

8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU Platform on AW,  
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# Overview on the 2019- 2020 activities of EFSA on animal welfare

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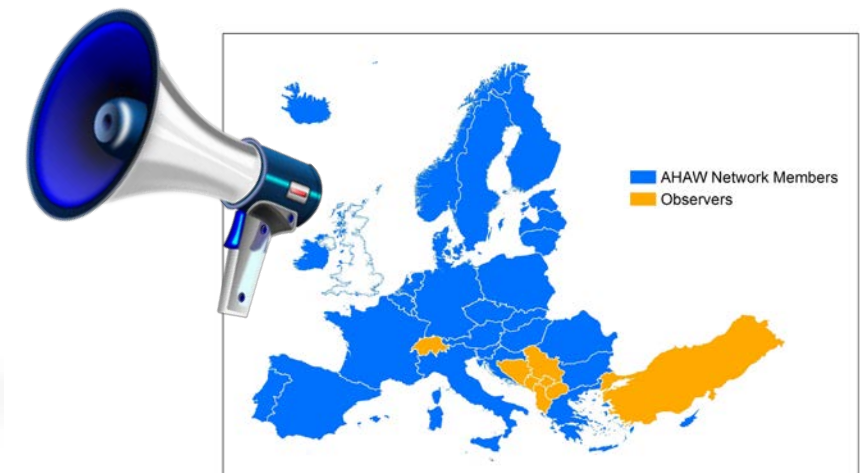
Trusted science for safe food

1. EFSA **Network activities on AW** in 2019 – 2020
2. EFSA Scientific opinion on the **welfare of rabbits** 2019 (EP mandate)
3. EFSA Scientific opinions on the **slaughter of animals & killing for other purposes than slaughter** 2019 – 2021 (EC mandates): general description of the mandates (background, request, animal species, adoption timeline, ToRs)
4. **Farm-to-Fork Mandates** 2020 – 2023 from the EC: general description of the mandates (background, request, animal species, adoption timeline, ToRs)

# 1. EFSA Networks on AW 2019 - 2020

1. EFSA's **AHAW network** consists of **nationally appointed EU MS organisations with scientific expertise** in the fields of Animal Health and Animal Welfare
2. EFSA's network of the **National Contact Points (NCPs) for scientific support under Art. 20, Council Reg. (EC) No 1099/2009**
  - Networks are chaired and supported by the AHAW Team of EFSA
  - Their aim is to **facilitate scientific cooperation** in the field of animal welfare by: coordinating activities, **exchanging of information**, developing and implementing joint projects, exchanging expertise and best practices

- **AW Network meeting (01-02/07/2019):** preparatory exercise for SOs on slaughter&killing of pigs
- **NCPs Network meeting (14-15/10/2019):** preparatory exercise for SOs on slaughter&killing of cattle
- **NCPs Network meeting (15/10/2020):** presentation of EFSA activities&exchange of information



## 2) EFSA Scientific opinion on the welfare of rabbits - 2019 (mandate from EP)



### Background:

Second most farmed species in EU in terms of numbers

No species-specific legislation protecting the welfare of farmed rabbits exists in the EU

Public concerns: poor welfare, high stress levels, high mortality and morbidity, and on the stunning methods



