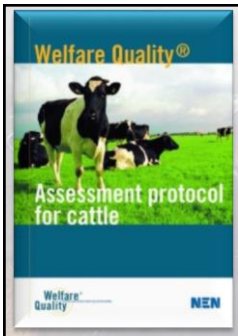


BovINE
BEEF INNOVATION NETWORK EUROPE

Animal Health & Welfare

Use of Welfare Quality® Assessment Protocol for cattle in different production systems in Portugal

What needs to be changed or adapted

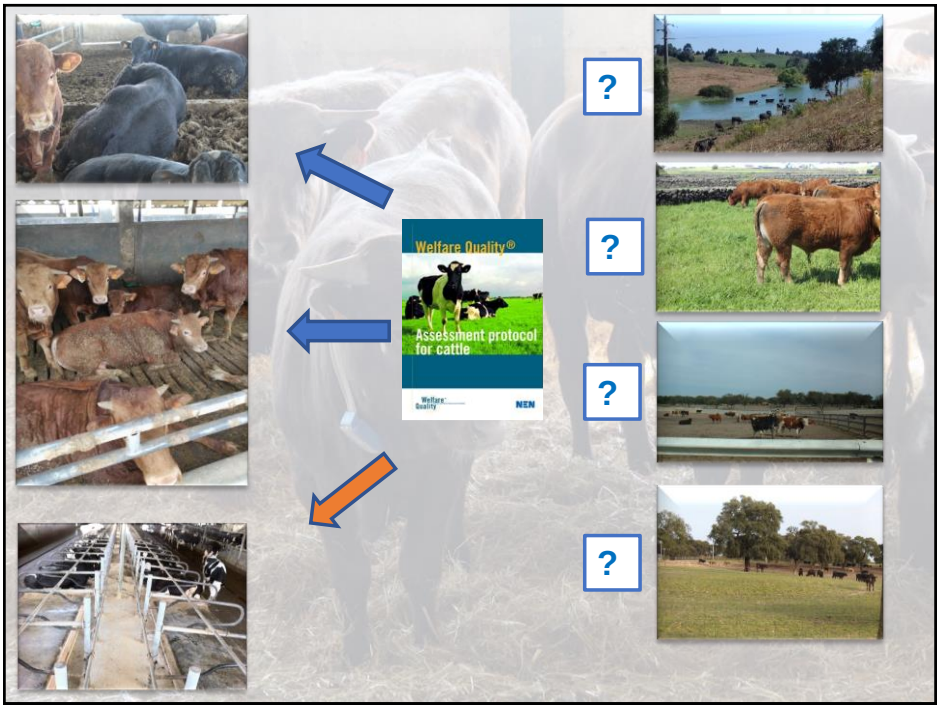
George Stilwell – FMV-ULisboa
José Pais - ACBM

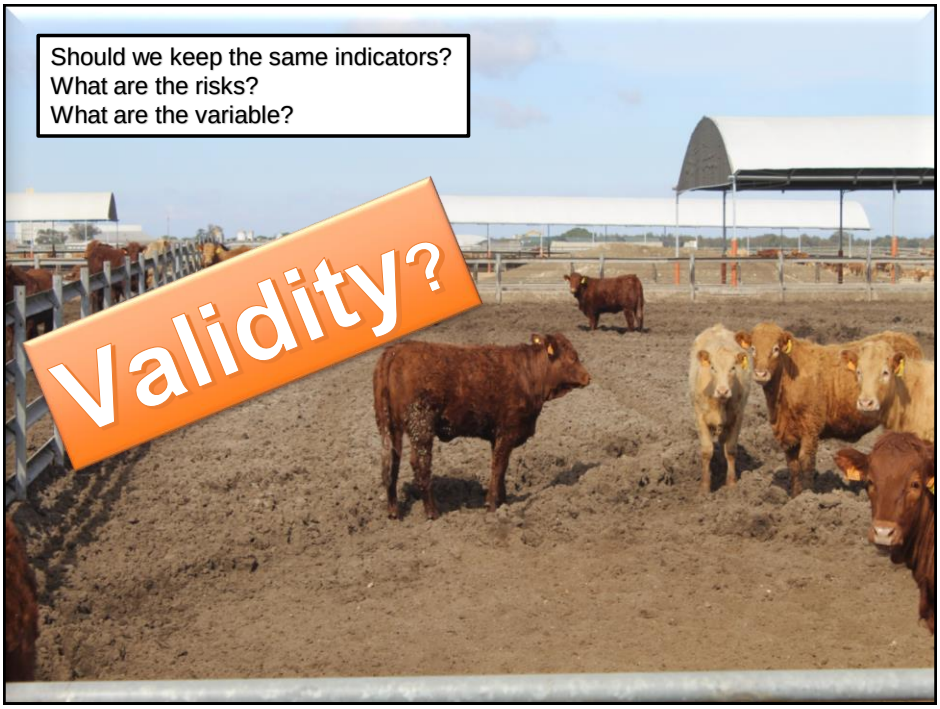
Associação de Criadores de Bovinos Mertolengos

Consumers demand welfare certification all along the production chain!

