



Agriculture
and Rural
Development

New rural development plans: The hidden truth

ANIMAL WELFARE

8 February 2016

*Pilar Gumma
DG Agriculture and Rural
Development*



Animal welfare payments to farmers - rationale

Animal welfare commitments compensate farmers for going beyond baseline (both national and EU).

Animal welfare payments to farmers

- For farmers who on a voluntary basis undertake animal welfare commitments.
- Going beyond the mandatory standards.
- Have a direct effect in improving animal welfare.
- Are active farmers.



Eligible commitments

- Compensate for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone in the following areas:
 - water, feed and animal care in accordance with the natural needs of animal husbandry;
 - housing conditions: increased space, flooring surfaces, enrichment materials, natural light;
 - outdoor access;
 - practices which avoid mutilation and/or castration of animals, or in specific cases when mutilation or castration of animals is deemed necessary, provide for the use of anaesthetics, analgesia and anti-inflammatory medication or immunocastration.

Payments

- Undertaken for a renewable period of 1 to 7 years.
- Annual payments.
- Can cover also transaction costs.
- Max €500/LU.



Conditions for payments

- Should help the farmer to combine higher costs with more resilient rearing methods.
- The EU supported animal welfare commitments should improve the condition of livestock in a clearly measurable and controllable manner.
- Should never replace proper care of livestock or keeping the livestock in good health.
- It must be ensured that support under this measure is not paid for such operations or practices which are already applied.

Other RD measures favouring animal welfare

Investments: i.e. in buildings or installations favouring the welfare of animals, health equipment etc.

Advisory services, supporting farmers to learn and further develop their knowledge on animal welfare.

Training to improve the knowledge in view of increasing animal welfare.



Some examples: sows/pigs

- Improving housing conditions for farrowing and lactating sows (increasing the area of the pens).
- Daily outdoor access during 4 months/year or all year minimum 2 times a week.
- Larger space per sow in group housing
- Permanent enrichment material combined with new material added every day.

Some examples: cattle

- Group housing for calves including upgraded bedding
- Continuous supply of forage
- Grazing minimum of 60 days a year and 2 times a week access to paddock all year round



Programming of the measure

- 29 Rural Development Programmes have included the animal welfare measure amounting to € 1.4 billion from ENRD funds and € 2.2 billion of total public expenditure.
- 81.000 beneficiaries
- The following MSs have included the measure in their programmes: Romania (€ 437 millions), Finland, Hungary, Italia, Austria, Slovakia, Sweden, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Spain, UK, Cyprus (3.7 millions).



European
Commission

Thank you for your attention