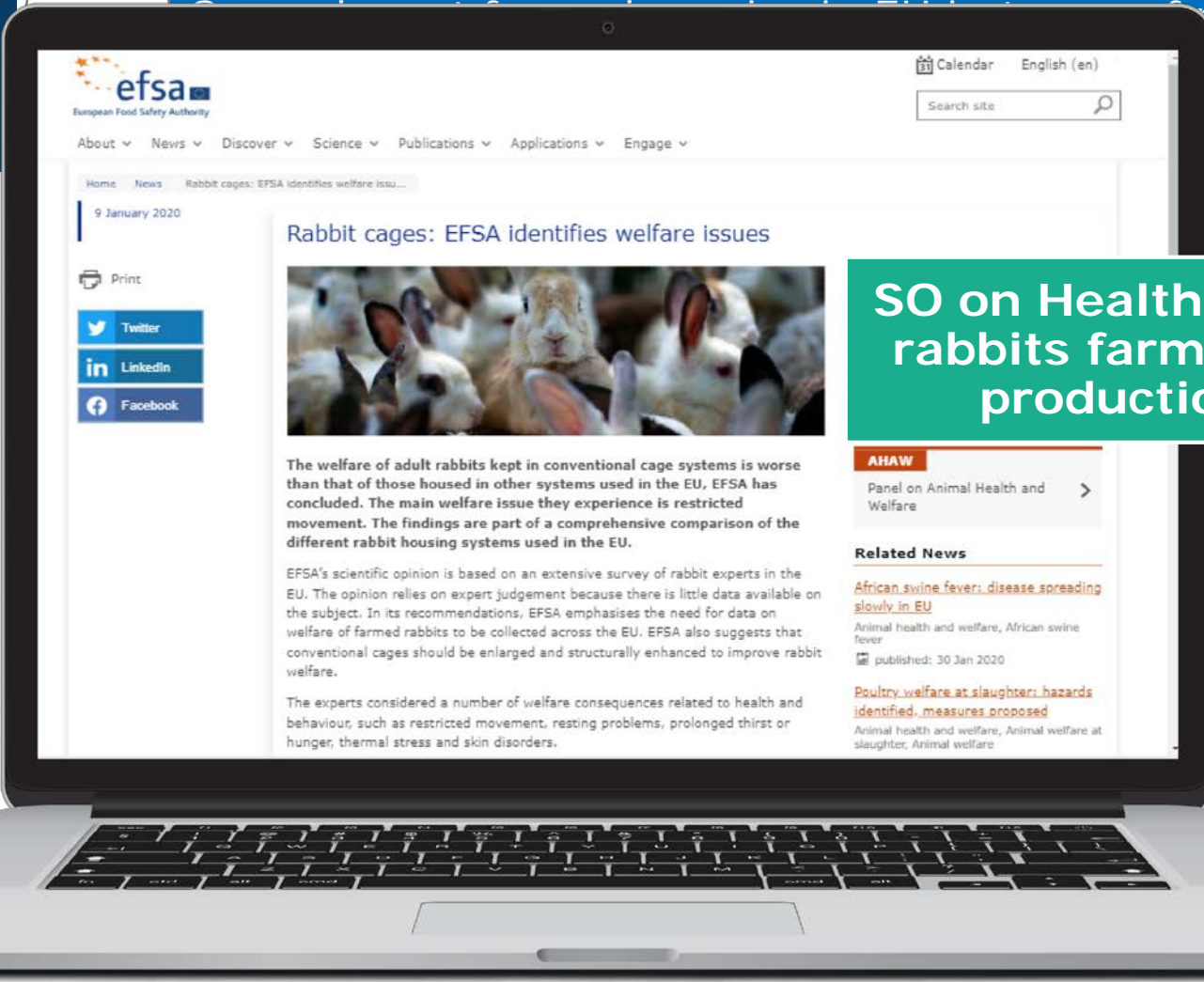
### Request of two EFSA'S opinions on:

1. Health and welfare of **rabbits farmed in different production systems**
2. **Stunning&killing** methods for rabbits (included in the slaughter&killing SOs)

# 2) EFSA Scientific opinion on the welfare of rabbits - 2019 (mandate from EP)



## Background:



SO on Health and welfare of rabbits farmed in different production systems



### 3) Two EC mandates on Slaughter and killing for other purposes than slaughter of the animals (2019-2021)

#### Background on the subject

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009
- Previous EFSA Scientific outputs adopted in 2004, 2006, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017
- Terrestrial Animal Health Code from **OIE - revision of:**
  - Slaughter of animals (**Chapter 7.5**);
  - Killing of animals for disease control purposes (**Chapter 7.6**)

#### Request to EFSA in 2018:

To review the scientific literature and **provide a sound scientific basis for future discussions at international level** on the welfare of the animals in the context **of slaughter and other types of killing** (killing for other purposes than slaughter)

