

# Symposium: National Extension Workshop: The Impact of Major Food Policy Shifts on the US Food Supply and its Producers: Animal Welfare Issues

**32 Washington Update.** R. D. Reynnells,\* *USDA/NIFA/PAS, Washington, DC.*

The 2010 Extension Special Recognition Award is presented to Greg Martin, The Pennsylvania State University. Greg has been an integral part of the planning for the Poultry Science Association (PSA) National Extension Workshop, member and Chair of the PSA Extension Committee and made significant other contributions to extension programming. On October 1, 2009 the National Institute of Food and Agriculture replaced the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. Multi-state research committees are creating innovative programs: the NCCC209 (Agricultural Bioethics) and NC1029 (Applied Animal Behavior and Welfare) collaborated on a USDA educational grant. A 5 year portfolio review for Plant and Animal Systems was completed in 2009, but otherwise are conducted internally each year. Areas of primary responsibility are: (Knowledge Area (KA) 306, Environmental Stress in Animals; KA308, Improved Animal Products (Before Harvest); KA315, Animal Welfare). The 2009 Southern Region (Quadrennial) Poultry Extension Workshop, was held in Raleigh, NC, (contact Ken Anderson, NC). Edgar Oviedo (NC) is the coordinator of the 2010 National Poultry Waste Management Symposium. The 2009 Future Trends in Animal Agriculture symposium provided a balanced discussion on what animal production and processing would and should look like in 2030, and other animal welfare (AW) issues. The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology scheduled their Food Animal Agriculture Symposium for June, 2010. The annual Animal Welfare Assessment Contest is open to undergraduate, graduate and veterinary students at Land Grant and other universities, and was held at Michigan State University. The contest focuses on AW and animal behavior areas, and emphasizes the importance of collaboration between disciplines and commodities to address AW and related issues. Bioethics (ethics as applied to biological systems) is an important component of discussions of AW and animal rights concepts and issues. Bioethics discussions help us understand value-driven perspectives of members of society, and proposed mandated restrictions regarding animal use.

**Key Words:** special recognition award, animal welfare, bioethics

**33 The impact of major food policy shifts on the US food supply and its producers: Animal welfare issues.** J. Reynolds,\* *University of California, Davis.*

Major governmental policy shifts that have impacted the welfare of farm animals in the US have included changes in farm subsidy programs, milk price supports, subsidizing ethanol production and increasing environmental regulations. These have had effect on the consolidation of farm production and subsequent changes in animal housing and management. In the US many policies are determined by the private sector, not the government. This has been the case with farm welfare issues. Because our society prefers industries to set standards or regulations the trend in the US has been for retailers of food products to work to develop welfare standards tolerated by consumers. Examples using the housing of poultry and sows and cattle tail docking and dehorning will be discussed to illustrate the effects of governmental policy driving consolidation and production efficiency and the attempts by retailers to counteract the dissonance in animal welfare experienced by animals and consumers.

**34 Animal agricultural conflict as competing worldviews.** W. Jamison,\* *Cornerstone Public Relations, LLC, Tequesta, FL.*

Animal Agriculture in industrialized nations has become the locus of intense conflict regarding the proper role and treatment of animals. Most analysis of the related animal welfare issues involves physiological, behavioral, or economic research focused on confinement systems and their impacts on the animal. Nonetheless, all of these analytic constructs are socially derived in that the larger social and political context defines what constitutes acceptable research and valid questions. However, this paper argues that animal welfare can be better understood as a social conflict between the competing worldviews regarding animals and their roles in human life. Consumptive-instrumentalist worldviews accept that animals and animal products will be slaughtered and consumed for human benefit; hence animal welfare becomes a function of that reality. Aesthetic-instrumentalist worldviews conversely understand the role of animals as companions or in other aesthetic roles for human benefit, hence animals are protected from consumptive uses. These 2 views are irreconcilable in that consumptive-instrumentalism results in animal death, while the goal of aesthetic-instrumentalism is the perpetuation of animals for human benefit.

**35 Update on the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching.** J. J. McGlone\*<sup>1</sup> and J. Swanson<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>*Texas Tech University, Lubbock*, <sup>2</sup>*Michigan State University, East Lansing.*

In January 2010, the third edition of the Ag Guide was published. The first edition was in 1988 and the first revision was in 1999. The third edition of the Ag Guide had 62 authors with expertise in each common species of farm animal and from each major discipline of the animal sciences. In addition, the authors represented the diversity of the FASS membership and Veterinarians and Agricultural Engineers. This updated Ag Guide is different in some meaningful ways. Previous editions used the title of agricultural animals in agricultural teaching and research. The title was changed by deleting the second use of the word agricultural. The authors concluded that this Guide applies to care of agricultural animals in any type of research and teaching (biomedical or agricultural). Two new chapters were added: farm animal handling and transport, and environmental enrichment. The husbandry and animal health chapters were reorganized and expanded. Information on biosecurity and genetically engineered animals was added. The scientific literature was updated in each species chapter. The veal chapter was deleted and information in calf husbandry was added to the beef and dairy chapters. The revised Ag Guide suggests that all animal uses be understood and managed by the institution, including field studies on commercial farms. The revised Ag Guide will be a useful resource to people that conduct and oversee research and teaching using agricultural animals.

**Key Words:** animal care, animal welfare, animal research

**36 Update on horse slaughter.** K. Martinson\*<sup>1</sup> and T. Lenz<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>*University of Minnesota, St. Paul*, <sup>2</sup>*Pfizer Animal Health, Louisburg, KS.*

Slaughter is the humane ending of an animal's life under federal regulation when the carcass is processed for food. Legislation surrounding horse slaughter began in 2001 when a bill prohibiting the transport of horses to slaughter was introduced. This bill was never taken up by the House. In 2003 and 2004, The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act

(HR 857) was introduced to prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption. A similar bill was introduced in the Senate (S 2352). Both limited the methods available for euthanasia of horses, including penetrating captive bolt, the method used at processing plants. Neither bill moved out of committee. The Horse Slaughter Prohibition Bill (HR 503) was introduced in the House in 2005 and aimed to prohibit the sale or transportation of horses to slaughter for human consumption. A similar bill was introduced in the Senate (S 1915). In 2006, HR 503 passed the House, but was not taken up by the Senate. In 2007, HR 503 was reintroduced along with a new Senate bill (S 311). Both bills aimed to end slaughter of the US horse for human consumption and prohibited export to other countries. Neither bill has moved forward. In 2007, a 1949 TX law that prohibited the slaughter of horses was discovered and enforced. That same year, IL bill HB 1711 was passed and banned slaughter of horses for human consumption in IL. Both bills closed the

remaining horse processing plants in the US. In 2008, The Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (HR 6598) was introduced and aimed to impose a fine or prison term for possessing, shipping, or transporting horses or horse parts for human consumption. The bill was reintroduced in 2009 (HR 503) but has not been taken up by the House. In 2009, the Senate ordered an investigation into the impact that banning US horse slaughter has had on horse welfare and farm income. The study should be released by March 2010. Some states have also introduced horse slaughter bills. A consequence of banning equine processing has been an increase in unwanted horses. In MN, the number of horses involved in humane cases increased 411% between 2003 and 2008. This issue is likely to influence development and content of future equine Extension programs across the US.

**Key Words:** horse, slaughter, legislation