

WELFARE QUALITY © VIEWS FROM A FARMER

Views from a farmer

- Remarks
- Questions
- Messages

of a pig farmer
having performed
the Welfare Quality © assessment
on his farm

WELFARE QUALITY © VIEWS FROM A FARMER

At first : a positive impression

- About the assessment method
 - The auditor does the same job as I do every morning : he observes the animals : it is substantial
 - The auditor observes my pigs and scores up his observations : it is objective

WELFARE QUALITY © VIEWS FROM A FARMER

At first : a positive impression

- About scoring
 - Scoring assesses the farmer's management rather than the quality of the "hardware" the farm
 - The assessment of welfare is an acknowledgment of the quality of a job well done

WELFARE QUALITY @ VIEWS FROM A FARMER

At first : a positive impression

- About scoring

Incentive and motivation for improvement

- Scoring outcome-based data implies an obligation for follow-up action
- Scoring allows farmers
 - to compare practices and know-how
 - to highlight good performances
 - to address issues to be improved

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Some concerns

- Scoring a picture of my farm at a given time

- Many things may change on a farm
- Data or figures don't distinguish between what is daily practice and what is accidental (at that given time)
- If this audit is used to judge and fix a value of my work during a whole year, what is the consequence if an accidental problem appears at the day of audit?

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Some concerns

- About audit **Farmers have many audits**

- C.A.P : cross compliance
- Welfare
- On farm feed mixing
- Health status
- Environment
 - equipment regulations
 - livestock
 - fertilisation
 - wastes
- Electric standards
- Work condition requirements
- Fiscal, social
- Quality standards, etc.

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Some concerns

- About audit
 - ☒ A problem of stress - as it is for any audit
 - ☒ A problem of time - auditing half the farm (finishing pigs only) takes a whole day for one auditor!
 - ☒ A problem of costs - time spent during the audit and for the preparation
 - costs of auditor
 - costs for corrective measures

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Some questions

-Who pays for the extra costs? ⇨ Consumers ?

Année	Volume (tonnes)
2006	20 914
2007	14 209
2008	11 492

In France, the reimbursement of welfare costs on the selling price has caused a decrease of the volume of processed pork with "Label Rouge" of 44% !

- UK is the European country where the welfare regulation is most stringent
In this country pig production decreased 40,1%

1995	14,7 million pigs
2008	8,8 million pigs

Source : BRFex
Annual pig production in UK

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Some questions

- Who pays the extra costs?

- ⇨ No compensation = no motivation
- ⇨ Implementing more expensive welfare rules must be **purchase based**, otherwise it decreases competitiveness
- ⇨ I can't accept implementation of this monitoring tool without any financial compensation

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Some questions

- For which application?

- ⇒ Mandatory labeling? ... **NO**
 - for technical reasons (too complicated)
 - for economic reasons (competitiveness)
 - for marketing reasons (valorisation)
- ⇒ Private quality scheme? **YES ... BUT**
 - if simplified
 - by using only important WQ control points

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Some questions

- For which application?

- ⇒ Validation of farming system
 - yes, probably
- ⇒ Welfare advising? Farmer self audit scheme?
 - certainly a good way to evaluate and to enhance farm animal welfare

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Some messages for the scientists

Keep it simple

Welfare Quality @ assessment tool seems to be a powerful tool for enhancement

To be successful, it must be simple and practicable

Work with existing farmers' organisations

To make it feasible and implemented in common farming practice, have a close cooperation with farmers' organisations

WELFARE QUALITY @ VIEWS FROM A FARMER

Some messages for the scientists

Do not isolate animal welfare

- Animal welfare is not the only requirement
 - Social demand
 - Environment
 - Economy
 - Quality
 - Health and Safety
- Those demands are sometimes contradictory
- All those demands must be balanced

Work for a fully integrated farm assessment
