

Biosecurity and animal welfare: two sides of the same coin

Management practices aimed at preventing pathogens from entering a farm and minimising the spread within farm are known as biosecurity practices. These biosecurity practices are known to decrease disease on a farm and thereby improve welfare of the animals on the farm. An example of this is preventing overstocking. This avoids animals being stressed and disease spreading quickly within a group of animals. In general, good biosecurity procedures have a considerable positive effect on animal welfare when considering animal health.

However, some people have the perception that good biosecurity does not equal good animal welfare. Or that one impairs the other. For example, raising animals outdoor is considered a better welfare system, as animals may be able to have more natural lives, but it brings challenges in terms of controlling the introduction of disease through wild animals or exposure to intestinal parasites (worms).

As part of BIOSECURE, a group of researchers across Europe will look at these challenges between biosecurity and animal welfare for different sectors (pigs, cattle, poultry) and will gather experience from farmers and health advisors in how they tackle these challenges. This information will then be compared with advice from experts in biosecurity and animal welfare into a comprehensive document that will list the possible challenges and suggest solutions for each one of the challenges. The solutions will be included in the guidelines that will be developed by BIOSECURE.



Good biosecurity and good animal welfare are a win-win for farmers

Practical solutions will be collected for challenges

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