Poultry Welfare – The NAWAC Perspective

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Introduction

- What is animal welfare?
- Sustainability And Animal Welfare
- NAWAC and the Animal Welfare Act 1999
- Development of codes
- Scientific knowledge
- What is good practice?
- NAWAC and decision-making.

What is animal welfare?

- **the absence of, or freedom from, pain and suffering (anxiety, fear, pain and distress) and sometimes the presence of positive states or pleasures**
- ***the absence of suffering***
- **fit, healthy, well and happy or feeling good**
- ***good welfare exists when an animal is healthy and has what it wants***
- **needs are fulfilled**
- ***a state of being, in which at least basic needs are met and suffering is minimised***
- **the ability to, or the degree to which the animal is able to adapt or cope**
- ***the state of an animal as it attempts to cope with its environment***
- **a natural state**
- ***a state of complete mental and physical health, where the animal is in harmony with its environment***
- **the quality of an animal's life**
- ***a state that includes some measure of a successful life***
- **humane interactions with animals**
- ***the use of methods for handling and management that impose the least amount of stress or distress***
- **the stance that humans have a responsibility or duty to care for or protect animals**
- ***the viewpoint that it is morally acceptable for humans to use nonhuman animals so long as unnecessary suffering is avoided***
- **an economic or socio-political issue**
- ***animal welfare is ultimately a economic or socio-political issue, primarily a subjective matter of human perceptions, a subset of human welfare since peoples preferences determine their actions***

What is animal welfare?

- Many definitions
- Tend to focus on biological, affective (mental) or natural (wild) states of welfare
- AWA doesn't define AW but specifies five indicators of welfare
- "how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives" – Peter O'Hara
- "Good animal welfare is more than the mere absence of negative experiences" – David Mellor

Welfare definition in the Act

- proper and sufficient food and water
- adequate shelter
- opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour
- minimised likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease

Section 4 AWA 1999 based on www.fawc.org.uk

Animal welfare a complex area of decision-making

- Contentious
- Values based
- High transition costs
- International reputation
- Implicit and explicit trade-offs
- Externalities to be managed
- The power of the supply chain
- Society's evolving ethical concerns

Noun, 1. **baldric - a wide (ornamented) belt worn over the right shoulder to support a sword or bugle by the left hip**




SUSTAINABILITY
&
Animal welfare

Sustainability and Animal Welfare

"a sustainable world …. can only be created by bringing three sets of principles into harmony: those of ecology, economics and ethics."

Guy Salmon



Uncategorized

opposition to NZ's first "Battery Cow Farm"

Opponents to the Upper Waitaki Resource Consents hearing will be giving evidence on Wednesday 9 December 2009 at the Christchurch Town Hall, starting at 9.30 am.

The Mackenzie Guardians is a group formed recently to oppose 110 applications to take, use and discharge up to 90 million cubic metres of water a year from our high country rivers, streams and lakes in the Mackenzie Basin, South Canterbury.

Many of the public do not know that there are plans to irrigate more than 27,000 hectares of the Mackenzie Basin, a natural dry land landscape which has been part of NZ's main tourist route for decades. It's a well-loved 'natural desert' that is surprisingly biologically rich.

New Zealand's first 'battery cow farms' are also being proposed for this area, with 17,000 cows housed 24 hours a day in "cubicle stables" for 8 months of the year (March to October).

During the summer months the cows will also be locked up for 12 hours a day. These 'battery farms' are planned for natural moraine and glacial outwash land near Lake Ohau, next to a conservation reserve and QE II covenanted area of tussock.

l state of the law on this issue is
n effect, allowing the pork
to write the Welfare Code for
e of doubts and criticisms from

up to its rhetoric, the industry needs to use its undoubted influence to ensure that humanely produced meat is identified and labelled.

To merely label the meat as "New Zealand Pork" is to make a ridiculous and inadequate

Robyn Kippenberger is the na
executive of the Royal New Z



CAGED: A visit to a piggery by the *Sunday* programme exposed the conditions many pigs are forced to live in.

PICTURE / NZ OPEN RESCUE

IA MONITORS



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New slaughter rules upset Jewish groups

The Jewish community is outraged at a new animal welfare code that bans kosher slaughter – a move usually confined to anti-semitic countries.

The Organisation of Rabbis of Australasia acting president, Moshe Gutnick, said the decision was "beyond

Some 42 public submitters opposed the ban on religious grounds, and the advisory committee report recommended an exemption for the "exceptional circumstance".

It stated: "In order to balance animal welfare and religious rights imperatives



SAFE JOINS JAMIE OLIVER TO CRY FOWL!

The screening of Jamie Oliver's controversial programme *Jamie's Fowl Dinners*, about the cruelty of modern-day poultry farming, provided a great opportunity for SAFE to expose the unpalatable truth about the New Zealand poultry industry.

NAWAC

- Replaced AWAC established in 1989
- Established under Part 4 of the AWA 1999
- “to advise the Minister on issues relating to the welfare of animals and
- “to develop, and advise the Minister, on Codes of Welfare”

Membership

Eleven members covering:

- Veterinary, agricultural and animal science;
- The commercial use of animals;
- Companion animals;
- Ethics;
- Animal welfare advocacy;
- The public interest; and
- Environmental and conservation management.

