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**ANIMAL WELFARE AND ANIMAL RIGHTS:
IMPLICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL FARM MANAGERS, RURAL
APPRAISERS, AND FOOD ANIMAL PRODUCERS**

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For professional farm managers, rural appraisers, and food animal producers, awareness and insights of how the animal welfare and animal rights movements could affect future production practices, management needs, and potential changes in property values, could be professionally useful and financially rewarding.

By the beginning of the 18th century, writers began to discuss animal feelings of pain and suffering, vivisection (the surgical operations performed upon animals during experiments), cruel treatment of animals raised and slaughtered for food, and the religious teachings that influenced humane treatment of both humans and animals. Doubts about the ethics of castrating domestic animals were raised as early as 1714. (Thomas, 1983)

The first society for the prevention of cruelty to animals began in London in 1824 and later became the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Its objectives were to attack animal cruelty and promote kindness to animals in support of prevailing social and religious values, support enforcement of existing laws, and pass new ones. (French, 1975)

Public policy establishing the animal welfare movement began in Great Britain with the passage of an Act in 1835 to "consolidate and amend the several laws relating to the cruelty and improper treatment of animals...." In 1911 Parliament passed the Protection of Animals Act which is still in force. Established on the principle that while man is free to subjugate animals, it is wrong for him to cause them to suffer unnecessarily. (Guither and Curtis, 1982)

The social and cultural evolution of animal protection in Europe led to change

in the United States. The formation of local humane societies to care for abandoned and stray animals also dates back to the 19th century.

FOCUS ON FARM ANIMALS

Ruth Harrison initiated much of the public concern for the welfare of farm animals under modern production methods when her book *Animal Machines* was published in England in 1964.

Harrison is believed to be the first to label confinement livestock and poultry production as factory farming. She criticized the practices by which farm animals were taken from the open fields and confined in industrial type buildings, the use of mechanical cleaning and feeding equipment, and the emphasis on efficiency and profit. Harrison believed that the modern methods by which farm animals were being reared were cruel.

Following the publication of Harrison's book, the British parliament called for an investigation. In 1965, The Brambell Committee, a group of scientists and concerned citizens issued their report that set the stage for animal welfare and animal rights groups to criticize and work for improvements in the modern production systems used for food animals and poultry.

The report recommended certain mandatory standards that would conform to good husbandry and called for certain statutory provisions that would define suffering to enable the government to establish regulations for particular animals.

The Brambell report is cited frequently as the landmark standard for farm animal welfare. It set the stage for animal welfare reform in the United Kingdom and other northern European countries. In the United States efforts to establish husbandry standards under state or federal law have not succeeded. But pressures to establish standards along the lines of the Brambell report are expected to continue.

FROM PROPOSALS TO ACTION

In Europe the animal welfare movement has created a new philosophy toward treatment of food animals and created a system of carefully monitored regulations to encourage and ensure humane treatment of food animals. Animal rights has received less attention from public policy makers.

In the United States, the animal rights movement has emerged from the older animal welfare ideas along with new philosophies emphasizing the moral and ethical standards for how humans should treat animals. One observer describes the movement as "a major revolution in social concern with animal welfare and moral status of animals." Some of the major established animal welfare groups are taking positions on issues that closely resemble the more activist positions of animal rights organizations.

The major conflicts of values concerning animal use have arisen from a society that has changed dramatically during the 20th century. With the loss of an agrarian ethic, increased industrialization and a society concentrated in an urban environment, people do not interact with animals in the same way or for the same purpose as in previous generations.

Traditional values of animal care and use are now being questioned by society. Animal advocacy and the promotion of a "new" animal ethic have emerged from the ethical teachings and moral values of philosophers such as Peter Singer and Tom Regan. Their animal activist followers pose challenges to individuals who work directly with animals in some phase of business, profession, or leisure activity.

For animal owners, and the users and consumers of animal products and services, these values defy their conventional ways of doing business, and challenge their contemporary life styles. The resolution of these conflicting values between the advocates and followers of the "new" animal ethics and those with more traditional views for treating animals will affect how society wants to use and care for animals in the future. And regardless of the problems in determining the status of animals, the movement to recognize and protect animals will probably continue to grow in the developed industrialized countries of the world.