From FARM TO FORK

Is the WQ® protocol adequate to all animals or systems?





Rules for adaptation.

Ensure that the
4 Principles and 12 Criteria
are included and properly weighed

Welfare principles	Welfare criteria	
Good feeding	1	Absence of prolonged hunger
	2	Absence of prolonged thirst
Good housing	3	Comfort around resting
	4	Thermal comfort
	5	Ease of movement
Good health	6	Absence of injuries
	7	Absence of disease
	8	Absence of pain induced by management procedures
Appropriate behaviour	9	Expression of social behaviours
	10	Expression of other behaviours
	11	Good human-animal relationship
	12	Positive emotional state

Preferably use animal based measures...

Resource based measures?

Animal based measures?

WHICH ARE MORE RELIABLE?

Which (new) indicators are needed and which should be excluded?

Extensive: suckler herds and fattening
Large Outdoor feedlots

It is no longer the Welfare Quality® protocol!

Two crucial changes:

- use of binoculars
- assessment also done at the race or chute

agriculture

MDPI

Article

Identification of Suitable Animal Welfare Assessment Measures for Extensive Beef Systems in New Zealand

Y. Baby Kaurivi *, Richard Laven, Rebecca Hickson, Kevin Stafford and Tim Parkinson

School of Veterinary Medicine, Massey University, Palmerston North 4471, New Zealand; r.laven@massey.ac.nz (R.L.); r.hickson@massey.ac.nz (R.H.); k.stafford@massey.ac.nz (K.S.); t.parkinson@massey.ac.nz (T.P.)

* Correspondence: Y.Kaurivi@massey.ac.nz; Tel.: +64-6350-5328

Received: 17 January 2019; Accepted: 15 March 2019; Published: 25 March 2019

check for updates

animals

MDPI

Article

Developing an Animal Welfare Assessment Protocol for Cows in Extensive Beef Cow–Calf Systems in New Zealand. Part 1: Assessing the Feasibility of Identified Animal Welfare Assessment Measures

Y. Baby Kaurivi [1,*], Richard Laven [1], Rebecca Hickson [2], Tim Parkinson [1] and Kevin Stafford [2]

[1] School of Veterinary Medicine, Massey University, Private Bag 11 222, Palmerston North 4442, New Zealand; r.laven@massey.ac.nz (R.L.); t.j.parkinson@massey.ac.nz (T.P.)

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check for updates

What is kept and what is added

Principles	Criteria	Keep WQ®	Add
Good Feeding	Absence prolonged hunger Absence prolonged thirst	BCS Access to water	Rumen fill score Distance to water points
Good environment*	Comfort around resting Thermal comfort Ease of movement	Cleanliness	Shade Shelter Hazardous objects
Good Health	Lesions Disease Pain	Lameness, integument alterations Disease signs Pain in routine procedures	Ear tagging Accidents
Appropriate behaviour	Expression social behaviours Good human-animal relationship	Behaviours QBA Avoidance distance	Handling facilities Shouting, hitting Stockperson training, Behaviour at race/chute Tail twist Stumble, fall, run (exiting)

REMOVED (examples)
Cleanliness of (natural) water troughs.
Hock lesions
Bloat
Tail docking
Avoidance distance???

Stockmanship – behaviour in chute

Fearful/agitated Fall	% climbing on others attempting to escape % lying or falling in race	0: 0% 1: 0.1 – 2% 2: >2%
Stumble	% stumbling when exiting race	0: 0-2% 1: 2.1 – 5% 2: >5%
Run	% running out of chute	0: 0 – 5% 1: 5.1 – 10% 2: >10%

Miscatch	% Miscaught with gates on any part of the body	0: 0% 1: <1% 2: > 1%
Hitting	% hit or poked	0: no hitting 1: occasional/few hits 2: frequent (>10%)
Flow of cattle	Flow influenced by handling facilities design/quality	0: very effective cattle flow 1: effective but with flaws 2: difficult flow
Yarding frequency	Number of yarding per year	0: 4 times 1: 3 - 4 times 2: 0 - 2 times