AWA Section 58

Key Sections of the AWA 1999

Section 10:

- The owner of an animal, and every person in charge of an animal, must ensure that the physical, health and behavioural* needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both-
  - Good practice; and
  - Scientific knowledge

* as defined by section 4

Section 4 Again

Identifies that the physical, health and behavioural needs of an animal include:

- Proper and sufficient food and water;
- Adequate shelter;
- Opportunity to display normal behaviours;
- Freedom from unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress; and
- Protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease.

Qualified by the Rider

- being a need which, in each case, is appropriate to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal.

Codes of Welfare

- Established under Part 5 of the Act
- Must set **minimum** Standards
- May recommend best practice
- Must be developed in consultation with those likely to be affected
- Must be publicly consulted
- **BUT**

Section 73(3) allows that NAWAC

- may, in exceptional circumstances, recommend minimum standards…. That do not fully meet the obligations of section 10
- AND

Section 73(4) requires that NAWAC

In making recommendations under #73(3) have regard to:-

- The feasibility and practicability of affecting a transition:
- The requirements of religious practices or cultural practices or both:
- The economic effects of any transition from current practices to new practices.

The challenge in drafting codes

Is to make balanced, scientifically sound judgements among the often conflicting social, ethical, economic and production management considerations in a way that does not stifle innovation.

The challenge in drafting codes

To develop minimum standards that achieve welfare outcomes consistent with:

- current scientific thinking,
- societal expectations for the welfare of the animals concerned,
- the understanding and acceptance of those who must abide by them, and
- enforceability for those who have to police them

NAWAC policy manual

Scientific knowledge

- Because of its growing importance in society, animal welfare must be addressed in a scientifically credible manner" **(**World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), 2004).
- But science is not value free
- Much 'welfare' science is based on a production focus to defend current practices
- More recently a growing body of research into animals behavioural needs

Good practice

Represents a standard of care of animals that:

- Is widely accepted among knowledgeable practitioners and experts in the field;
- Is based on good sense and sound judgement;
- Is practical and thorough;
- Has robust experiential or scientific foundations;
- Prevents unreasonable or unnecessary harm;
- Promotes their interests.

Mellor, 2004

Requirements of the Act

- Standards must be based on:
  - submissions and consultations; and
  - good practice and scientific knowledge; and
  - available technology; and
  - any other matters considered relevant by NAWAC

Challenges of developing standards

- Submissions generally values-based
- Science contradictory and incomplete
- What is good practice?
  - not best practice
  - informed by international trends
  - informed by societal ethical considerations
- Other matters not defined but under #73

If requiring a change

- NAWAC must consider
  - feasibility and practicality of and any adverse effects the proposed change:
  - any requirements of religious and/or cultural practices:
  - the economic effects of any transition from current practices to new practices.

Current list of Criteria used by NAWAC

- animal welfare outcomes based on scientific knowledge and practical experience ;
- practicability and available technology;
- international trends;
- societal ethical concerns; and
- economic implications for those concerned at various points in the supply chain.

Societal Ethical Concerns

- Often differ from the views of ‘experts’
- Are likely to reflect international trends
- Are based on increasing public scrutiny of production systems
- Are influenced by our ‘clean green’ self promoted image
- Reflect concerns over loss of control over where our food comes from
- Are constantly evolving

Balancing the Five Freedoms

i.e. the nutritional, environmental, health, behavioural and mental requirements of animals

- AWA doesn't allow for trade-offs
- Industry largely focuses on production evidence and concerns about efficiency
- Society largely focuses on behavioural evidence and concerns about distress

Justifying animal welfare trade-offs

Any confinement system or practice must:

- Produce demonstrable and significant animal welfare benefits in another area or domain;
- Only apply for the minimum period necessary to realise those benefits; and
- Active attempts must be made to develop and use viable alternatives

The problem

- Widespread concern about use of cage-housing technologies for egg production
- Alternatives are:
  - Enriched colonies
  - Aviaries/Percheries
  - Deep litter barns
  - Free-range











Multi-criteria decision analysis

- Identify process
- Identify criteria
- Assign weightings
- Assign scores
- Crank the handle

Criteria	Relative Weight	Battery Cage Performance Score	Colony System Performance Score	Aviary Performance Score	Deep Litter Performance Score
Animal Welfare A: Nutrition	0.14	7	7	6	5
Animal Welfare B: Housing	0.14	7	7	6	6
Animal Welfare C: Health	0.14	7	7	5	4
Animal Welfare D: Behaviour	0.14	1	5	5	5
Animal Welfare E: Distress	0.14	2	5	6	6
Management capabilities	0.06	6	6	4	3
International Trends	0.03	1	6	7	6
Public Expectations	0.03	1	3	5	4
Distributional Impacts	0.06	7	2	4	3
Industry structure	0.06	7	1	4	5
Economic Impact	0.06	7	1	3	5
Decision Score	1	5.04	5.21	5.18	4.9

Totaranui



http://www.snowypeak.co.nz/en/uw/downloads/uw-foundation.pdf