


EXAMPLES OF EURCAW TRAINING MATERIALS



WHY EURCAW PROVIDES TRAINING EXAMPLES

- To respond to the on-the-ground needs of inspectors
- To support and inspire EU member states in developing training courses that inspectors need
- To work closely with experts in the field to create courses that are based on scientific knowledge
- To provide minimum standards and learning goals for the eight welfare areas:

Intact tails, climate control and space allowance during transport, farrowing management and housing, handling in lairage, pig stunning, group housing and mixing, fitness for transport and on-farm killing



The screenshot shows the EURCAW Pigs website. The header includes the EURCAW Pigs logo, the text "European Reference Centre for Animal Welfare Pigs", and a "Permission settings" link. The navigation menu contains: Home, Services, Output, Dossiers, Training, News, About EURCAW, and Contact. The main content area is titled "Training" and features a large image of two women in blue lab coats looking at a document. Below the image, the text reads: "To facilitate training, EURCAW-Pigs offers suggestions for training and continuing education courses for inspectors. These are specifically targeted towards the eight prioritized welfare areas along the value chain (on-farm, transport, slaughter)." It then lists three types of support provided: (1) Examples of training plans and materials, (2) Quality standards, advice, templates, and technical support, and (3) Training suggestions for communication skills. A "Contact" section provides an email address: info.pigs@eurcaw.eu. A "New readings" section is also visible. At the bottom, there are three small images with captions: "Training activities and materials", "Standards for training", and "Inspection-driven improvement".

“During inspection you don’t look exclusively for whether any harm has already been done, [...] You do that too, but many of the regulations really exist to prevent animal welfare problems. I find it important to explain what is behind the regulations, because if you expect them to do things right the next time, they need to understand what the meaning behind it is” (Inspector D.)

To inspect, to motivate – or to do both? A dilemma for on-farm inspection of animal welfare

I Anneberg, M Vaarst and P Sandøe (Animal Welfare 2013)

WHY TRAINING IS IMPORTANT FOR INSPECTORS

Inspectors ask for:

1. Updated knowledge and discussions about EU and national legislation
2. Updated relevant scientific knowledge – e.g. knowing the biological basis of legislation
3. Time for calibration with colleagues
4. Communication-tools in relation to resistance and the need for change
5. Need for networking (working in an area that is lonely and difficult)



THE PROCESS OF MAKING THE TRAINING

1. A review of the scientific literature is done by a group of experts in each of the eight welfare areas. The reviews summarize the most important risk areas, describe common welfare issues and indicators, describe biological needs and behaviour of pigs, and reference current legislation
2. Based on the reviews, EURCAW provides animal based indicators /factsheets
3. The reviews are paired with training courses. They provide the scientific resources for the training courses – together with other scientific resources.
4. In collaboration with the review authors we develop a one-day course example for each welfare area

Two Danish inspectors talked about the necessity of being open about how they estimated differently and disagreed on certain results:

“This is really important [...] we are not afraid of talking about this to our colleagues, we have a tradition for it, also on how we interpret things. And this [talk about interpretations] has to be done on a national level, not just within regions. Besides, we all have to be able to get responses to our interpretations and estimations from a few central persons”

(Inspector K and Inspector L).

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SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES AND WHY WE CHOSE THEM – 1) CALIBRATION

Calibration between inspectors are essential – why?

Legislation is often very open – makes room for discussions

Knowledge is often based on both experience and science - makes room for discussions

Calibration (of different views and interpretations) needs support in the system, inspectors say

Calibration takes time – inspectors need time to meet with each other

DILEMMA EXAMPLE (FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT)

During unloading at the slaughterhouse, a sow is observed with a bleeding shoulder (see the photos below). The sow walked into the slaughterhouse and was not obviously lame but showed an uneven gait. The driver tells you that she was not bleeding when she was loaded at the farm.

Make a detailed protocol that includes your observations, how you would use indicators to assess the situation, whether or not this case is in compliance with legislation, and how you would proceed (ie who would you contact? Would this case require sanctions? How can you act in a way that helps to prevent this in the future?).



SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES AND WHY WE CHOSE THEM – 2) DILEMMAS/CASE STUDIES

Inspectors must translate between legislation, scientific knowledge, and real-world situations

Courses may include descriptions and photos of common dilemmas

Provides an opportunity to bring together all aspects of the training in order to work through a difficult problem

Work through the dilemma with colleagues – so can have a discussion about different interpretations and experiences

Develop a plan based on that dilemma – can be useful when inspectors encounter this type of problem in their work

TRAINING-COURSES MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE

Presentations and discussion about:

- Legislation
- Knowledge about animal suffering
- Normal pig behavior and biology
- Using indicators during inspection
- Communication with farmers or other stakeholders
- Suggestions for supplementary reading

Suggestions?





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