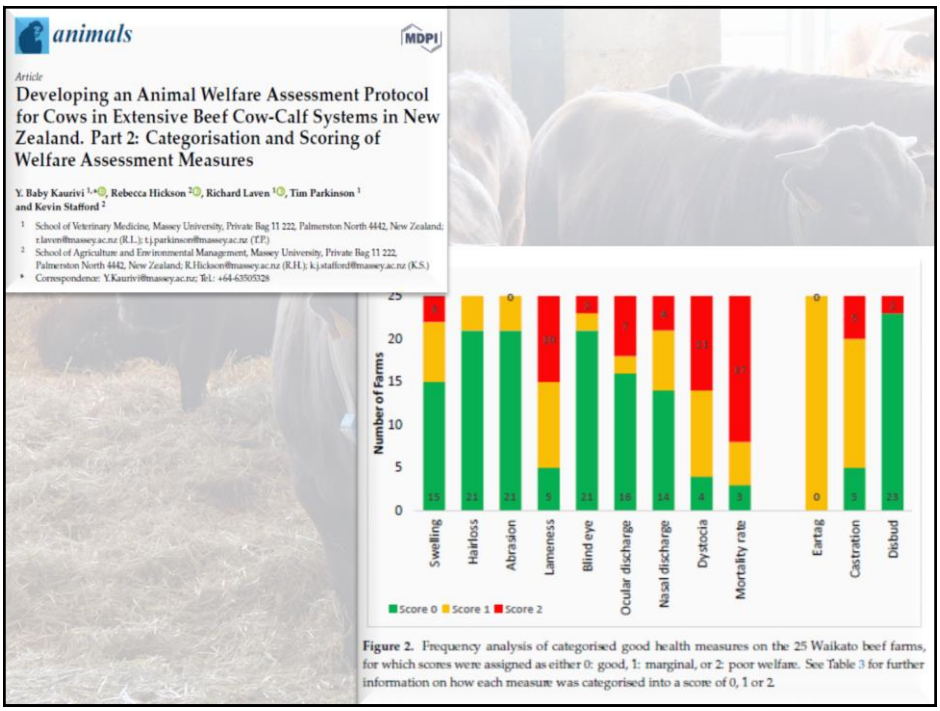


Figure 2. Frequency analysis of categorised good health measures on the 25 Waikato beef farms, for which scores were assigned as either 0: good, 1: marginal, or 2: poor welfare. See Table 3 for further information on how each measure was categorised into a score of 0, 1 or 2.

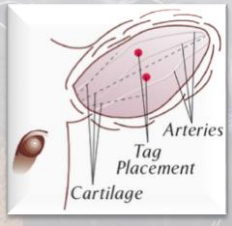
Welfare in suckler herds – PT study projects

Design and validation of an adapted WQ welfare protocol.

- Compare welfare:
  - Between 3 autochthonous beef breeds
  - Between conventional and organic farms
  - Between herds in Portugal, Mozambique and South Africa

Indicators	Farm B	Farm C	Farm J
Behaviour during handling in chute (% of animals from sampling)			
1 (very calm)	19%	84%	59%
2 (Calm)	56%	11%	29%
3 (Agitated)	19%	5%	6%
4 (Very agitated)	4%	0%	6%
5 (Violent)	2%	0%	0%
Mean	2.149	1.211	1.588
Indicator Score	76	96	88
Speed entering and exiting (% of animals from sampling)			
1 (walk)	8%	85%	88%
2 (trot)	51%	11%	6%
3 (galop)	41%	4%	6%
Mean	2.329	1.195	1.176
Indicator score	37	91	92
Final Score	57	91	90

Ear tags positioning



Aplicação de Marcas Auriculares

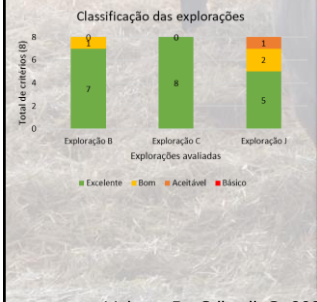
- Local correto (0)
  - Sem complicações (0)
    - Vitelos até 3 dias (0) – 100
    - Vitelos entre 3 e 20 dias (1) – 80
    - Vitelos com mais de 20 dias (2) – 55
    - Novilhos(as)/adultos (3) – 20
  - Com complicações (1)
    - Vitelos até 3 dias (0) – 80
    - Vitelos entre 3 e 20 dias (1) – 55
    - Vitelos com mais de 20 dias (2) – 20
    - Novilhos(as)/adultos (3) – 0
- Local incorreto (1,2,3)
  - Sem complicações (0)
    - Vitelos até 3 dias (0) – 80
    - Vitelos entre 3 e 20 dias (1) – 55
    - Vitelos com mais de 20 dias (2) – 20
    - Novilhos(as)/adultos (3) – 0
  - Com complicações (1)
    - Vitelos até 3 dias (0) – 55
    - Vitelos entre 3 e 20 dias (1) – 20
    - Vitelos com mais de 20 dias (2) – 0

