

Farm animal welfare: regulatory framework, certification and labelling schemes

Zaragoza (Spain) • 25 - 29 November 2024



Objective

The welfare of animals is a significant concern in the modern livestock industry (including retailers). Scientific evidence suggests that animal welfare is closely related to production performance and product quality.

Animal welfare also contributes directly to animal, human and environmental health, being a key component of the One Health and One Welfare concepts. Citizens and consumers are increasingly aware of the ethical issues of common practices in livestock production and are concerned about the protection of welfare of farmed animals.

Considering the relevance of animal welfare, the EU adopted a series of rules and measures setting standards for the protection of farmed animals at farm, during transport, and at slaughter. In parallel with the legislation, several certification and labelling schemes have been developed in recent years. These certification schemes aim to offer consumers food of animal origin produced under conditions that ensure a higher level of animal welfare than legally required. Several certification schemes co-exist on the market, differing in aspects such as the certification system, the species covered, and the criteria and welfare indicators used.

The implementation of meaningful animal welfare legislative measures and certification schemes requires extensive knowledge, as well as considerable human and economic resources. Awareness of the current EU animal welfare legislative framework, the different certification and labelling schemes and how these schemes interact with current legislation and with other types of certification (e.g. environmental) is crucial for the livestock professionals and contributes to optimise decision-making at business level in this sector. This course will cover these aspects and aims to provide in-depth knowledge on the dimensions and scientific background of farm animal welfare, as well as a comprehensive view on its EU regulatory framework.

At the end of the course, participants will:

- understand the scientific, economic and cultural background for the animal welfare concept;
- be aware of the different indicators used to measure animal welfare;
- know the current EU animal welfare legislation and its institutional arrangements;
- know the characteristics of different certification and labelling schemes available in Europe;
- be aware of the economic and social impacts when implementing certification and labelling schemes.

Organisation

The course is jointly organised by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (CIHEAM Zaragoza); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) within the framework of the FAO-CIHEAM MoU; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain, through the General Directorate of Health and Agrifood Production and Animal Welfare; with the collaboration of the European Commission, through DG SANTE, and the Red Científica en Bienestar Animal (Red CIBA).

The course will be given by well-qualified lecturers from international organisations, universities, research centres and competent authorities from different countries and will be held at CIHEAM Zaragoza over a period of one week, from 25 to 29 November 2024, in morning and afternoon sessions. There are two participation options: a) face-to-face with access to lectures, case studies and practical works or b) on line with access to lectures and case studies via live streaming. The programme will be delivered in English.

The course requires personal work and interaction among participants and with lecturers. The international characteristics of the course favour the exchange of experiences and points of view. Lectures are complemented by case studies and practical work. The practical work will focus on improving the skills of participants in measuring animal welfare and a role game devoted to the creation of a certification scheme.