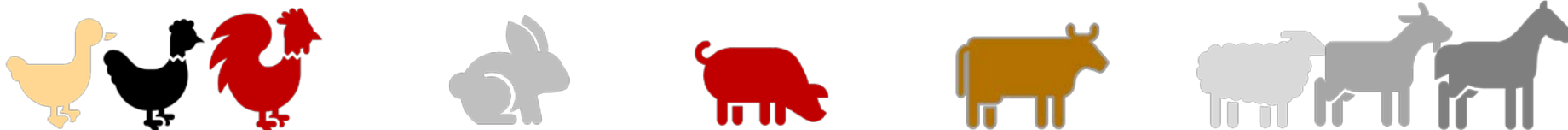
**Slaughter:** killing of animals for human consumption that could take place in a slaughter plant or during on-farm slaughter - from the arrival until the animal is dead, including slaughter without stunning (assessment of AW on the farm and during transport is excluded).

## Killing for other purposes than slaughter:

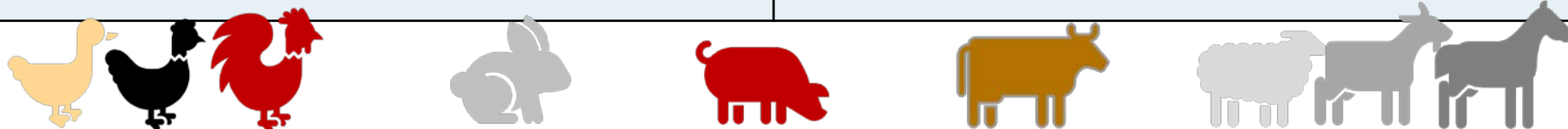
- large scale killings in case of **depopulation** for disease control purposes and similar situations (environmental contamination, disaster management, etc.) **outside slaughterhouses**.
- **killing of unproductive animals** that might be practiced **on-farm** for health, welfare or economic reasons (large-scale killing/individual killing).

## Five groups of Animal species

Domestic birds; rabbits; pigs; cattle (including buffalo and bison); 'other species' (sheep, goats, camelids, deer, horses, ratites)



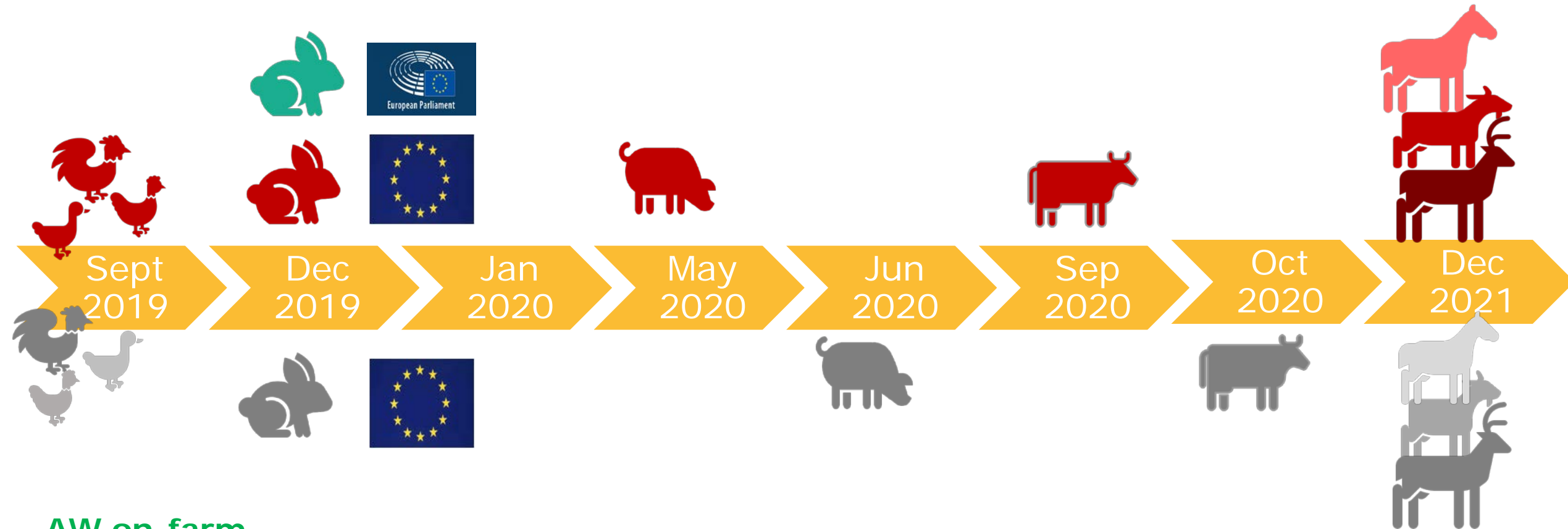
<p><b>Process steps to consider in the two mandates:</b> Slaughter and <b>killing for other purposes than slaughter</b></p>	<p><b>ToRs</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arrival</li> <li>2. Unloading</li> <li>3. Lairage</li> <li>4. <b>Handling</b> and moving (free moving animals only)</li> <li>5. <b>Restraint</b></li> <li>6. <b>Stunning (Stunning/killing)</b></li> <li>7. Bleeding</li> <li>8. Slaughter of pregnant animals (free moving animals only)</li> <li>9. Emergency killing (outside the normal slaughter line)</li> <li>10. <b>Unacceptable methods, procedures or practices on welfare grounds</b></li> </ol>	<p>ToR-1: Identify welfare hazards and their origins (in terms of facilities, equipment, staff)</p> <p>ToR-2: Define ABMs to assess performance on AW</p> <p>ToR-3: Provide preventive and corrective measures (structural or managerial) to address the hazards</p> <p>ToR-4: Point out specific hazards related to species or types of animals (e.g. young, with horns)</p>





