




The EU Farm to Fork Strategy: from more to better, for the animals and humanity

Dr Elena Nalon, Senior Veterinary Adviser | Farmed Animals

Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, 16 June 2020



A photograph of a field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. In the foreground, a single purple flower stem with small blossoms stands vertically. The background shows a blurred field of crops under the soft light of the setting sun.

“There is an urgent need to reduce dependency on pesticides and antimicrobials, reduce excess fertilisation, increase organic farming, improve animal welfare, and reverse biodiversity loss.”

COM/2020/381 final



A photograph of a sunset over a field. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. In the foreground, a purple flower on a stem is silhouetted against the bright light. The background shows a field of crops, possibly corn, under the soft light of the setting sun.

“Better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help preserve biodiversity. It is also clear that citizens want this.”

COM/2020/381 final





Changing our food system: the time has come



Changing our food system: the time has come

Swine flu

New swine flu with pandemic potential identified by China researchers

G4 strain has already infected 10% of industry's workers in China but no evidence yet that it can be passed from human to human

Agence France-Presse

Tue 30 Jun 2020 02.16 BST



2,566



[.theguardian.com/world/swine-flu](https://www.theguardian.com/world/swine-flu)

F2F: the end of legislative inertia on animal welfare?

- ◆ Revision of all animal welfare legislation
- ◆ Broadening of scope
- ◆ Enforcement (better & easier)
- ◆ Explicit reference to transport and slaughter
- ◆ Target of -50% antimicrobial sales for farmed animals + aquaculture
- ◆ Fish welfare as an important part of both EU animal welfare and aquaculture policies

Opportunities to make a real difference

- ◆ End long and very long distance live animal transport
- ◆ Favour transport “on the hook” (meat and carcasses) and of genetic material
- ◆ Better for animal welfare, environment, animal + public health

Opportunities to make a real difference

- ◆ Phase out slaughter without stunning
- ◆ Phase out high-concentration CO2 stunning of pigs
- ◆ Phase out electrical water-bath stunning for poultry

Opportunities to make a real difference

- ◆ End The Cage Age: phase out the use of cages and other forms of close confinement for all farmed animals

Opportunities to make a real difference

- ◆ Adopt higher welfare chicken breeds
- ◆ Revise the Broiler Directive in the light of the European Chicken Commitment and the EP Resolution of 2018

Opportunities to make a real difference

- ◆ Species-specific rules for all farmed animals

Opportunities to make a real difference

- ◆ Resources for the welfare objectives of the EU Strategic Aquaculture Guidelines (fish reference centre, EFSA opinions)
- ◆ Upcoming EU algae strategy: targets for direct human consumption and replacing other animal feed ingredients
- ◆ Support pilot project tabled by the PECH Committee on fish welfare indicators
- ◆ Commission exchanges and OIR should be used to call for inclusion of fish in new and revised animal welfare regulations

Opportunities to make a real difference



- ◆ Support Method-of-Production Labelling underpinned by robust animal welfare indicators to better transmit value along the food chain
- ◆ Support the promotion of alternative proteins, including plant-based proteins and meat substitutes


F2F and the role of the CAP

- ◆ The CAP should integrate implementation measures to achieve sustainability objectives
- ◆ The European Commission should make the adoption of certain measures mandatory by Member States: enhanced conditionality measures; inclusion of animal welfare measures in the eco-schemes; mandatory inclusion of animal welfare measures (“M14”) in rural developments plans.

The F2F and the trade dimension

- F2F insists on the need for coherence in trade policy

- ◆ The EU should use trade policy to obtain commitments from third parties on animal welfare, which goes further than the usual call to “cooperate” with partners.

A close-up photograph of a pig's snout and eye. The pig is light-colored with pinkish skin. The snout is prominent, showing the nostrils. The eye is partially visible, closed. A semi-transparent grey text box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing a quote in white text. In the bottom right corner, there is a small white tag with some text, and a yellow tag is visible in the bottom left corner.

“A system or procedure is **sustainable** if it is acceptable **now** and if its **expected future effects** are acceptable, in particular in relation to resource availability, consequences of functioning and ***morality of action***.”

— D. Broom (2014)

Thank you!