



UPDATE ON EFSA'S ANIMAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES

Team leader Animal Welfare (AW)

Scientific Officer AW team

Biological Hazards, Animal Health and Welfare
(BIOHAW) Unit - EFSA

OUTLINE

- ✓ **Present engagement with stakeholders** that EFSA has developed in Animal Welfare, examples of the ongoing mandates:
 - ✓ Welfare of **beef cattle**
 - ✓ Welfare of **turkeys**
 - ✓ Welfare of **animals kept for fur production** (mink, chinchilla, fox, raccoon dog)
- ✓ **New EC mandate on the welfare of Equidae**
- ✓ **Ongoing calls for projects & collaboration by EFSA**



ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR AW MANDATES

1. Expression of interest + public meeting

- Set up a pool of SH for regular engagement.
- Present the mandate; discuss its opportunities and challenges.
- Listen to the views of SH as from the start.
- Identify individual contributors to be invited to ad-hoc technical hearings of the EFSA working group.

After mandate acceptance

2. Call for evidence

Shortly after the public meeting, EFSA will hold a structured collection of the data/information at SH's hand to support risk assessment. SH input will be made public.

After the public meeting

3. Ad-hoc technical hearings

SH who have submitted relevant data or information may be invited as hearing experts in the meetings of the EFSA working group.

Throughout the mandate

4. Targeted consultation

EFSA may require additional input on specific parts of the draft opinion. The consultation would target the pool of SH involved in the previous steps. SH input will be made public.

Before adoption (if needed)

5. Public webinar

- Present the EFSA opinion.
- Foster the understanding of EFSA's conclusions/recommendations.
- Close the feedback loop with SH by explaining how their input was considered/taken on board in formulating EFSA's opinion.

