

Cross Compliance  
Animal Welfare  
Requirements

FAS Training Session  
Birr Nov. 2009

# Concept of Animal Welfare

Freedom from:

- thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- discomfort
- Unnecessary pain, suffering, injury and disease
- stress and fear.
- Freedom to express normal behaviour

## Overview

- Address serious animal welfare problems mainly
- Gross abuse of animals
- inhumane treatment

Some technical requirements that can cause problems on a “good” farm

# Animal Welfare

**Applicable from 1.1.2007**

## **Animal Welfare**

<b>SMR 16</b>	Sets minimum standards for the protection of calves	Council directive 2008/119/EC Article 3 and 4
<b>SMR 17</b>	Sets minimum standards for the protection of pigs	Council Directive 2008/120/EC Article 3 and 4
<b>SMR 18</b>	Rules concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes.	Council Directive 98/58/EC Article 4

## AW Requirements

- SMR 18: Applies to all farm animals
- SMR 16: Lists extra requirements for calves
- SMR17: Lists extra requirements for pigs

# Welfare Requirements for Farmed Animals

(SMR 18)

## Applicable Animals

- Bred or kept to produce food, wool, skin, fur, other farming purpose
- Not applicable to animals used in competitions, shows cultural or sporting events/activities
- Most horses/ponies exempt

## Staffing - Inspections

- Animals to be cared for by a sufficient no. of competent staff
- Animals to be inspected at appropriate intervals
- Ill or injured animals to be cared for appropriately



## Record Keeping

- Records of medicinal treatment and on-farm deaths to be maintained
- Above Records to be retained for at least 3 yrs

# Freedom of Movement

- Must not be restricted so as to cause unnecessary suffering or injury
- Must be given appropriate space if animal regularly tethered or confined

## Buildings and Accommodation

- Equipment and materials must not be harmful and be capable of being cleaned and disinfected
- Accommodation and fittings for securing animals must not have sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury
- Adequate air circulation or ventilation,
- Adequate natural or artificial lighting
- Animals Outdoors – given protection from adverse weather, predators, risks to health

# Equipment

- Automated or mechanical equipment to be inspected once/day, if broken safeguard health of animals e.g. backup system
- Artificial vent. System - backup and alarm sys. tested regularly to warn of breakdown

# Nutrition

- Must be fed appropriate diet
- Access to feed at appropriate intervals
- Access to water or other to satisfy fluid intake
- Ensure non contamination of feeding and watering equip.
- Harmful effects of competition to be minimised
- Administering substances detrimental to Health & Welfare of animal

# Mutilations

Tail Docking on all bovines prohibited

Can't do the following without a local anaesthetic

Calves > 14 days: dehorned or disbudded

Cattle > 6 months: castrated

Lambs > 7 days: tail docked

Sheep > 3 months: castrated

## Breeding Procedures

- Use of breeding procedures likely to cause suffering or injury to animals
- Animals due to their genetic or physical characteristics cannot be kept without detrimental effect on Health & Welfare

# Welfare Requirements for Calves

(SMR 16)

## Background/Exceptions

- Calf = Bovine up to 6 months old
- Checks with astericks (\*) are not applicable under the following situations:
  - \* Fewer than 6 calves on the holding or
  - \* Calves kept with their mother for suckling

# Inspections

- Housed calves to be inspected twice/day  
– outdoor calves once/day
- Treat ill calf appropriately (if required, obtain Vet advice ASAP, isolate on dry comfortable bedding)

# Freedom of Movement

- Calf Accommodation must allow a calf to lie down, rest, stand, groom itself without difficulty
- No tethers (exc. Grp-hsed -1 hour @ feeding)
- Tether use must allow free movement/no injury
- Muzzling not permitted
- \* Confined to individ. pen after 8 weeks without vet cert.



