Welfare priorities

Clive Phillips

Principles

- What is important to AW RDE providers?
  - Conduct research in high priority areas
  - Independence of research and opportunities to publish results in relevant scientific journals
  - Maintenance of capability in AW research
  - Access to the industry

Animals we use:
populations [†] and annual cull (*)

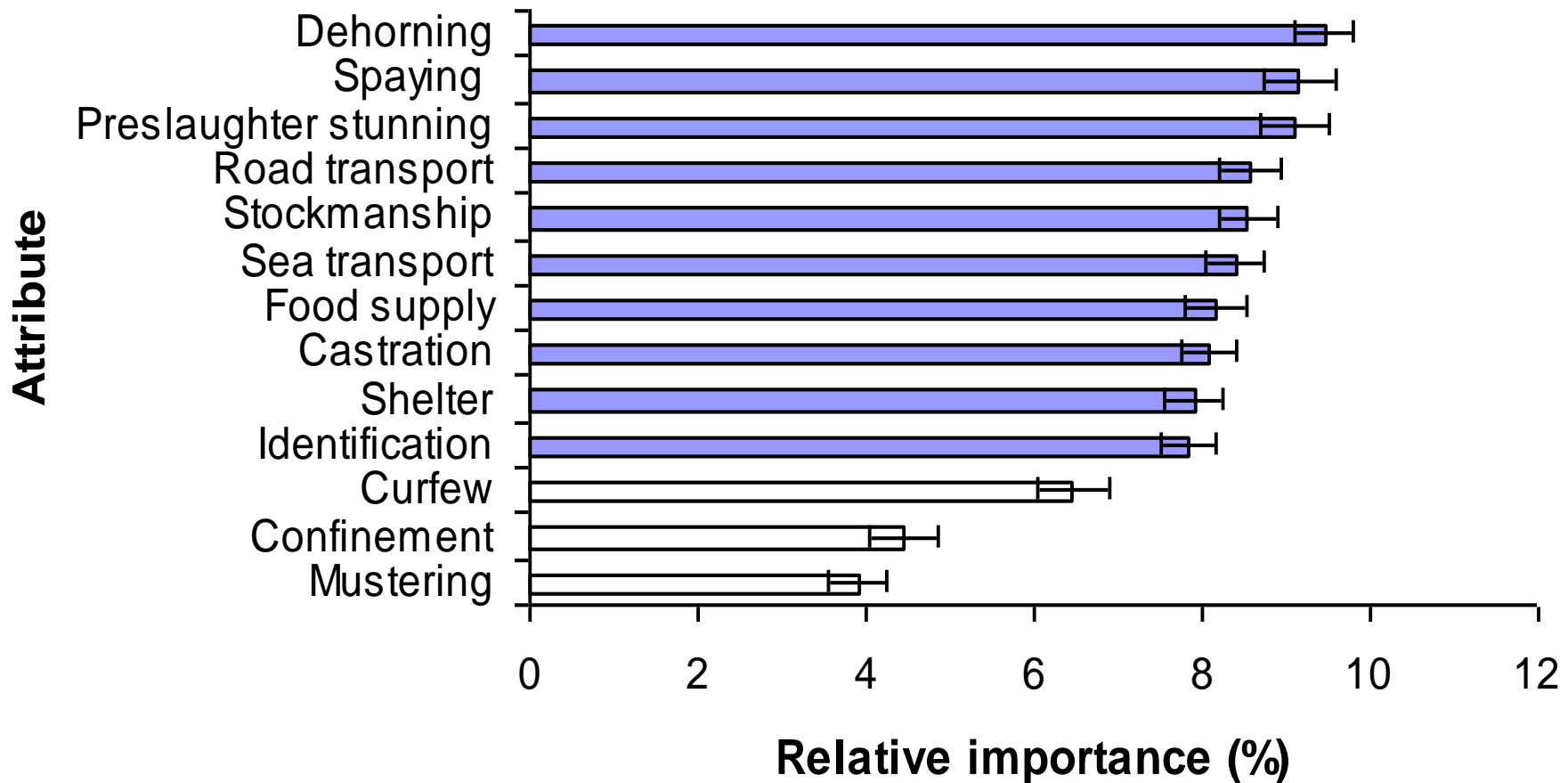|	
Wild caught fish*	70 billion
Pigs/poultry [†]	17 billion
Cat kills*	12 billion
Fish bycatch*	10 billion
Ruminants[†]	3 billion
Road kills*	1 billion
Companion animals [†]	1-2 billion
Work/entertainment animals [†]	100 million
Laboratory animals [†]	50-70 million
Zoo animals [†]	1 million