# Series of SOs on AW during Slaughter & Killing for other purposes than slaughter + on-farm rabbit

## Timeline of the adoptions by the AHAW Panel: 11 Scientific Opinions



- AW on-farm
- AW at slaughter
- AW during killing for other purposes than slaughter

## 4) Series of SOs on AW on farm and during transport under the framework of the F2F strategy (2020-2023)

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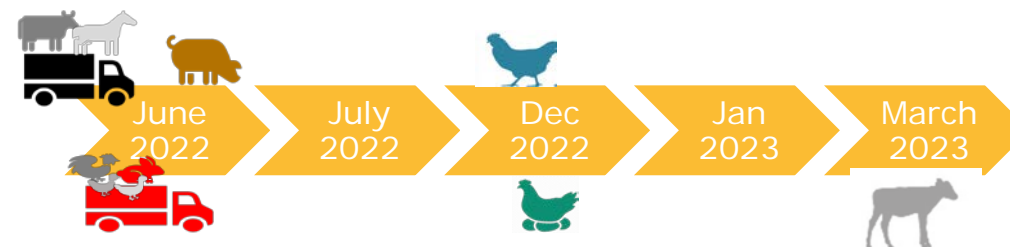
In the framework of its **Farm to Fork strategy**, the **EC** will start a comprehensive evaluation of the animal welfare legislation.



**EFSA** will support the EC providing:

1. Scientific Opinion concerning the **protection of pigs** Deadline: **June '22**
2. Scientific opinion concerning the **protection** of terrestrial animals **during transport**
3. Scientific Opinion concerning the **protection of** domestic fowls related to the production of meat (**broilers**) Deadline: **December '22**
4. Scientific opinion concerning the **protection of** domestic fowls related to the production of eggs (**laying hens**)
5. Scientific Opinion concerning the **protection of calves** Deadline: **March '23**

Timeline of the adoptions by the AHAW Panel: 6 Scientific Opinions



For each category of animals, Efsa will:

- ✓ **Describe**, based on existing literature and reports, the **current husbandry systems** and practices of keeping them

- ✓ Describe the **relevant welfare consequences**.

Relevance should not be based on a full risk assessment but on **EFSA's expert opinion** regarding the **severity**, **duration** and **occurrence** of each welfare consequence

- ✓ Define **qualitative or quantitative measures** to assess the welfare consequences (**animal-based measures**)
  - ✓ Identify the **hazards** leading to these welfare consequences
- ✓ Provide **recommendations** to prevent, mitigate or correct the welfare consequences (resource and management-based measures).