Programme

0. Welcome to participants, message from organisers. Programme explanation (1 hour)
1. History and evolution of animal welfare: scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, religious and political dimensions (1 hour)
2. Scientific background of animal welfare (6 hours)
 - 2.1. From the five freedoms to the five domains
 - 2.2. Physiological, behavioural and affective states, the drivers of the welfare status
 - 2.3. Animal welfare assessment (resource-based, animal-based, automated collection)
 - 2.4. Iceberg and proxy indicators for the welfare of poultry, swine, cattle and small ruminants
 - 2.4.1. At farm
 - 2.4.2. At transport
 - 2.4.3. At slaughter
 - 2.5. Practical work: Measuring reliability of different animal welfare indicators
3. Animal welfare legislation (6 hours)
 - 3.1. Evolution of European legislation on animal welfare
 - 3.2. Interaction between European and national legislation
 - 3.3. Overview of European and national institutions and their roles in animal welfare legislations. Creation of evidence-based legislation
 - 3.4. Drivers of animal welfare: legislation vs. certification
 - 3.5. Animal welfare legislation and implementation for poultry, swine, cattle, and small ruminants
 - 3.5.1. At farm level
 - 3.5.2. At transport
 - 3.5.3. At slaughter
 - 3.6. Articulation of animal welfare legislation with other legislations
 - 3.6.1. Articulation of animal welfare and environmental legislation and food safety/animal health regulations
 - 3.6.2. Articulation of animal welfare and organic agriculture regulations and common agricultural policy
 - 3.7. Animal welfare legislation and trade
4. Quality standards, certification and labelling (14 hours)
 - 4.1. Definition and interaction of quality standards, certification and labelling
 - 4.2. Legislation on quality standards, certification and labelling
 - 4.3. EU best practice guidelines for voluntary certification schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs
 - 4.4. ISO Standard ISO/TS 34700:2016. General requirements and guidance for organisations in the food supply chain
 - 4.5. Animal welfare certifications and labels
 - 4.5.1. Animal welfare certification and labelling EU landscape
 - 4.5.2. Certification process and compliance
 - 4.5.3. Consumer and operator expectations from welfare certification and labels
 - 4.5.4. Economic impact of adopting welfare certification and labels
 - 4.5.5. Co-existence with other labels
 - 4.6. Case studies. Examples of Animal Welfare certification and labels
 - 4.6.1. Poultry
 - 4.6.2. Cattle
 - 4.6.3. Swine
 - 4.6.4. Ovine
 - 4.7. Practical work. Role game: creation of a certification scheme
5. Present and future of animal welfare (2 hours)

Round table to discuss the current situation and future prospects of animal welfare.

Guest lecturers

Bernardos, Pablo – MAPA, Madrid (Spain)
Dalmau, Antoni – IRTA, Monells (Spain)
González, Helena – MAPA, Madrid (Spain)
Ledoux, Celine – DG Sante, Brussels (Belgium)
Liste, Guiomar – Red CIBA, Zaragoza (Spain)
Llonch, Pol – UAB, Barcelona (Spain)
Niemi, Jarkko – LUKE, Seinäjoki (Finland)
Riera, Susana – Generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona (Spain)
Villalba, Teresa – MAPA, Madrid (Spain)

In collaboration with:



Admission

The course is designed for professionals with a university degree, and oriented towards public and private planners and decision-makers, technical advisors and livestock producers, stakeholder organisations, auditors and researchers, involved in the development and implementation of animal welfare plans and regulations. Academics working in related topics are also welcome to apply.

- 30 places will be available for face-to-face participation with access to lectures, round table discussion and practical work (30 hours).
- 30 places will be available for online participation with access to lectures and the round table discussion via live streaming (24 hours).

Knowledge of English will be valued in the selection of candidates as it will be the working language of the course.

Registration

- Candidates may apply online at the following address: <http://www.admission.iamz.ciheam.org/en/>
- Applications must include the curriculum vitae and a copy of the support documents most related to the subject of the course.
- The deadline for the submission of applications is 30 September 2024 for candidates not requiring a visa or a scholarship.
- Applications from candidates requiring authorisation to attend the course may be accepted provisionally.
- Registration fees for the course amount to 500 euro for face-to-face participation and 350 euro for online participation. This sum covers tuition fees only.

Scholarships

Candidates from Mediterranean CIHEAM member countries and FAO member countries from the Middle East and North Africa may apply for scholarships covering registration fees. In some cases, scholarships may cover the cost of travel and full board accommodation.

Candidates from other countries who require financial support should apply directly to other national or international institutions.

Insurance

It is compulsory for participants on site to have medical insurance valid for Spain. Proof of insurance cover must be given at the beginning of the course. Those who so wish may participate in a collective insurance policy taken out by the Organisation, upon payment of the stipulated sum.

Contact: Schlageter, Andrés
Academic coordinator
iamz@iamz.ciheam.org
<https://edu.iamz.ciheam.org/AnimalWelfare>

