FIPA IFAP

The Farmers’ Voice at the World Level
La Voz de Los Agricultores al Nivel Mundial
La Voix des Agriculteurs au Niveau Mondial
FARMERS’ ORGANIZATIONS WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE OIE ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS
Representing:

• 120 national farmers’ organizations

• in 79 countries

• 600 million family farmers
IFAP activities

• General consultation status in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

• Participation in the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group

• Adoption of Animal Welfare: Statement by the farmers of the world at the 38th World Farmer’s Congress, 2008

• Contribution of IFAP farm leaders to international conferences on animal welfare
**IFAP Policy Brief on Animal Welfare**

**Brève Politique**

Bien-être animal: préserver la confiance des consommateurs dans les produits de l'élevage est une responsabilité des agriculteurs.

**Flash Politico**

El bienestar animal: mantener la confianza de los consumidores en los productos de la ganadería es una responsabilidad de los agricultores.

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**Animal Welfare: Maintaining Consumer Confidence in Livestock Products is a Responsibility of Farmers**

For centuries, family farmers have been raising livestock for human consumption. They are conscious of their responsibilities towards the animals in their care. Indeed, good animal welfare practices result from farmers with good animal productivity. Animal welfare must be implemented in the production of farm animals in the breeding process, when housing, feeding, in handling, and in production systems, as well as in the transport and slaughter.

As the distance between farmers and consumers grows with urbanization, consumers know less and less about the way farm animals are raised. However, consumers are increasingly aware about how their food is produced, including how farm animals are treated. Increasingly, they require assurance that the wellbeing of animals is being taken into account in livestock farming practices.

Farmers realize that animal welfare has also become a global concern in terms of increased animal welfare consumerism. They understand that the adoption and respect for internationally harmonized minimum standards for animal welfare requirements and recommendations to increase consumer confidence in livestock products. Indeed, the high standards and reliability of animal welfare practices are key to maintaining a competitive advantage in international trade.

The animal welfare debate embraces ethics and science.

Animal welfare is a complex issue. In simple terms, it is about the way we treat and care for the animals we interact with. However, it is also about the way we perceive and value these interactions. Animal welfare is not just about the animals themselves. It is also about the people who interact with them and the relationship between people and animals.

Regulation and enforcement of animal welfare:

IFAP supports initiatives to promote consistency in the application of international animal welfare standards, and to ensure that national and international enforcement mechanisms are effective.

Animal welfare regulations:

Governments and industry both have a role to play in establishing and enforcing animal welfare standards. Governments can set standards and industry can help ensure that these standards are met.

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**Animal welfare standards and international trade practices**

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Issues involved

• MORAL / ETHICAL

• RESPONSIBILITY

• GOOD PRACTICES ADOPTION

• PRODUCTIVITY / COST EFFICIENCY

• ANIMAL WELFARE = FARMERS’ WELFARE
International Standards

- IFAP supports guiding principles outlined in OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- Science based
- Agreed minimum animal welfare standards
- Sustainable and outcome based
- Communication and Education/Training
- Enforcement procedures
ENFORCEMENT

• Suitable indicators

• Impact assessment procedures

• National consultation
ANIMAL WELFARE IN PRACTICE

Argentina (Instituto de Promoción de la Carne Vacuna Argentina-Universidad del Centro Buenos Aires)

• Data from 17,370 slaughtered animals

• Origin, sex age, fattening system, distance to slaughterhouses

• In-house handling and injuries assessed

• Better handling resulted in 39% decrease in injuries

• On a country basis implies 14,200 extra tons valued 28,000,000 U$ dollars
Sweden (Swedish Dairy Association)

• 66 potential welfare indicators

• 161 dairy farms

• Multivariate analysis

• Annual cost analysis 2002-2004

• Resulted in increased profit of 450 euros/cow
South Africa

• Chain approach

• Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee (1978)

• Codes for handling livestock

• Reduced losses along the chain by more than 80%
• Standards should not become a barrier to trade

• Minimum standards as a non-competitive issue

• Science –based

• Based on equivalent outcomes

• Internationally harmonized

• Communication
IFAP encourages OIE

- Identify animal welfare research needs
- Provide expertise on specific issues
- Strong pro-active action in promoting international guidelines and standards
CONCLUSIONS

• IFAP supports OIE standards

• IFAP encourages all national farmers organizations to work in their implementation closely collaborating with veterinary national and local services

• Farmer’s organizations be consulted

• IFAP is pleased to be part of OIE Animal Welfare Working Group
Thank you for your attention!

www.ifap.org