In addition, in the context of the European Citizen Initiative "*end of the cage age*", EFSA will explore scientific information on the advantages and disadvantages of the **several production systems, in particular for laying hens, pigs and calves**, taking into account the possible diversity of the production systems and will explore how to improve them.

For specific scenarios, the Commission has identified practical difficulties or insufficient information in ensuring the welfare of animals.

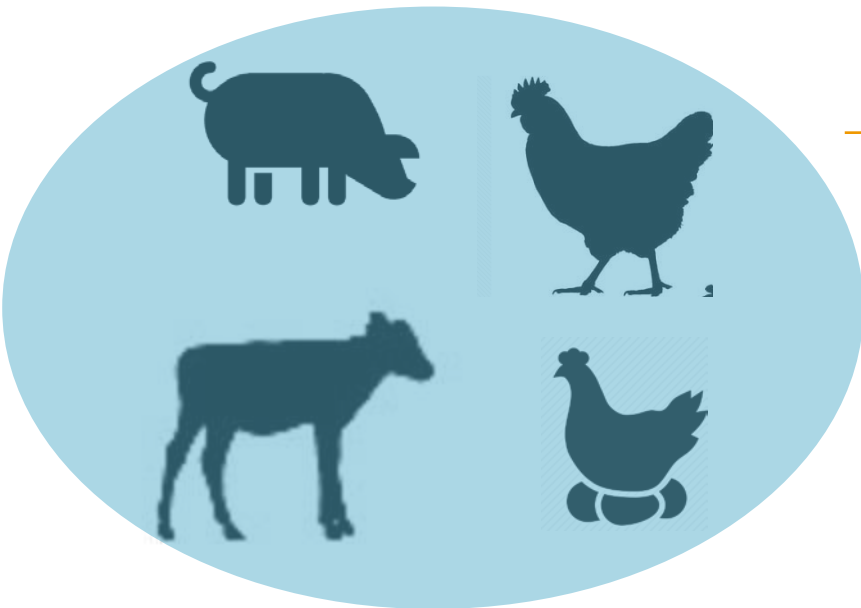
For these scenarios, EFSA will propose:

**Detailed animal-based measures**

And

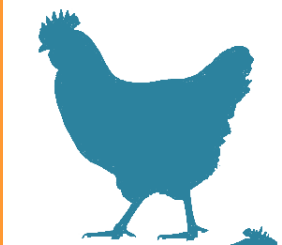
**Detailed preventive and corrective measures**

**with**, where possible,  
qualitative (yes/no question) or quantitative (minimum/maximum)  
**criteria** (i.e. requirements to prevent and/or mitigate the welfare consequences)





1. The welfare of **gilts** and dry **pregnant sows after weaning** in individual and group housing systems, during the first four weeks of pregnancy;
2. The welfare of **gilts** and dry **pregnant sows one week before farrowing** in **different housing systems** offering different degrees of behavioural freedom;
3. The welfare of **sows and piglets from farrowing to weaning** in **different housing systems** offering different degrees of behavioural freedom;
4. The welfare of **weaners and rearing pigs**, in particular with the risks associated with: **a)** weaning, **b)** space allowance, including competition for space, **c)** types of flooring, including poor cleanliness and comfort, **d)** enrichment material, **e)** air quality, **f)** health status, **g)** diet, including competition for food and **h)** practice of mutilations (tail docking, tooth clipping, castration);
5. The assessment of **Animal Based Measures collected in slaughterhouses** to monitor the level of welfare on **pig farms** (such as **tail damages, stomach ulcers, lung lesions**).



