



Finland: Preparing the CAP plan / animal welfare intervention

**ENRD webinar on
'Preparing the CAP Strategic Plans:
Designing Interventions'**

25th November 2020



Framework for 2014-2020

The Commission's delegated regulation specifies the requirements on which animal welfare payment conditions must be based

- a) Water, feed and animal care in accordance with the natural needs of animal husbandry
- b) Housing conditions, such as increased space allowances, flooring surfaces, enrichment materials, natural light
- c) Outdoor access
- d) In specific cases when mutilation or castration of animals is deemed necessary, the use of anaesthetics, analgesia and anti-inflammatory medication or immunocastration

Background information of 2014-2020 welfare payments



- Animal welfare payments were prepared by a broad-based working group supported by experts focusing on specific species
- Conditions must exceed baseline requirements
- Health care plans for production animals and advice related to their welfare will be available through advisory services (M2)
- Conditions for bovines, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry
- Payments are based on losses of income, costs and benefits gained, fixed costs were not included in the calculations
- No double payments for the same actions
 - An organic farm cannot choose conditions that must be complied with anyway under the organic rules

Objectives of animal welfare payments 2014-2020



- Improving animal welfare
- Promoting care in which production animals can follow their natural behaviours
- Increasing farmers' awareness of factors that influence animal welfare – also through farm advisory services
- Responding to consumer expectations
- Grazing has also an impact on landscape management



How we select actions to M14?

- The working group was very wide – farmers, researchers, authorities, veterinarians, advisors, NGOs, companies
- Very wide expertise of animal welfare and knowledge of present situation
 - what are required by animal protection law
 - what are common good (or bad) practises
 - what are still needed to improve the situation
- We have very wide animal protection regulations (=baseline) and in our working group we collected possible weakness points where there are need for additional actions. Then we create operations to improve the situation.



1. Conditions for bovines

Feeding and care applicable to all bovines on the farm, other conditions to the relevant group

1.1. Feeding and care of bovines

1.2. Improving conditions in which calves are kept (a, b or c)

1.3. Improving conditions in which bovines are kept (a or b)

1.4. Grazing and outdoor access of bovines (a or b)

1.5. Stalls for sick animals, care and medical and other care of animals (a and/or b)



2. Conditions for pigs

Feeding and care apply to all pigs on the farm, other conditions to the relevant group

2.1. Feeding and care

2.2. Outdoor access of idle sows and gilts

2.3. Improving the conditions in which sows and gilts are kept

2.4. Improved farrowing conditions

2.5. Bedding in pens for weaned piglets and fattening pigs

2.6. Treatment of castration pain and alternatives for surgical castration

2.7. Enrichment

2.8. Pens for sick animals and medical and other care of animals



3. Conditions for sheep and goats

3.1. Feeding

3.2. Improving the conditions in which sheep and goats are kept

3.3. Care of sheep and goats

3.4. Grazing and outdoor access of sheep and goats (a or b)



4. Conditions for poultry

Applicable to laying hens, broilers and turkeys

4.1. Feeding and care

4.2. Improving the conditions in which broilers and turkeys are kept

4.3. Improving air quality in an egg producing establishment

4.4. Enrichment

4.5. Platforms, ramps and perches

4.6. Outdoor access

Lessons learnt



- Lessons learnt from earlier programming periods
 - “Too good and careful analysis” of lacks of animal protection situation and wishes to solve all problems, too many details
 - Implementation of all single requirements have to be controlled
 - Conditions containing issues that are open to interpretation are difficult to control
- Evaluation
 - Farmers knowledge of animal welfare was improved
 - Changes in animal behavior
 - Improvements in animal health
 - Implementation has been quite easy, but still too much bureaucracy, stress occur by controls and paper work
 - Training and advisory services are very important



Background for new planning

- The basic level of legislation (protection of animals) is high but even more is wanted, including biosecurity + risk management
- Administration determines the **objectives** and **desired outcome** → farmers have **means** and **tools**
- How is impact **measured** → **Indicators** (EU indicators but also our own)



What we need 1/2

- Simplification
 - Current system considered challenging both administration and farmers due to high level of details
 - Need for simplification but also continuation of improving animal welfare
- Results and impacts
 - Lessons learnt + evaluation recommendations
 - Use of new research and knowledge





What we need 2/2

- Indicators? How result and impact will be measured?
 - New output indicator on reducing the use of antibiotics is important
 - One Health thinking very important
 - preventive healthcare for animals is in a key position to avoid the use of antibiotics
- How to measure welfare?
 - pigs' tails and broilers' soles of feet are officially recognised welfare indicators