Water quality and availability

Ausência de sede prolongada

- 1 bebedouro individual/10 animais
  - Limpo (0)
    - < 250 m (0) – 100
    - Entre 250 e 500 m (1) – 80
    - > 500 m (2) – 55
  - Parcialmente Sujo (1)
    - < 250 m (0) – 80
    - Entre 250 e 500 m (1) – 55
    - > 500 m (2) – 20
  - Sujo (2)
    - < 250 m (0) – 80
    - Entre 250 e 500 m (1) – 55
    - > 500 m (2) – 0
- 1 bebedouro individual/20 animais
  - Limpo (0)
    - < 250 m (0) – 80
    - Entre 250 e 500 m (1) – 5
    - > 500 m (2) – 20
  - Parcialmente Sujo (1)
    - < 250 m (0) – 55
    - Entre 250 e 500 m (1) – 2
    - > 500 m (2) – 0
  - Sujo (2)
    - < 250 m (0) – 20
    - Entre 250 e 500 m (1) – 0
    - > 500 m (2) – 0

Principle	Farm B	Farm C	Farm J
Behaviour	72	96	91
Health	95	97	83
Feeding	100	90	78
Environment	100	100	100
Final Score	**92**	**96**	**88**



Valente D., Stilwell, G, 2021

Most certification schemes in Portugal use the WQ® protocol

BIENESTAR ANIMAL CERTIFICADO WELFAIR™

WELFAIR (IRTA)
is the most common
welfare certification label

CREDIBILITY

- Deceit will negatively affect everyone involved.
- Remember - there are people closely monitoring and looking for failures.
- Facilitating serves no one.
- Lowering the bar for everyone to pass is not a solution
- Worse than not getting certified is to lose certification!
- **KEEP IMPROVING.**

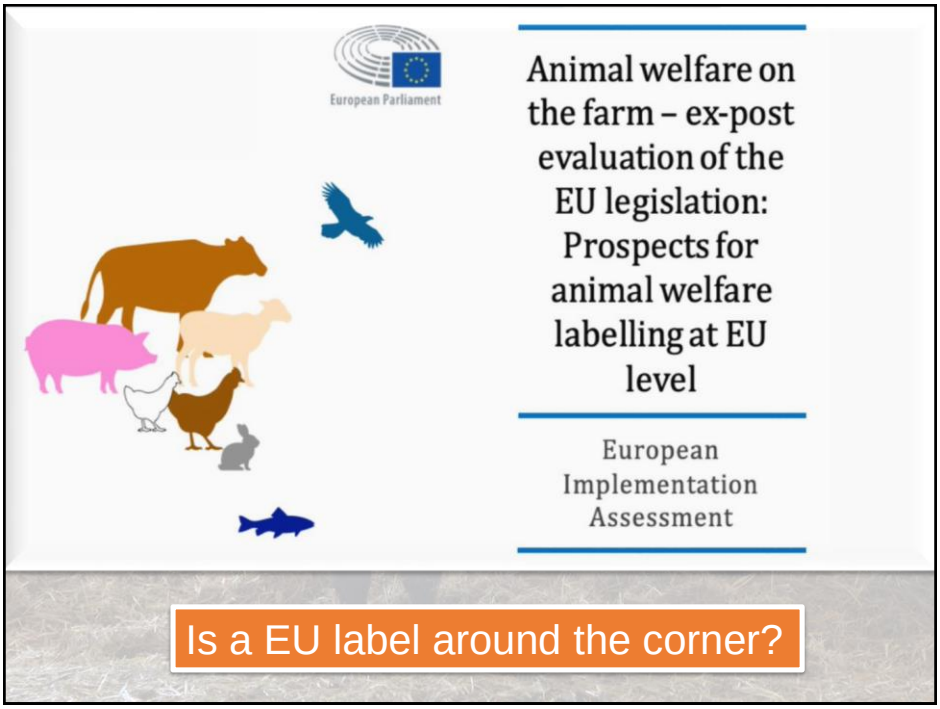
TRAINING!!!

- **Internal assessors** - **self-assessment**
- **External assessors**

AUDITORS COURSE
- **EXAM (THEORETICAL)**
- **IOR EXAM**
- **PRACTICAL (ON FARM)**

IRTA ACREDITTATION (<18 MONTHS)
- **INTEGRATION - FARM**

AUDITING


European Parliament
Animal welfare on the farm – ex-post evaluation of the EU legislation: Prospects for animal welfare labelling at EU level
European Implementation Assessment
Is a EU label around the corner?


Obrigado – Thank you