1. The welfare of **fast-growing chickens in barns** and the risks associated with air and floor temperature, access to feed and water, space allowance, air quality;
2. The welfare of **broiler breeders** and the risks associated with housing in (individual) cages, the practice of routine mutilation (beak trimming, de-toeing, de-combing, de-clawing,...), the feed restriction;
3. The welfare of **day-old chick until they reach the rearing or breeding farms**: hatchery conditions, transport conditions;
4. The assessment of **Animal Based Measures collected in slaughterhouses** (such as foot pad dermatitis) to monitor the level of welfare on **broiler farms**;



1. The welfare of **male dairy calves raised for producing “white” veal meat** and the risks associated with individual housing, insufficient space and feed restriction (such as deprivation of iron and fibres);
2. The welfare of **dairy calves** and the risks associated with limited **cow-calf bond**.
3. The assessment of **Animal Based Measures** collected in **slaughterhouses** to monitor the level of on farm welfare of **male dairy calves raised for producing “white” veal meat**;

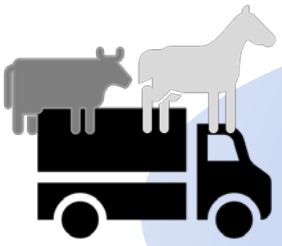




1. The welfare of **laying hens** and the risks associated with **alternative systems** (organic, free range and barn) **compared to the cage system currently allowed**;
2. Welfare of **hens in furnished cages**, and risks associated with **rearing of animals non beak trimmed**;
3. The assessment of **Animal Based Measures** collected in **slaughterhouses** to monitor the level of welfare on **laying hen farms**;

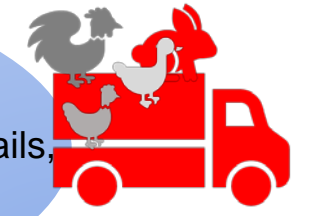
## Species Group 1

### Free-moving animals

- 
1. Equids (horses, donkeys and their crossings)
  2. Bovine animals (cattle and calves)
  3. Small ruminants (sheep and goats)
  4. Pigs

## Species Group 2

### Animals in containers

- 
5. Domestic birds (chickens for meat, laying hens, turkeys, ducks, geese, quails, etc.)
  6. Rabbits.

EFSA will describe the current practices regarding:

1. The preparation for transport (including catching and crating of poultry and rabbits)
2. Loading, unloading and handling of animals at all stages of the journey, including at destination;
3. The means of transport by road, roll-on-roll-off vessels, livestock vessels, the means of transport by rail and by air;
4. The conditions within the means of transport: space, microclimatic conditions, watering and feeding;
5. The journey duration and its circumstances as well as the resting of animals in the vehicle being stationary or being unloaded;
6. The conditions for areas where animals are unloaded and/or grouped as part of the journey (assembly centres, livestock markets, control posts, EU ports)





1. “Export by livestock vessels” -Transport of adult cattle, weaned calves and sheep over long journeys involving the combination road/livestock vessels;

2. “Export by road” -Transport of adult cattle, weaned calves and sheep over long journeys by road involving the use of facilities where animals are unloaded and reloaded (control posts, livestock markets) or when animals are kept in stationary vehicles for hours (exit points) including in third countries;



3. “Roll-on-roll off” -Transport of adult cattle, calves and sheep over long journeys involving the combination road/roll-on-roll-off vessels;

4. “End-of-career animals” -Transport of end of career animals to slaughterhouses of dairy cows, breeding sows, and laying hens;



