



NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ÉLEVAGE

UFAW International Animal Welfare Symposium (June 28-29, 2011, Portsmouth UK)

Making animal welfare improvements: economic and other incentives and constraints

Conference tidbits

- Over 200 attendees.
- Representation from: research/academic, animal welfare, animal rights, charitable and veterinary communities. A handful of representatives from government, farming and business communities.
- Symposium proceedings will be published in the UFAW's journal, *Animal Welfare* in early 2012.
- Abstracts of presentations and posters available at:
www.ufaw.org.uk/UFAWSYMPOSIUM2011.php
- Canadians in attendance: Jackie Wepruk (NFACC), Bruno Letendre (Dairy Farmers of Canada), Elsa Vasseur (researcher with AAFC), Ian Duncan (Global Animal Partnership, University of Guelph – professor emeritus).
- NFACC had a poster presentation on Canada's Code Development Process. There was mild interest in the Codes. There was more interest around how Codes will be implemented in Canada (e.g., the Animal Care Assessment Model).

This is a summary of key messages from speakers that I found to be of interest or where I was asked to bring back information from specific speakers. **Please feel free to follow up.** I may have more information (e.g., abstracts, detailed notes, photos of poster).

Day One – June 28, 2011

Peter Sandøe (University Of Copenhagen, Denmark) **What Can Economists Do For Animal Welfare?**

- Prioritization needed based on – what's important to the animal, what's important to the public and what's important to farmers. Which priorities give the highest value relative to the cost?
- Economic analysis can identify where incentives are required (i.e., an issue is important but the cost of change is great).

David Bayvel (Maf Biosecurity New Zealand) **Animal Welfare: A Complex International Public Policy Issue - The Economic, Policy, Societal, Cultural And Other Drivers And Constraints. A 20 Year International Perspective**

- Reinforced the message that addressing animal welfare is akin to a marathon, not a sprint race. Evolution, not revolution.

David Main (University of Bristol, UK) **Can Assurance Schemes Improve Welfare Using Welfare Outcomes?**

Note: I took a picture of the poster that went with this presentation. The messages were consistent with NFACC's approach on the Animal Care Assessment Model (ACAM).

- Healthy Feet Project at Bristol: case study on the four “E”s of animal welfare as it relates to dairy lameness: economics (the cost/benefits of change), education (information availability), encouragement (assistance/support) and enforcement (forcing change through assurance scheme compliance)
- Encouragement (assistance/support) was viewed as the most effective “E” for change
- Enforcement is only for those where other 3 “E”s do not work
- Education and encouragement must occur before assurance (i.e., enforcement)
- A coordinated plan (incorporating all 4 “E”s) is needed to effect change in animal welfare

Jonathan Guy (University of Newcastle, UK) **Economic Evaluation Of High Welfare Indoor Farrowing Systems For Pigs**

- PigSAFE – redesigning farrowing environment to optimize animal welfare and economics
- 41% of sows are outdoors, 59% of sows are indoors in the UK
- Research results: cost of PigSAFE is higher than farrowing crates and outdoor systems. Also indicated that the pig performance was somewhat better in outdoor systems than indoor ones.

Joy Pritchard (The Brooke, UK) **Non-Economic Incentives To Improve Animal Welfare: The Emergence Of Positive Competition As A Driver For Change Among Owners Of Draught And Pack Animals In India**

Note: While focussed on draught animals, I found this to be one of the best presentations of the symposium.

- Brooke India has utilized a unique approach to implementing animal welfare assessment programs amongst rural Indian draught animal owners.
- **Animal owners are the experts on implementation**, so they create the animal care assessment program. Programs are initially quite simple, but evolve into more complex systems over time.
- Outside expertise focuses on facilitation to help animal owners develop and maintain their program.
- **“We need to get over fear that animal owners will make choices that are worse for animal welfare.”**
- Ownership of the program led to: higher validity, higher inter-observer reliability, higher sensitivity
- Ownership of animal care assessment tools by animal owners is important
- Welfare assessment and action plans are part of the same process. Delinking them creates ongoing problems with implementation.

Laura Green (University of Warwick, UK) **Impact Of Rapid Treatment Of Sheep Lamé With Footrot On Welfare And Economics And Farmer Attitudes To Lameness In Sheep**

- 8.7% of sheep are lame in UK, footrot present in >97% of flocks, footrot causes >90% of lameness
- Foot-rot is not a chronic disease if treated early. Key to recovery from foot rot: fast antibiotic treatment, foot bath (topical spray), no hoof trimming.

