



Perceived usefulness and feasibility of measures to enhance animal welfare in organic and outdoor-reared pigs and poultry

Farmers and other supply chain experts may perceive measures to enhance animal welfare in low-input outdoor and organic pig and poultry production beneficial but unapplicable. PPILOW survey aimed at identifying such measures to see, how the adoption of beneficial measures could be promoted.

Animal welfare for pigs

In pigs, the use of mobile shelters to enhance pasture use and health and well-being of outdoor-bred pigs and the use of using special pens to maximize piglet viability and health with loose-housed sows were considered substantially more frequently as beneficial than applicable.

Animal welfare for poultry

In poultry, several measures were considered substantially more often as beneficial than applicable. In laying hens these measures included feeding that supports natural behaviours (e.g. grains, insects or vegetables for pecking), restricting maximum number of birds per flock to enhance bird welfare and reduce disease risk, provision of dustbathing areas and efficient control of temperature, humidity and air quality in the house. In broilers, these measures included the use of mobile housing, provision of trees, bushes and other natural elements and hides on a pasture, and adjusting nutrition to ensure animal health and growth.

Adoption of measures proposed

As these measures were considered beneficial by the great majority of practitioners, the most common reasons for inapplicability were related to the costs of their adoption and to practical challenges of adoption. Practitioners are recommended to consider alternative ways of implementing beneficial measures if they are considered inapplicable in their standard form.



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