**Suitable Individual Calf Hutches**



**Example of a Group Hutch System**

## Spacings -Accomodation (1)

- \* Min. pen width and length of calf pen  
W = at least height of calf (standing) @ withers  
Length = body length of calf multiplied by 1.1
- \* Sufficient floor space for calves in groups  
(able to turn around and lie down easily)
  - 1.5m<sup>2</sup> for 150kg calf - 1.8m<sup>2</sup> for >220kg
- \* Individual pens to have perforated walls (to see/touch each other) exc. Isolating sick calf

# Types of Individual Calf Pens



## Space Accommodation (2)

- Floors - suitable for standing and lying on without causing injury or suffering
- Lying area comfortable, clean, adequately drained
- Ensure no risk of electric shock from electrical circuits and equipment

## Lighting – Equipment

- Cannot be kept in permanent darkness
- Artificially lit buildings need to be lit for 8 hours

## Nutrition

- Provide colostrum within 6 hrs of birth
- To be fed at least twice a day
- Access to food at same time as others in group
- Access to a sufficient quantity of fresh water or other fluids for calves > 2 wks
- Min. daily ration fibrous food (eg straw)
- In hot conditons or when ill fresh water to be available at all times

# Welfare Requirements for PIGS

(SMR 17)

## Exceptions

- Checks with astericks (\*) are not applicable under the following situations:
  - \* Houses newly built, rebuilt or brought into use for first time from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2003 exempted until 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2013

# Inspections

- \* Individual pens for sick/injured/bullied pigs must allow pig to turn around easily
- Measures to be taken to prevent fighting in groups eg., providing plentiful straw
- Preg. Sows/Gilts to be treated for external or internal parasites where necessary.
- Use of tranquillising medicines to facilitate mixing to be limited and must be with consultation of vet.

## Freedom of Movement - Space

- No tethers permitted
  - Sows/Gilts: minimise aggression in groups
  - Farrowing pens to have some means of protecting piglets (farrowing rails)
  - Minimum floor areas
- e.g., up to 10kg - 0.15m<sup>2</sup>,  
>110kg - 1m<sup>2</sup>,  
Sow - 2.25m<sup>2</sup>

## Buildings - Accomodation

- 85 dB continuous noise levels not permitted
- Comfortable lying area, drained and clean, can lie at same time
- \* Group housing of pregnant sows and gilts from 4 weeks after service and 1 week prior to farrowing
- Must be kept in light of min. 40 lux for a min. 8hrs/day

# Floors

- \* Concrete slatted floors for pigs in groups
  - Max. width of opening - 11mm, piglet
  - Min. slat width - 50mm for piglets
  - Weaners - rearing pigs - gilts and sows
  
  - Floors to be designed not to cause injury or pain
  - Boar pens: allow boar to turn around, hear, smell and see other pigs (6m<sup>2</sup> - adult boar)
  - Natural service - min. 10m<sup>2</sup>

## Manipulable Materials - Nutrition

- Permanent access to sufficient quantity of manipulable material for growing pigs
  - \* for sows gilts and boars
- All pigs must be fed at least once a day, each pig to have access to food @ same time -groups
- >2 weeks, perman. access to suffic.  
Freshwater
- Dry preg. Sows + Guilts, sufficient bulky or high fibre food as well as high energy food

## Mutilations

- Tail docking/teeth clipping not to be carried out routinely unless evidence of injuries to other pigs – other measures to be taken first
- Castration/tail docking after day 7 only under anaesthetic by vet

## Weaning Procedures

- No piglet shall be weaned <28 days unless for Health & Welfare reason of dam or piglet
- Can be weaned on day 21 if moved into specialised housing that is thoroughly cleansed and disinfected to minimise transmission of disease

## Useful References

- Animal Welfare Guidelines for Dairy Farmers (DAF)
- Animal Welfare Guidelines for Beef Farmers (Teagasc)
- Pig Welfare Requirements Booklet on DAFF Website



Thanks for your attention