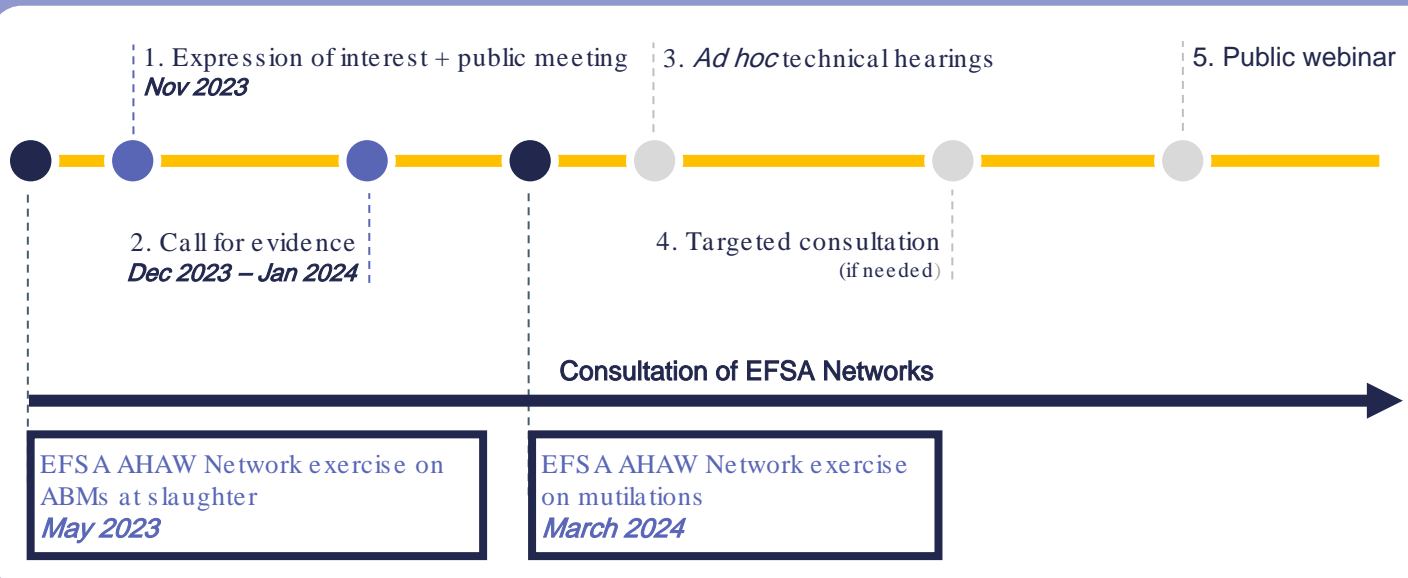
After publication



Consultation of EFSA Networks (AW and scientific NCPs)

Throughout the mandate & with specific exercises

Engagement strategy: Beef Cattle



ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY: CALL FOR EVIDENCE BEEF CATTLE

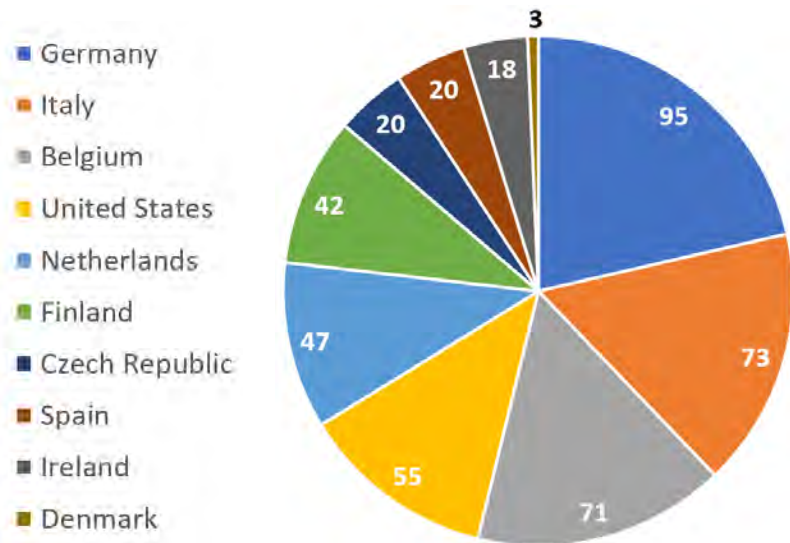


Start date:
7 December
2023



End date:
31 January
2024

<https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation2/a0ITk0000001qhJ/pc0742>

