



Animal welfare and CAP

**EP Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation
of Animals**

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Animal Welfare as Subject of CAP Support

- *Rural Development*
- *Cross-compliance*
- *Organic farming*
- *Marketing standards*

Rural Development and Animal Welfare

- Member States may choose to include the measure on animal welfare in their Rural Development Programme (RDP) – Measure 14 /Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013
- Under the animal welfare measure, farmers may receive payments, calculated on the basis of additional costs or income foregone, for providing animal welfare going beyond mandatory requirements



Examples of Animal Welfare Commitments: Feed, Water and Care

- Water and feed in accordance with the natural needs (quality and access), roughage supply;
- Maximum daily weight gain, minimum number of fattening days; or minimum breeding age;
- Animal care: regular farrier interventions or other treatment of feet (hooves, claws, nails, horns); regular checks for parasites;
- Avoid mutilation and/or castration of animals, or, when necessary, provide medical treatment (anaesthetics, analgesia, anti-inflammatory medication) or immuno-castration.



Examples of Animal Welfare Commitments: Housing and Outdoor Access

- Increased space allowances, flooring surfaces, natural light;
- Thermo-regulation, and ventilation of stables (heating sources for newborns)
- For pigs: free farrowing and nesting area; enrichment materials;
- Use of straw for bedding
- No tethering; no separation from the herd;
- Outdoor access (free range or pasture) with shelter from adverse weather and predators (sun shields, fences,...);

Cross-compliance

Granting CAP support (for all but small farms) is linked to compliance with selected basic requirements. Since 2007, the following animal welfare standards are part of cross-compliance:

- Minimum standards for the protection of calves
- Minimum standards for the protection of pigs
- Minimum standards for the protection of all animals kept for farming purposes

Even if cross-compliance penalties apply, cross-compliance scheme cannot be considered as the implementing tool of EU animal welfare legislation which must be implemented by MS with its own sanction system. To be cost effective, Member States are given flexibility in organising their cross-compliance controls.

Organic farming

- One of the general objectives of organic farming is to respect high animal welfare standards and in particular in relation to species-specific behavioural needs;
- Specific housing conditions should serve a high level of animal welfare, which is a priority in organic livestock farming, and may go well beyond Union welfare standards

Marketing standards

- Marketing standards for eggs (Reg. 589/2008) and for poultry meat (Reg. 543/2008) make reference to the systems of production (e.g. "free range")
- For eggs the labelling of the respective system of production is obligatory. For poultry meat, there are legal provisions defining criteria for farming systems that appear on labels to the consumer.

Animal welfare is addressed within the CAP through a large range of tools

- *Rural Development*
- *Cross-compliance*
- *Organic farming*
- *Marketing standards*