Day Two – June 29, 2011

Linda Keeling (Swedish University Of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden) **Designing animal welfare policies and monitoring progress**

- Mapped out countries' drivers in animal welfare and what approaches are being used (e.g., markets, legislation)
- The "life cycle analysis" of animal welfare was proposed to start with legislation, then move to public/consumer awareness, which drives product development, which in turn leads to mainstreaming of formerly niche products (e.g., free range eggs in Europe), and then finally integration with other issues (e.g., environment, food safety).
- Countries were mapped out as to where they fit on the life cycle. UK seen as at the top. Sweden seen as on a different life cycle time continuum. Sweden worked through the cycle and now repeating the curve with enhanced legislation.
- Countries need to ID their life cycle stage in animal welfare policy development, then implement next steps as needed to move up the cycle (*note: this assumes acceptance of the life cycle analysis as presented*)

Dominic Moran (Scottish Agricultural College, UK) **Developing An Abatement Cost Curve For Animal Welfare**

- Cost abatement is a way to reframe animal welfare issues. Tackle welfare issues where improving animal welfare reduces costs, next move to welfare measures that cost little but provide significant benefit.
- High costs that exceed willingness to pay may not be not worth doing

Ian Duncan (University of Guelph, Canada) **The Global Animal Partnership 5-Step Animal Welfare Standards: A Welfare Labelling Scheme That Allows For Continuous Improvement**

Note: During an evening reception on the HMS Warrior, Dr. Duncan was awarded the inaugural UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science. This new award recognises the exceptional achievements of an individual scientist who has made fundamental contributions to the advancement of animal welfare over a number of years.

- Scheme does not attract large scale producers. Step 5+ is meant to be inspirational, not expected that anyone can reach it.
- Whole Foods Market has test piloted the program, negotiations are underway with other retailers.
- Details on the program are available at www.globalanimalpartnership.org.

John Webster (University Of Bristol, UK) **Critical Control Points In The Delivery Of Improved Animal Welfare**

Note: there were common themes between this presentation and Joy Pritchard's from the Brooke

- Described his "virtuous bicycle" model for animal welfare assessment.

- 1st cycle should include: a formalized structure for self-assessment, followed by evaluation by an external monitor and then implementation of an action plan.
- External monitoring confirms standards are being met, IDs and works with farmer to prioritize any need for action.
- **Farmer ownership of animal welfare is key – cannot be owned by others**
- 3rd party comes in at retail level to verify compliance and communicate assurances to the public.
- Legislation may improve the lowest on the rung, but only addresses the lowest denominator.

Henry Buller (University of Exeter, UK), **Co-Modifying Animal Welfare**

- Food is sold with a “story” - animal welfare groups, industry, scientists, retailers all combine to create a message.
- We have a system of labels that make statements, but over simplify animal welfare. Free range is the de-facto higher welfare standard, ignoring other important issues. It returns us to a resource-based way of looking at animal welfare.
- We are moving to an “outdoor fetish” for eggs.
- The question is: how do we get the public’s view on animal welfare closer to what is important to the animal?

Sophia Hepple (DEFRA, UK) **Making animal welfare improvements: Economic and other incentives and constraints; The “Stick”, the “Carrot” or the “Licence”?**

- European regulations have changed rearing practices, but have they improved animal welfare? Do we have a public perception of improved animal welfare, while shifting the compromise to factors that are less obvious to concerned citizens?
- In Europe, good legislation is in place, but still have welfare problems and it is still a political issue due to it being the #1 correspondence received by governments.

Mike Radford (University of Aberdeen, UK) **The Other 3 Rs: Research, Responsibility And Regulation (Or How We Got To Where We Are, And Why We Must Continue To Make Progress)**

- 1st piece of legislation in any country is most important as it sets the precedent to say that the state can intervene on behalf of animals.
- **Animals are regarded as property under the law – this remains the truth for all legislation in existence.**
- Legislation illustrates a collective social concern, unlike QA programs where some can opt out.
- Safeguarding animal welfare is a public good, not a private decision.
- Policy and law should engage multidisciplinary stakeholders – should not be left only to the lawyers.
- Broad legislative principles are of value as they can accommodate changing societal perspectives (e.g., drowning kittens was acceptable 30 years ago, but not now. Good laws remain the same, but the standard for interpretation can change).
- **Enforcement is about making a situation right, and if all else fails prosecution is a last resort. Prosecution reflects a failure in enforcement.**