One Health

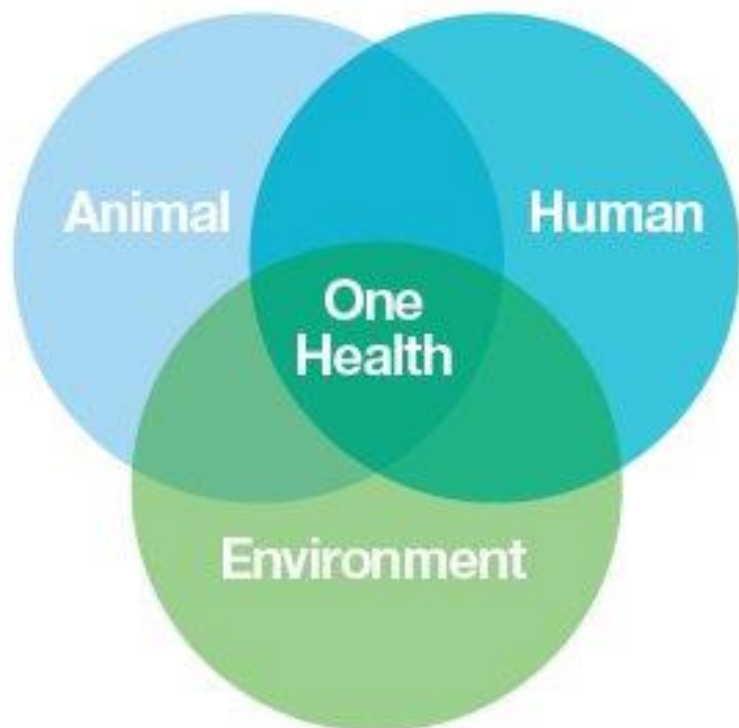
1/2



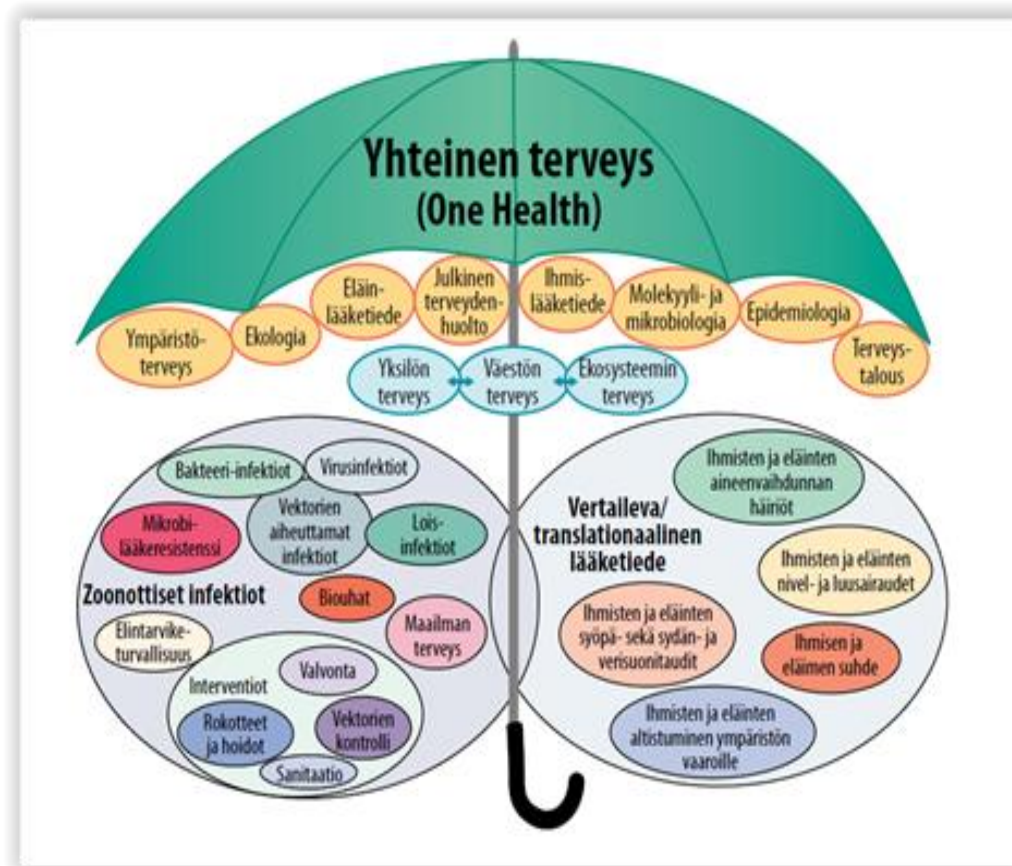
- One Health is an international strategy in which the well-being and health of people, animals and the environment are promoted through extensive interdisciplinary cooperation.
 - SWOT + need analysis 9 in CAP Plan
- According to the One Health philosophy, there is only one health rather human, animal and environmental health being completely separate entities.
- The One Health approach is a framework that encourages looking at the big picture and cooperation between different fields.

One Health

2/2



World Health Organization



Sukura and Hänninen 2016



Besides animal welfare payment, other measures to support welfare

- Knowledge and expertise have a great impact
 - education, training and advice
 - advice considered important in evaluations of the Rural Development Programme
- Investments
 - a lot of cooperation during preparation, e.g. definition of adequate space
- Ongoing development of animal husbandry on farms

Consumers

- Consumers' views heard
 - e.g. free farrowing introduced through this
 - consumers wish to see animals on pastures → grazing
- Branding
 - Consumers choices





Preparing process 1/2

- Open dialogue
- All stakeholders involved (producers, advisers, veterinarians, NGOs, researchers)
- Use of research knowledge and data
 - Webinars with researchers, advisers and veterinarians
- Now it seems like a never-ending work as it is done at webinars with a large group of stakeholders



Preparing process

2/2

- Selection of most important issues
 - e.g. improving welfare (adequate space, soft lying area)
 - hospital pens for sick animals and care and treatment of animals
 - preventing infectious diseases (e.g. disease protection)
 - grazing (challenging in Finnish conditions)
- Main challenges → different kinds of farms
 - administration determines the objectives and desired outcome → farmers have means and tools
 - outcome-based approach seen as an opportunity



Open questions → controls

- All measures must be such that they can be controlled
- Some of the good ideas must be rejected as controls would be too complicated
 - e.g. enrichment for poultry, numbers of birds
 - amount of 'abundant' bedding or litter material





Videos from Finland

- [Free farrowing in Ollikkala's farm](#)
- [Reducing Tail Docking - Best Practice – Timo Heikkilä's farm](#)

Thank you!

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