

Strategies to promote farm animal welfare in Latin America and their effects on carcass and meat quality traits

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Abstract

Several initiatives, including research and development, increasing stakeholders' awareness and application of legislation and recommendation, have been carried out in Latin America to promote animal welfare and meat quality. Most activities focused on the impact of pre-slaughter conditions (facilities, equipment and handling procedures) on animal welfare and meat quality. The results are encouraging; data from Brazil, Chile and Uruguay showed that the application of the improved pre-slaughter handling practices reduced aggressive handling and the incidence of bruised carcasses at slaughter in cattle and pigs. These outcomes stimulated some to apply animal welfare concepts in livestock handling within the meat production chain as shown by the increasing demand for personnel training on the best. To attend this demand is important to expand local studies on farm animal welfare and to set up (or maintain) an efficient system for knowledge transfer to all stakeholders in the Latin America meat production chains. However, it is clear that to promote the long-term progress in this field is important to deliver practical solutions, assuring that they match the technical and financial conditions of those who are the target of training programs.

Highlights

► Cattle and pig welfare and beef and pork quality are addressed. ► Educational initiatives to promote animal welfare are introduced. ► Reductions in aggressive handling and carcasses bruising are reported. ► Strategies to broaden the positive actions are discussed.

Keywords

- Animal handling;
- Cattle;
- Education;
- Transportation;
- Slaughter;
- Pigs