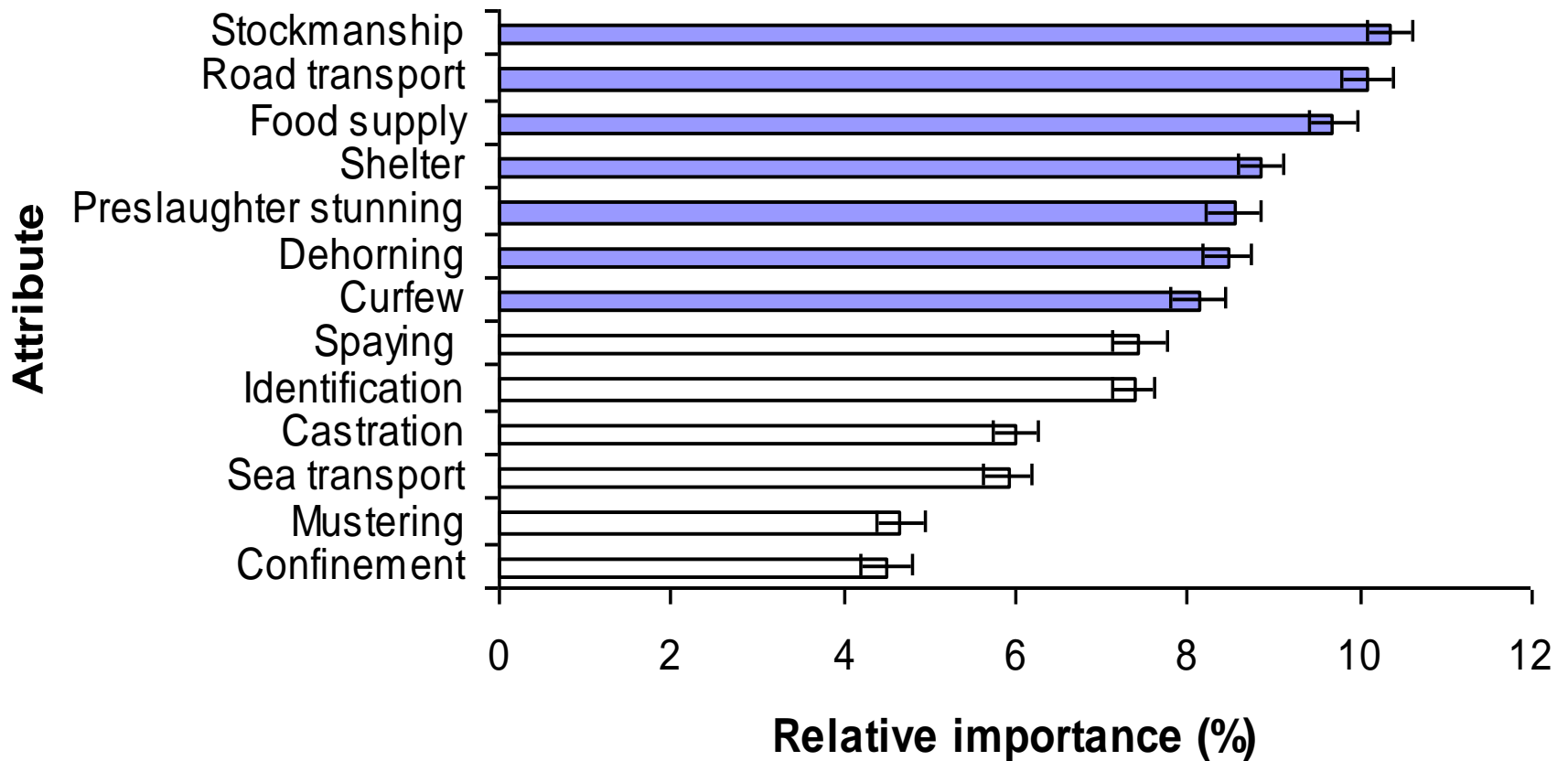# CAWE staff observe sheep loading for transport to Middle East

Beef and Sheep priorities, 2005

- **Beef:** *stockmanship > road and rail transport > spaying > food supply > dehorning > stunning > shelter > identification > curfew > castration > sea transport > mustering > confinement*
- **Sheep and goats:** *parasite control > mulesing > shelter > stockmanship > tail docking > ground transport > feeding > predation > stunning > castration > curfew > sea transport > mustering*

Attitudes of animal welfare organisation representatives to Australian beef welfare issues