UNDERSTANDING ANIMAL ACTIVISM

Animal protection refers to all efforts to prevent cruelty, improve humane treatment, reduce stress and strain, and monitor research with animals. It includes individuals and groups with many variations of philosophy, ethical values, and economic and professional interests in all kinds of animals.

Animal welfare generally involves support for the humane treatment of all

animals without concern for their ultimate use. An "animal welfarist" believes that humans have the right to use animals, as long as suffering is reduced or eliminated.

Animal rights (sometimes termed animal liberation) involves the philosophy that nonhuman animals are "sentient" beings--that they have the capacity to experience pain and pleasure. And accompanying this belief is that animals have certain inalienable moral rights which humans should not violate. Like animal welfarists, most animal rights activists work to abolish cruel or abusive situations to eliminate animal suffering. However, some animal rights advocates believe that nonhuman animals have the right not to be used for any purpose by humans-- that animals are "not ours to eat, wear or experiment on."

The modern animal rights movement is radically different. Concern for protecting animal welfare was eclipsed by the philosophical imperative that animals, like humans, possess certain fundamental and inalienable rights, and therefore should be treated as moral equals. Many advocates of animal rights oppose all ways in which animals are confined and utilized by humans, whether it be for food, clothing, servitude, or household pets. (U. S. Department of Justice, 1993)

To implement this philosophy means the elimination of all uses of animals for food, clothing, leisure or research purposes. In effect this means the adoption of vegetarian diets; the elimination of wool, leather, or fur for clothing or ornamental purposes; and the abolition of animals used for leisure activities, such as in hunting, horse and dog racing, zoos, circuses, or aquariums.

Reformist or Abolitionist? Animal activists may also be identified as reformists or abolitionists. The reformists usually include those who believe in the views of the animal rights philosophers but want to work within the system to improve the conditions under which animals are treated.

The abolitionists work to eliminate all uses of animals that they see as causing pain and suffering. Efforts to destroy fur animal production and the fur apparel industry, stop or change veal production, eliminate laboratory animal research and product testing, promote vegetarian diets, and ban hunting, are stated goals of the abolitionists.

In the United States, national policies established mostly since World War II

through active efforts of "reformists" deal with humane slaughter, transportation, sale and handling of dogs, cats and certain other animals used for research; prohibitions on animal fighting ventures; killing, capturing and harassing of any marine mammals without a permit; establishing animal research standards, including animal care committees, and plans for reduction of animal use; and developing alternatives to animals used in research.

Each research facility must also provide training for their scientists, animal technicians, and other personnel involved with animal care and treatment. Increasing incidents of vandalism, theft, and threats to research workers, brought about the federal Animal Facilities Protection Act of 1992, making it a federal offense to damage animal research or production facilities.

THE MEANING FOR FARM MANAGERS , RURAL APPRAISERS, AND THE FOOD ANIMAL INDUSTRY

The animal rights and animal welfare movements have had varying effects upon food animal producers, research workers, and animal industry.

Production practices. In the European Community, guidelines and regulations are in force that establish standards and procedures for the "humane" care and treatment of farm animals. Laying hens in battery cages must have a minimum amount of space and this production method may gradually be phased out in some countries. Tethering of pregnant sows has been banned and certain limitations on farrowing stalls have been recommended. Veal calves must be raised in groups rather than in individual stalls.

Bills have been introduced in the U. S. Congress to establish a commission to develop animal husbandry standards and to regulate production practices for veal production. These bills have died in the House Agriculture Committee which has supported the producer's right to decide their own management and production practices. However, future bills could be introduced that could affect veal calves, confinement hog production, battery cages for laying hens, commercial cattle feed lots, and farm production of mink and other fur bearing animals.

If either state or federal regulation of production practices becomes public policy, informed farm managers and consultants could provide counsel to keep the

largest and most successful enterprises in compliance with new rules and regulations.

Animal patents and genetic engineering. The development of genetically altered animal species or strains, either with public or private funds, presents the question of how their introduction and reproduction should be permitted. If these new species or strains offer special profit opportunities along with certain regulation, the professional manager and livestock producer should be prepared to deal with these developments and opportunities for his or her operation or clients.

