide good productivity and sufficient food for the planet (Erb et al., 2012)

• Greenhouse gas emissions are can be optimised by moderate dual purpose production (e.g. dairy/beef consequential LCA – Cederberg and Stadig, 2003, Flysjo et al., 2011)

• Blue water efficiency (thus lower opportunity cost of its use) can be greater in extensive systems (Hoekstra, 2011)
Benefits of animal welfare for productivity – slaughter example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEN</th>
<th>JBS Target</th>
<th>Before training</th>
<th>After training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(%) Slipping - Unloading/Hand</td>
<td>3,00%</td>
<td>6,50%</td>
<td>1,25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(%) Falls - Unloading/Hand</td>
<td>1,00%</td>
<td>5,25%</td>
<td>0,46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(%) Prod use</td>
<td>20,00%</td>
<td>25,25%</td>
<td>12,03%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(%) Vocalization (pen/box)</td>
<td>3,00%</td>
<td>0,00%</td>
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Auditing results before and after WSPA humane slaughter training at a JBS plant
Animal welfare field assessment protocol
Animal welfare field assessment protocol

Measured welfare potential (resources) + welfare outcomes
- Physical / health and behaviour
- Body condition
- Tick count
- Presence of injury/disease/lameness
- Heat stress
- Water and feed quality and availability
- Natural behaviour (forage, exercise, rest)
- Access to shade at hottest part of day
- Fearfulness / ease of approach (relevant to handling)
Incorporating wider sustainability measures into assessment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>of</th>
<th>efficiency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Productivity</strong></td>
<td><strong>Feed quality</strong></td>
<td><strong>Soil quality</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental assessment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Animal welfare assessment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Livelihoods / economic assessment</strong></td>
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- Environmental assessment
- Animal welfare assessment
- Livelihoods / economic assessment
Assessing animal welfare across systems and interventions

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feed quality</td>
<td>Access to resources</td>
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Scenario 1 (baseline)

Scenario 2 (transition)

Scenario 3 (post intervention)
Thank you!

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