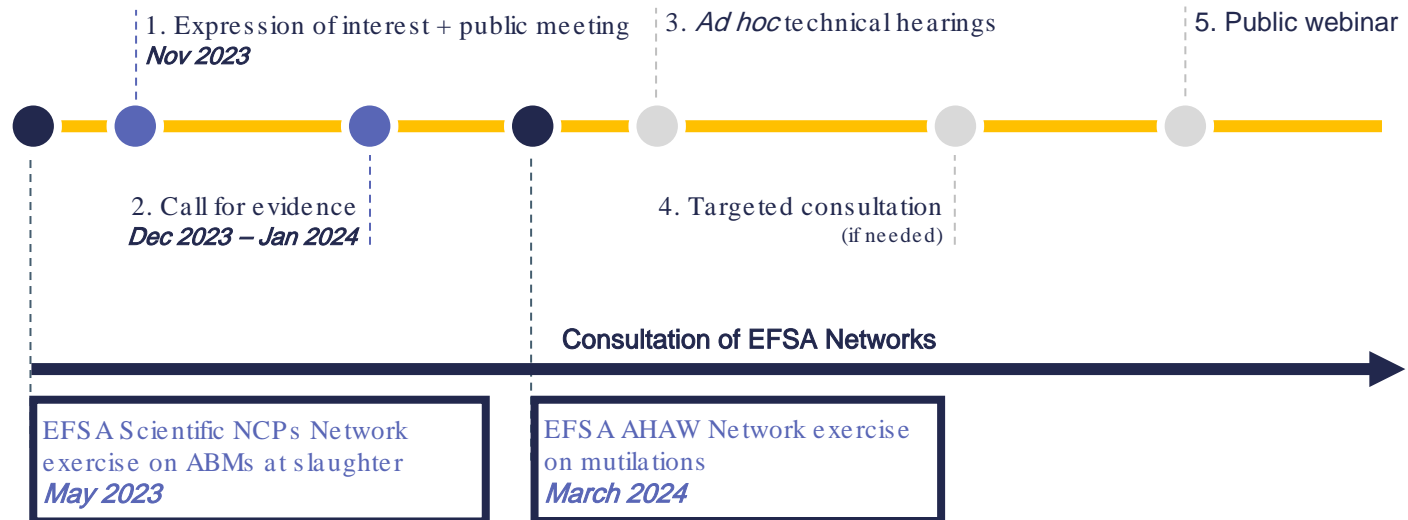


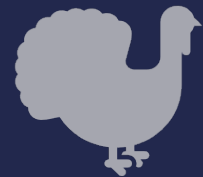
n. of inputs (comments/attachments)
received by country

Topics of interest

- Beef cattle population
- Husbandry systems
- Production stages
- Cattle housing
- Flooring
- Minimum space allowance
- Water access
- Feeding and nutrition
- Lack of outdoor access
- Tethering of beef cattle
- Environmental enrichment
- Calving facilities
- Mutilations: castration, disbudding, dehorning, tail docking
- Breeding and genetics: Hyper-muscularity, dystocia, C-sections, Polledness, maternal ability and temperament