Predator control. Limits on poisoning, trapping, or shooting of predatory animals to protect domestic livestock carry important consequences for the viability and profitability of some livestock enterprises. For example, regulations that restrict use of certain types of poison baits for coyotes in the United States have resulted in losses of sheep and lambs in some areas and has led to reduction in sheep numbers because of predator losses.

Court cases have had to deal with the hunting of timber wolves in Minnesota to protect cattle, in Alaska to protect the Western Arctic caribou herd, and in Montana with brucellosis infected bison straying out of Yellowstone National Park. The conflicts between state and federal governments and the courts in making policies to protect domestic livestock present difficult management and production decisions for the affected livestock owners.

Court decisions have left many unanswered questions such as how close to privately owned lands could trapping occur on public lands. How would the trapper know if the presence of a wolf would actually justify trapping it because of the possibility that it would attack livestock? And how would "significant depredation" be identified?

One Court report admitted that the determination left the government agencies and the farmers in a difficult situation. But it also stated that the remedy for this problem must come from law makers and not be "judicially legislated." (Fund for Animals v. Andrus, 1978)

The predator control issues have implications for livestock owners, professional managers and appraisers. Owners could suffer serious losses without predator control. Managers must know the state and federal regulations that deal with predator control.

Whether involved in direct management or in a consultant role, the most recent policies could affect production decisions and management practices.

Appraisers should be aware of predator control policies on the private lands or nearby government owned lands. Any rules or regulations could affect the value of the land for livestock production if they are appraising in the affected areas.

Hunting and trapping regulation. Several animal welfare and animal rights groups have actively opposed sport hunting and trapping. On the other hand land owners in some areas have made hunting for a fee a profitable enterprise for use of their land.

Changes in government regulations could affect the operation of private hunting enterprises and the value of the private lands used for such purposes. Professional managers and appraisers should be aware of the regulations and any significant changes. Any new laws or regulations that would limit or restrict hunting on government owned lands could offer special opportunities for private landowners to develop private hunting enterprises that might not have been profitable when public lands were widely accessible. However, private "game farms" remain controversial and could become subject to more state regulation.

Endangered Species. Legislation to protect threatened and endangered species has been strongly supported by animal activist and environmental groups. The implementation and interpretation of laws protecting certain wildlife could have important implications for both professional managers and rural appraisers. Most conflicts have affected use of public lands, specifically timber cutting in the Northwest United States. However, use of private lands could be affected in the future and the types of enterprises and future values of such properties could be questioned.

Vegetarianism and Health Education. Perhaps the greatest long term influence of animal activism could be the gradual erosion of the market for meat, dairy and poultry products. Vegetarianism is strongly advocated by the most militant animal rights groups. Public concerns about proper diets, reduced fat consumption and cholesterol control all support the vegetarian movement. In the United States, consumption per capita data show downtrends for beef, veal, and eggs, some decline for pork but upward trends for chicken, turkey and fish.

These trends show shifting demands for animal and poultry products. The influence to improve and maintain healthful diets is probably greater than the animal activist's efforts to promote vegetarianism. However, those who advise producers and land owners, and appraise values of production facilities must be aware of these current trends and their influence on the future markets for livestock and poultry.

Problems and Opportunities

The environmental movement has introduced a new need for knowledge of environmental policies and a field of professional service for professional managers and appraisers. Environmental assessments of farm and rural properties are becoming a necessity to transfer ownership in certain situations.

The animal rights and animal welfare movements are newer social movements and with a variety of philosophies and values. But they can also be expected to stimulate the need for keeping abreast with any new laws, rules or regulations. As management practices or property values could be affected, professional managers and appraisers and livestock owners will want to be at the forefront in being fully informed.

Looking into the 21st century, the land owners with livestock production potential, professional farm managers, agricultural consultants, or rural appraisers will likely ask what the animal welfare implications are for any property where domestic animals, wild animals, or research facilities are located. This paper is not intended to advocate such a development but to advise that such policies that will affect professional standards and practice will likely evolve.

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