



National Animal Welfare RD&E Strategy

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Summary of Emerging Issues and Potential Projects

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Theme 1. Animal Welfare Assessment

Issues and Opportunities

1. Measures of animal welfare need to be
 - Practical under field conditions
 - Auditable for underpinning QA schemes
 - Science based
2. A “whole of chain” approach should be taken to the measurement and auditing of animal welfare standards
3. Need to involve the public in welfare assessment (Teresa Collins' work?)
4. Need remote sensing technology for monitoring rangeland livestock

Potential Projects

1. Promotion of positive welfare states in livestock production

Theme 2. Pain Assessment and Management

Issues and Opportunities

1. Pain relief following surgery and other procedures e.g. beak trimming
2. Assessment of pain response and suppression through analgesia
3. New methods of analgesic administration, e.g. needleless injection
4. Constraints to pain relief e.g. access to compounds by non veterinarians
5. RFID devices/implants to negate need for branding, ear marking, tagging etc.
6. Risk of duplication of R&D efforts due to confidentiality issues
7. Pain relief using non chemical, behavioural techniques

Potential Projects

1. Investigate positive welfare states to mitigate aversive practices
2. In confidence meeting of co investors (including pharmaceutical companies) and researchers to minimise duplication of effort
3. Alternative methods of ID to avoid branding, ear marking, tagging etc.

Theme 3. Management, Housing and Husbandry

Issues and Opportunities

1. Environmental enrichment for intensive systems
2. Lameness
3. Effects of intensification
4. Design and management of outdoor production systems for Australian conditions

Potential Projects

1. All projects suggested were industry/species specific i.e. not cross sectoral
2. Impacts of intensification on animal health and welfare was a common theme. Cross sectoral project idea?

Theme 4. Transport, Euthanasia and Slaughter

Issues and Opportunities

1. On farm euthanasia (including bobby calves, spent hens)
2. Halal and Kosher killing and stunning

Potential Projects

1. Develop a national framework for animal welfare in abattoirs, from receipt to slaughter, that aligns SOPs in both export and domestic abattoirs
2. Optimal use of CCTV in abattoirs to improve animal handling
3. Gas stunning systems for pigs and poultry

Theme 5. Public Attitudes, Social Science and Community

Issues and Opportunities

1. Insufficient public knowledge of livestock production and animal welfare
2. We lack knowledge of attitudes to different welfare issues amongst the public, producers and other stock handlers
3. Insufficient understanding of how changing demographics and socio-economic conditions may affect animal welfare
4. Need to build consumer and retailer understanding and acceptance of alternative production systems that are not “free range”
5. Need to develop a framework for ethical animal production chains
6. Need to build consumer trust in livestock production and farmers

Potential Projects

1. Education of the public on livestock production practices and the assessment of animal welfare
2. Develop a national strategy for building consumer confidence and trust in the livestock production industries
3. Enhance consumer knowledge and acceptance of alternative production systems that are not “free range”
4. Develop green and animal welfare friendly QA systems for livestock production

Theme 6. Education, Training and Extension

Issues and Opportunities

1. Training in animal welfare for stock handlers on farms, during transport, at saleyards and in abattoirs
2. Education of the broader community, particularly school children
3. Raise awareness of new livestock transport laws

Potential Projects

1. Develop ProHand transport package
2. Animal welfare training at domestic abattoirs
3. Promote AWSC animal welfare education package to industry and modify as required for farm and post farm gate application
4. Education material for schools
5. Extension to producers e.g. alternatives to surgery

Theme 7. Policy and Market Access

Issues and Opportunities

1. With states responsible for welfare legislation, we lack a nationally consistent approach
2. Lack of integrated, whole of chain auditing procedures
3. Inadequate design and implementation of legislation to ensure animal well being
4. Lack of clarity regarding responsibility for animal welfare post farm gate
5. Threat of international rules over riding Australian welfare laws and standards

Potential Projects

1. Identify and establish lines of communication with state and national policy analysts
2. Consistent and accurate labelling of animal products