



WHY ANIMAL WELLNESS IS IMPORTANT

The principles of animal wellness encompass multiple aspects with complex overlaps and interactions. Operations with robust animal wellness programs are able to realize significant benefits and use their practices to set themselves apart not only in process but in quality of product as well. Therefore, global companies are investing a great deal of time and effort in animal wellness practices across their entire supply chain.

WHAT IS ANIMAL WELLNESS?

OIE (the World Organisation for Animal Health) defines animal welfare as “how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives.” An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe and able to express innate behavior, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress.

HOW TO REINFORCE ANIMAL WELLNESS

At NSF, we have taken a holistic approach to animal wellness that includes the following dimensions:

- > Environmental (of the animal) wellness
- > Physical wellness
- > Social and emotional wellness

Underneath these umbrellas are additional aspects of:

- Disease prevention
- Appropriate veterinary treatment
- Proper shelter
- Management
- Adequate nutrition
- Humane handling, harvest and slaughter



BENEFITS

- > Reduced bruising and maintain meat quality
- > Reduced petechial hemorrhages
- > Improved employee safety
- > Improved milk and egg quality and production



PRINCIPLES FOR ANIMAL WELLNESS

FIVE FREEDOMS	WELFARE PRINCIPLES (BOTREAU)	WELFARE CRITERIA (BOTREAU)
Freedom from pain, injury and disease	Good health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Absence of disease > Absence of injuries > Absence of pain induced by management procedures
Freedom from hunger and thirst and malnutrition	Good feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Absence of prolonged hunger > Absence of prolonged thirst
Freedom from physical and thermal discomfort	Good housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Comfort around resting > Thermal comfort > Ease of movement
Freedom to express normal patterns of behavior	Appropriate behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Expression of social behaviors > Expression of other behaviors > Good human-animal relationship > Positive emotional state
Freedom from fear and distress		
<p>Requirements in the NSF's global animal wellness standards are directly linked to one or more of the five freedoms. Additionally, requirements are linked to welfare principles and welfare criteria proposed by Botreau et al.</p>		

MEASURING ANIMAL WELLNESS

The best way to determine if your management system is working is through measurement.

<p>Animal-based indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Lameness or injury > Body condition > Level of cleanliness > Abnormal behavior 	<p>Additional indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Feed conversion efficiency > Levels of antibiotic use > Housing density > Facility design considerations
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These numbers can be trended to show improvement. Negative trends indicate when interventions are needed. In many cases, you do not have to make expensive capital improvements to meet animal welfare requirements. It can be as simple as improving lighting to remove shadowy areas, installing nonslip floor grating or mounting fans to improve ventilation.

A positive culture of animal wellness exists when managers, employees and contracted service providers work to ensure the general health, welfare and well-being of the animals in their care.

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