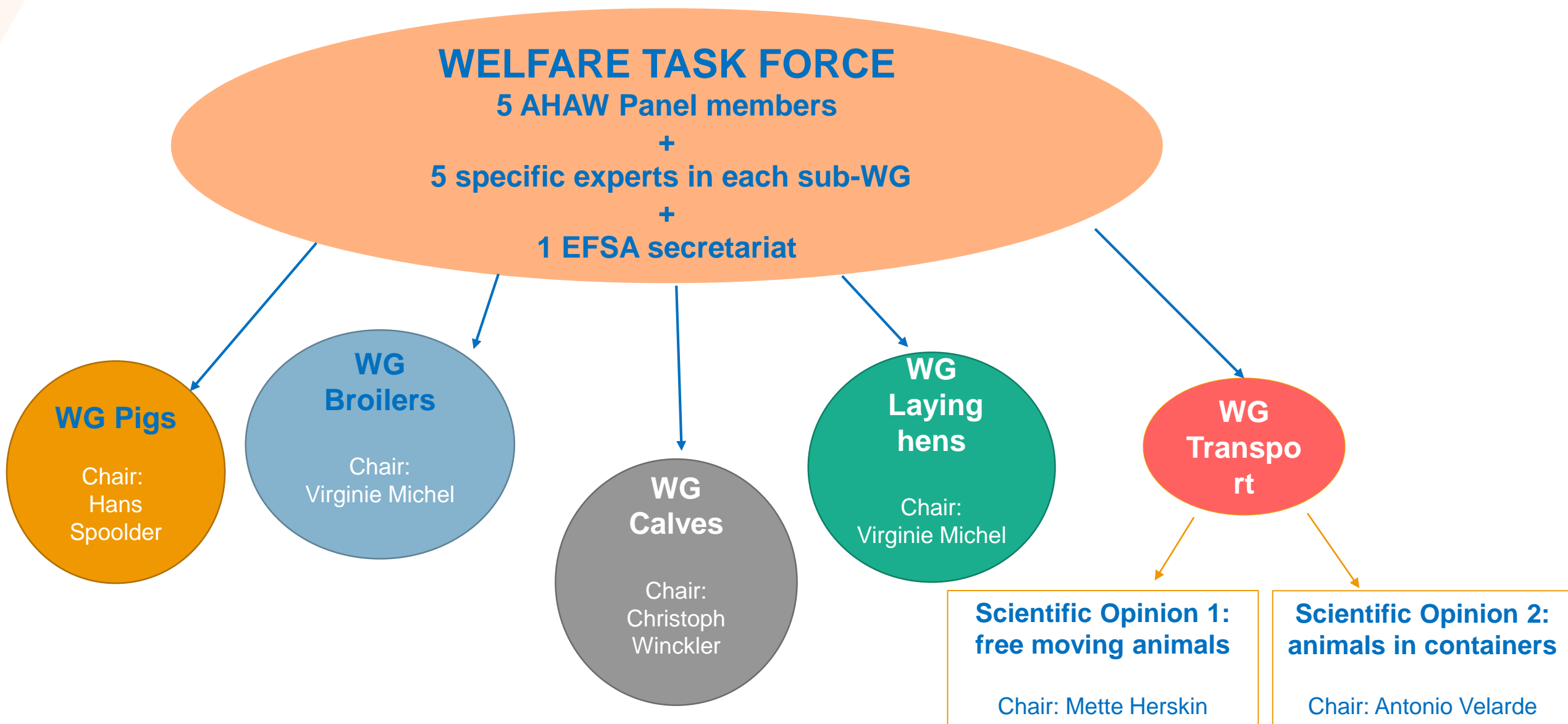
5. “Unweaned calves” -Transport of unweaned calves over long journeys; this scenario will particularly consider the risks regarding fitness for transport, watering, feeding and thermal comfort

6. “Horses” -Transport of horses on long journeys to slaughterhouses;

7. “Special health status animals” -Transport of ruminants and pigs where unloading them before the final destination might jeopardize their health status.



For all - need to consider:  
risks regarding microclimatic conditions associated with extremely high or low temperatures including the difficulty of measuring of temperature, humidity and gas concentration within animals' compartment.





