Bureau of Animal Welfare

Industry animal welfare R&D issues
- The future
Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress.

Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ideas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal welfare definition and methodology - livestock (including aquaculture species of fish, crustacea)</td>
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<td>Evaluation of welfare outcomes of new Livestock Transport Standards</td>
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<td>Humane alternatives to high risk husbandry procedures - castration, dehorning, tail docking mulesing (includes research of public attitudes and education methods)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humane loading and unloading of bobby calves - evaluation of methods, operator/processor attitude survey, education development, evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intensive housing design for good welfare for sheep &amp; pregnant sows</td>
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<td>N or CO2 Foam depopulation technique for humane mass destruction</td>
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<td>Portable mass destruction methods for livestock - maceration, electrocution, gassing system evaluation</td>
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<td>Research consumer attitudes to welfare and labelling.</td>
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<td>Research free range economics and training programs</td>
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<td>Research group housing of sows welfare outcomes</td>
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<td>Research long distance transport welfare affects on poultry, pigs, cattle (pregnant cattle and bobby calves) and sheep</td>
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<td>Stockperson training program - research on education methods and stakeholder attitudes</td>
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<td>Survey of layer hen cage types and assessment of welfare outcomes</td>
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<td>Training program for welfare inspectors - police, councils, RSPCA, DPI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welfare methodology for defined (POCTA) species used in aquaculture – incl’ slaughter methods, disposal of ornamental species, pet shop standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field evaluation of Lethal Trap Devices and Tranquiliser Trap Devices</td>
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<td>Evaluation of trap pan tension settings to improve species sensitivity.</td>
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National regulatory environment 1 – drivers for R&D

1. Convert codes of livestock welfare practice to standards
2. Legislated livestock welfare standards
3. Consistent enforcement
4. Scientifically/economically justifiable
5. Ethically acceptable production systems

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Live Export standards
Land Transport of Livestock standards
Sheep
Cattle (– bobby calves: whole of chain welfare)
Pig/poultry regulations; Livestock Management Bill
Climate change?

Actual

- Water/feed availability & efficiency issues
- Changes to production systems; energy costs
- More drought, fire, floods, hot conditions
- Changes in livestock disease patterns
- More transportation

Policy effects – carbon trading

- Trees vs livestock & cropping in high rainfall areas
- Less livestock, more horticulture & cropping
- Protein sources review – livestock vs protein from nano-technology or GMO’s.
Home front risk management

Increased differentiation of market
  : GMO/not-GMO source livestock product
  : health conscious and ethical consumer affects ie brands of milks; free range eggs; free range pigs; happy beef...labelling, proof, scientific basis for claims

Animal activist campaigns
  : increased legal challenge to current laws
  : more co-ordinated campaigns targeting consumers and major retailers
  : may not necessarily improve net welfare
The world

- Increased o/s demand for quality livestock product from major clients (China, India and Japan)
- Intensification/expansion of livestock industries to reduce costs; larger scale enterprises
- Current economic woes causing need for lower cost & input systems

OR

- **imports** from low cost 3rd world countries
- Distortion of markets caused by carbon change policy differences
- Welfare affects – export the issues or adapt?
Australian Animal Welfare Strategy influence

Working groups
(report to AAWS Advisory Committee>DAFF>PISC AWC)

1. Animals in research and teaching working group
2. Aquatic animals working group
3. Animals for work, sport, recreation & display working group
4. Animals in the wild working group
5. Companion animals working group

6. Livestock production animals working group
7. Education and Training
WG conclusions – welfare R & D

1. Not supportive of a specific CRC for animal welfare
2. Need for national R & D investment framework (PISC project is developing)
3. Need for review of published work to assist gaps analysis and develop priorities
4. Need for coordination of information, expertise and effort from RDC’s, centres with animal welfare expertise (Qld-Vic-NZ-et al) to assist decision makers
DPI Science Investment Framework

PAG’s – Future Farm Services
Biosecurity Compliance
Practice change
Biosciences Research
Fisheries Research & Compliance
Food Science
Bioprotection Research

- Evaluate projects against Ag & Fisheries Strategy
- Prioritisation of funding
- Competitive investment decision process