Engagement strategy: Turkeys

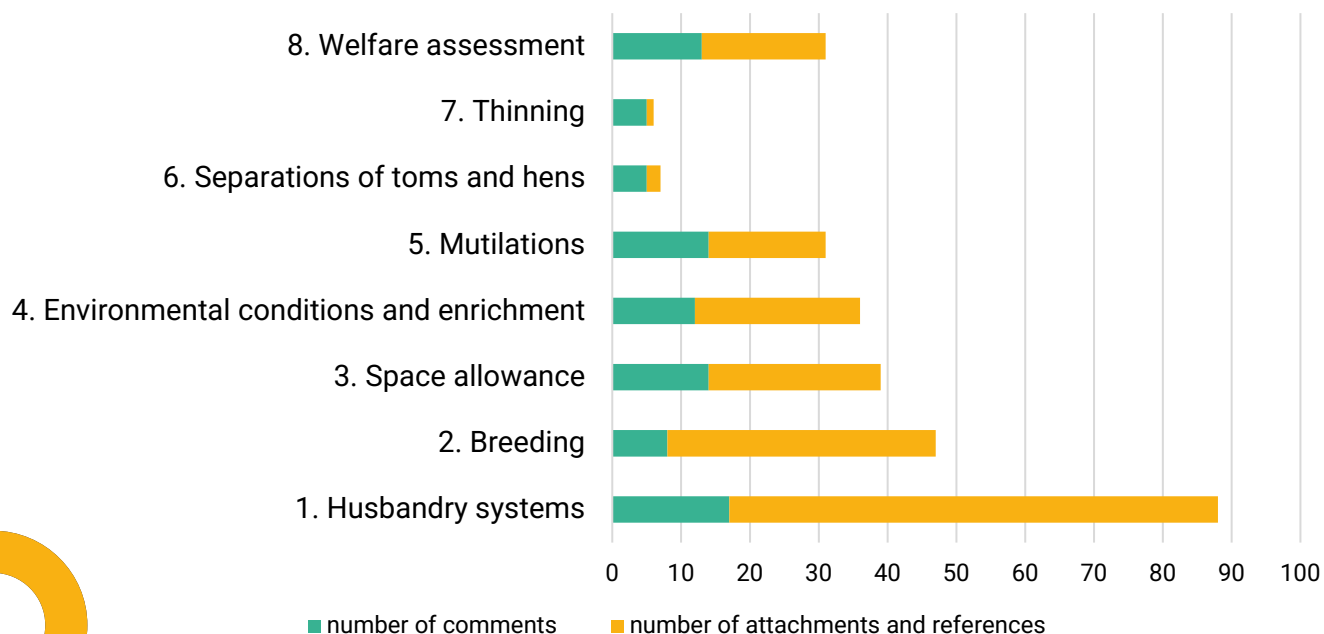




OVERVIEW OF OUTCOME OF THE PUBLIC CALL FOR EVIDENCE

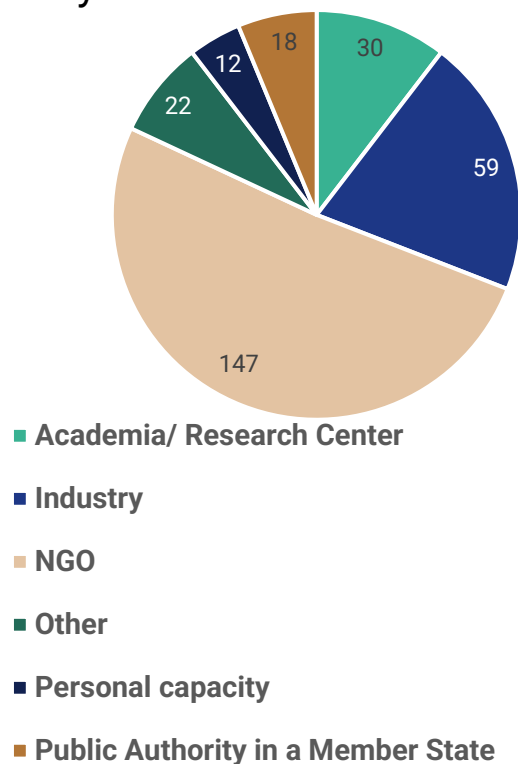
Number of inputs received per section of the public call for data

- **Over 280 contributions (comments and publications)** from 24 stakeholders in the 8 parts of the call from evidence from 8 countries