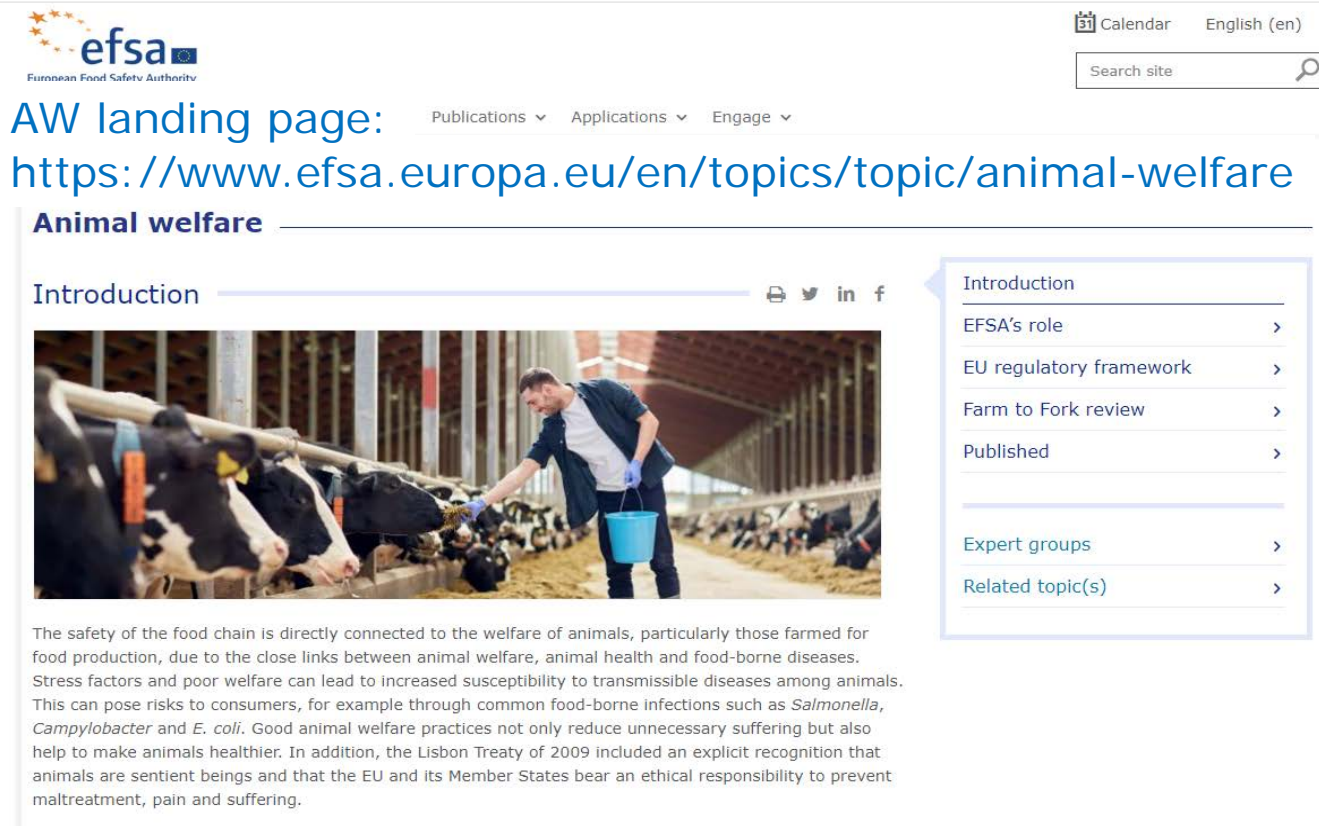
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The screenshot shows the EFSA website's 'Animal welfare' landing page. At the top, there is the EFSA logo and navigation links for 'Calendar', 'English (en)', and a search bar. Below the logo, there are dropdown menus for 'Publications', 'Applications', and 'Engage'. The main heading is 'Animal welfare', followed by 'Introduction'. A large image shows a man in a blue shirt and dark jacket feeding a cow in a barn. To the right of the image is a table of contents with expandable sections: 'Introduction', 'EFSA's role', 'EU regulatory framework', 'Farm to Fork review', 'Published', 'Expert groups', and 'Related topic(s)'. Below the image, there is a paragraph of text explaining the connection between animal welfare and food safety.

**Animal welfare**

Introduction

Introduction	>
EFSA's role	>
EU regulatory framework	>
Farm to Fork review	>
Published	>
Expert groups	>
Related topic(s)	>

The safety of the food chain is directly connected to the welfare of animals, particularly those farmed for food production, due to the close links between animal welfare, animal health and food-borne diseases. Stress factors and poor welfare can lead to increased susceptibility to transmissible diseases among animals. This can pose risks to consumers, for example through common food-borne infections such as *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *E. coli*. Good animal welfare practices not only reduce unnecessary suffering but also help to make animals healthier. In addition, the Lisbon Treaty of 2009 included an explicit recognition that animals are sentient beings and that the EU and its Member States bear an ethical responsibility to prevent maltreatment, pain and suffering.

# THANK YOU!