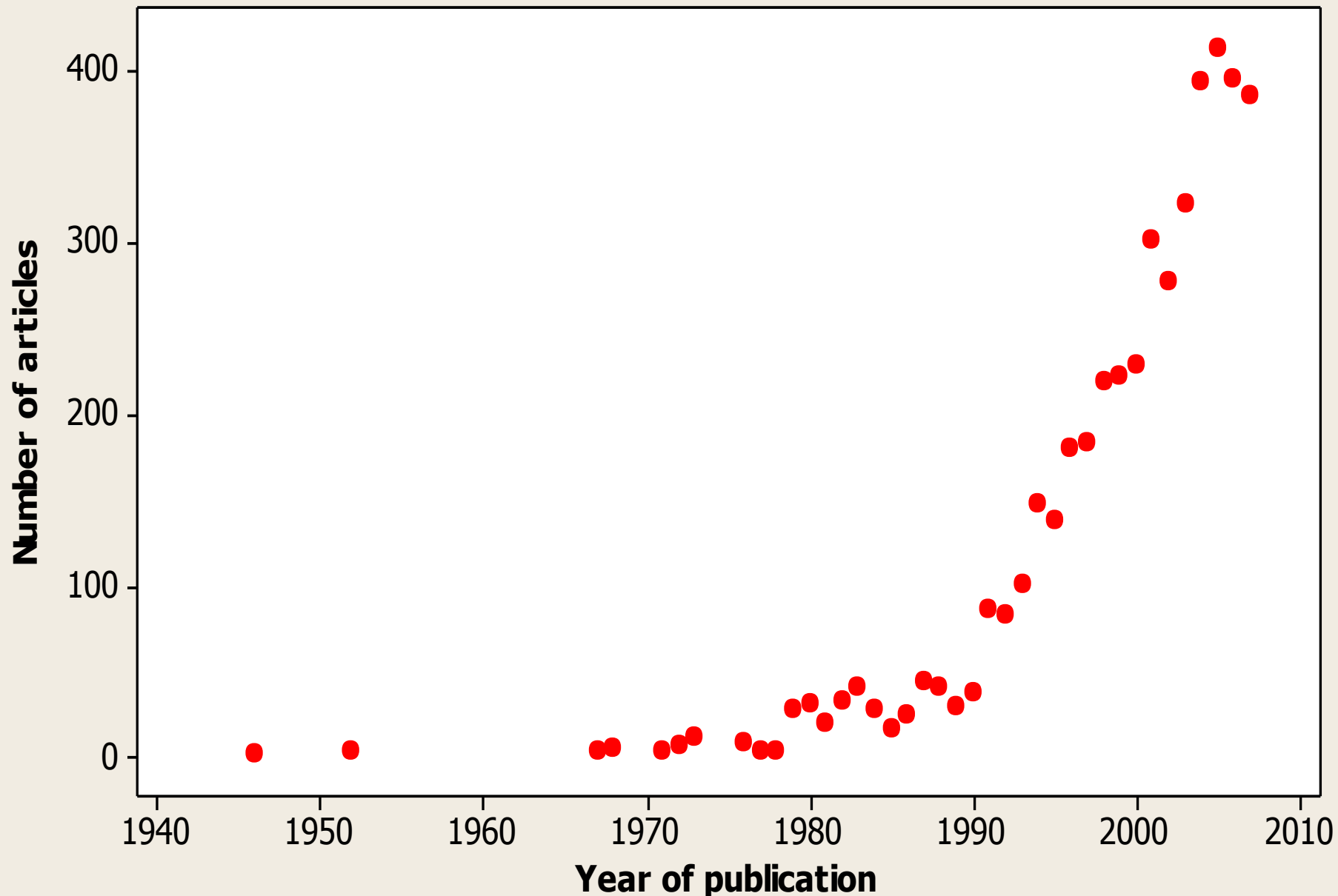# Attitudes of producers to Australian beef welfare issues

Why are we doing the research?

Why are we doing the research?

- Improve animal welfare

- Improve industry profitability

- Satisfy the community/government

- Knowledge generation

- Improve our scientific profile

Scatterplot of Number of articles vs Year of publication

AWSC priorities

RDE Priority	Collaborative opportunity
• Welfare methodology:	• CSIRO • CAWE (UQ)
• Painful husbandry procedures:	• Massey Univ • CSIRO
• Public attitudes:	• Univ WA • CAWE (UQ)
• Welfare benchmarking	
• Competency of stockhandlers, both on farms and post-farm gate:	• CAWE (UQ)
• Develop a public attitude monitoring scheme	• Univ WA • CAWE (UQ)
• Develop a ProHand package for the livestock transport industry and develop industry education focussing on pre-slaughter handling and stunning	• CAWE (UQ)
• Investigate the design, features and alternatives to confinement housing systems	• Uni Syd • DAFWA • Rivalea

CAWE priorities

RDE Priority	Collaborative opportunity
• Live export, stress levels from mustering to arrival at destination. Responses to specific stressors, especially movement	• Murdoch University, Drewe Ferguson, CSIRO
• Impact on welfare of human manipulation of growth and reproduction in cattle	• Drewe Ferguson, CSIRO
• Animal:animal interactions, social ethology in cattle herds	• Animal: animal interactions with PHH, use similar methodology to human:animal interactions
• Industry structure and welfare provision, cross cultural comparisons, systems modelling	• Siobhan O'Sullivan, Melbourne Uni. , Carol Richards, UQ Social Sciences; Public attitudes with Monash staff, e.g. Samia Toukhsati
• Development of a welfare certification scheme	• PHH AWSC

CSIRO priorities

RDE Priority	Collaborative opportunity
• Development and validation of measures of affective state in livestock	• Through cross-sectoral research, improve methodologies and develop a framework for interpreting the importance of affective states to livestock
• Development of novel methods to integrate animal response measures to achieve more robust assessments of welfare	• The cross-sectoral issue here is a robust methodology for combining multiple measures of animal welfare into an assessment framework that is valid across species and industries
• Development of welfare risk assessment systems for on-farm use	• The opportunity is to develop a whole-of-life welfare risk assessment methodology that is consistent and robust across industry sectors

Conclusions

- Independent research a priority
- Why are we doing the research?