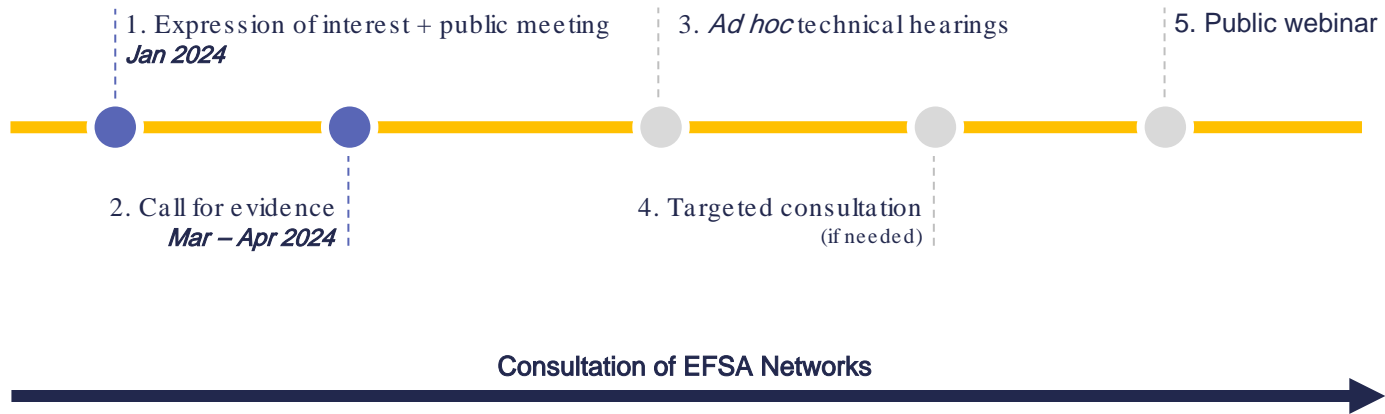


Number of comments, attachments received per stakeholder type

- Half of the inputs were submitted by NGOs, followed by industry



Engagement strategy: Animals kept for fur production

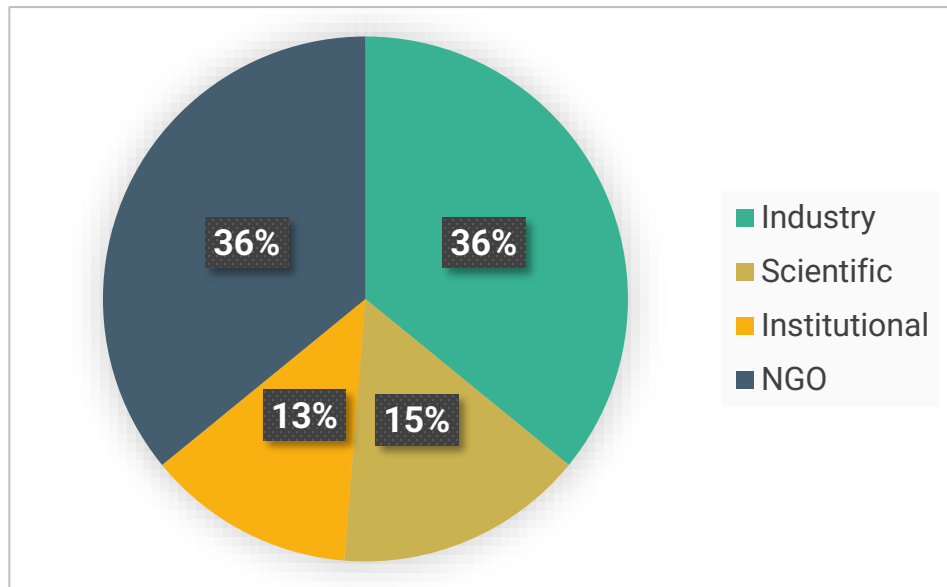


OVERVIEW STAKEHOLDERS MEETING AND PUBLIC CALL FOR EVIDENCE



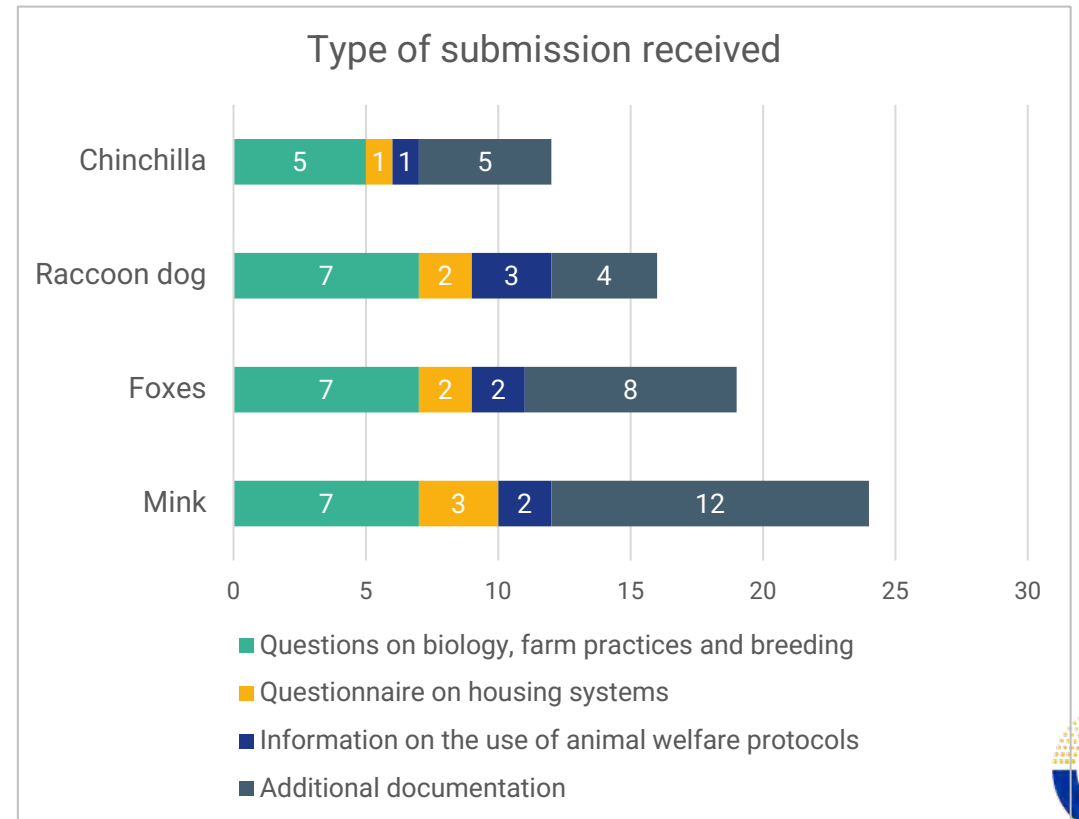
STAKEHOLDER MEETING: ATTENDEES

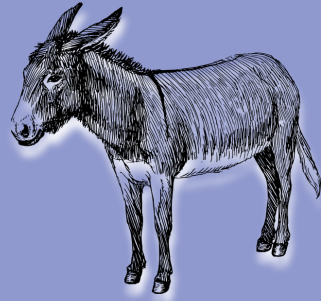
39 Participants from 14 countries



CALL FOR EVIDENCE: REPLIES

17 Participants from 10 countries

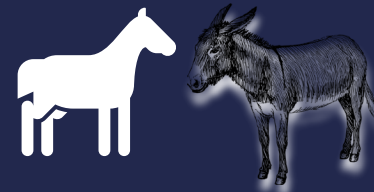




New EC mandate on the welfare of Equidae



EC MANDATE REQUEST TO EFSA ON THE WELFARE OF EQUIDAE



**Mandate Received
and accepted**
3 March 2024

Call for evidence
(summer or after
summer 2024)

**Risk assessment
deadline**
31 December 2026



Stakeholder meeting on the protection of Equidae: horses, donkeys and their hybrids

📅 19 June 2024, 09.00 - 13.00 (CEST)

📍 Brussels, Belgium

[Register now](#)

Deadline: 20 May 2024 - 12:00 (CEST)

Share:



¹ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00188>

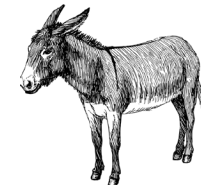


TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORs)



The following categories of Equidae should be differentiated and properly considered when making scientific recommendations, when relevant:

- **Breeding** Equidae: Equidae kept mainly for breeding.
- **Working** Equidae: Equidae kept mainly for competitive, non-competitive, commercial, leisure or subsistence activity.
- **Production** Equidae: Equidae mainly kept for the production of meat, milk, or other substances and products of animal origin.
- **Horses, ponies, draught horses, donkeys, mules and hinnies.**



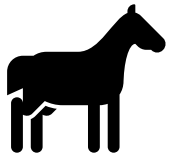
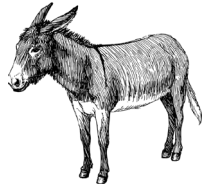
TERMS OF REFERENCE HORSES: TOR 1 & TOR 3



- A. The Commission requests EFSA to deliver a technical report (TOR 1) and Scientific report (TOR 2, TOR 3):**
- TOR 1. Review of the most **common husbandry systems** and current practices for keeping the categories of **Equidae** (horses, donkeys, mules and hinnies) listed above in the EU.
 - TOR 3. The assessment of **Animal Based Measures collected in slaughterhouses** to monitor the level of welfare of Equidae in establishments (maximum 5 indicators).



TERMS OF REFERENCE HORSES: TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION



- 1) Minimum **space allowance**, including for *Equus asinus* and their hybrids
- 2) Design of the **functional areas** of housing (including risks associated with standing stalls and tie-stalls).
- 3) Type of **flooring** and **bedding**.
- 4) Nutrition and **feeding** strategies
- 5) **Water** access
- 6) **Enrichment**
- 7) **Air** quality, **temperature**, and
- 8) **Social** needs,
- 9) **Outdoor** access

Other aspects : **mutilations** (e.g. tail docking), **hoof care**, **teeth care**, **breeding** (e.g. age, conditions of weaning & foaling, selection of certain phenotypes) **collection of blood**, **human-Equidae interaction & handling**, **working activity** (e.g. age, weight, gestation, duration)



Follow up of EFSA Roadmap for Action on AW

- Develop and implement a **methodology for quantitative risk assessment** of animal welfare
- **Strategic data collection** of indicators of on-farm welfare



‘More Welfare: towards new risk assessment methodologies and harmonised animal welfare data in the EU’ (Paulović *et al.*, 2024)



More data is needed

"HARMONISED WELFARE DATA ACROSS THE EU"

Rapid assessment of key indicators should be used

"AUTOMATED COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF ICEBERG INDICATORS"

Need to understand changes and evolution of indicators over time

"DYNAMICS OF WELFARE OVER TIME"

Look for scientific solutions to integrate indicators and determine overall welfare

"EXPERT OPINION AND MINIMUM VALUES FOR INDICATORS"

Moving from 'Reducing suffering' to 'Life worth living'

"INDICATORS OF POSITIVE WELFARE AND MENTAL STATE"



FOLLOW-UP PROJECTS ON ROADMAP FOR ACTION ON AW: ONGOING CALLS



1. GP/EFSA/BIOHAW/2023/03: **Animal care & welfare: dairy herd welfare indicators. Risk-based model for dairy herd welfare: Field data collection – Awarded. Started in April 2024**



2. OC/EFSA/BIOHAW/2023/03: **Developing a methodology to assess positive Welfare using behaviour-analytic and ethological approaches** <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=14842> - Closed on 15 May 2024 – **Proposals under evaluation**



3. EUBA-EFSA-2024-BIOHAW-01: **Pathway to animal welfare quantitative risk assessment: piloting a harmonized collection of welfare data in pigs (sows&piglets):** <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/art36grants/article36/euba-efsa-2024-biohaw-01-pathway-animal-welfare-quantitative-risk-assessment> (Grant Call; 1.5m€) - **Deadline for submission of proposals: 14 November 2024**



3

PATHWAY TO ANIMAL WELFARE QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT: PILOTING A HARMONIZED COLLECTION OF WELFARE DATA IN PIGS

—— *Main aspects of the Grant Call*

- Focus on **sows and piglets on-farm welfare**
- All types of husbandry systems in EU MSs (and slaughterhouses)
- Creation and implementation of a **database of welfare data**
- Development of an *ad-hoc protocol* to collect data to feed the database
- **Training** of assessors

To
2028

From
2025



*Pre-launch meeting held on 11 April 2024
(with Art 36 Organisations)*

More welfare data needed: ABMs and related context data (resource-, management-, environmental- based) enabling quantitative on-farm welfare assessment



OTHER UPDATES – SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS

Recently Adopted



On-farm killing of sheep and goats



Application: Use of High Expansion Foam for stunning and killing pigs and poultry

Coming Soon



Application: Use of Diathermic Syncope® for stunning cattle
(**Jan 2025**)



Slaughter and On-farm killing of horses
(**Dec 2024**)



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