



Qualitätssicherung. **Vom Landwirt bis zur Ladentheke.**



Animal welfare and animal health in the QS scheme agriculture

<p>Extensive requirements regarding animal welfare</p> <p>Animal health and hygiene</p>	<p>The compliance with requirements regarding animal welfare and animal health are a basic prerequisite for all livestock owners in the QS scheme. Almost half of the requirements in agriculture refer to animal welfare or animal health.</p> <p>An overview of the most important requirements:</p> <p>Animal farming appropriate to provisions of animal welfare</p> <p>All animals are looked after and cared for by competent employees. The livestock owner provides protection against weather conditions and, if he/she keeps animals indoors, provides slip-resistant and sure-footed floors. The sty climate (temperature, noise, fresh air) is monitored regularly and a sufficient lighting is ensured. The animals have constant access to water and feed in adequate quantity and quality. All animals have enough space. In the case of a power failure, precautions exist to ensure that the animals are amply supplied with fresh air, water and feed.</p> <p>Compliance with hygiene requirements</p> <p>The animal stock is protected against diseases and epidemics; e.g. no external persons may enter unauthorizedly. Furthermore, cleaning and, if applicable, disinfection is regularly conducted. In order to avoid contaminations, all feed is thoroughly stored and all watering and feeding systems are kept clean. Every livestock owner regularly examines if pests (e.g. mice) occur and targets them.</p> <p>Collaboration with the veterinarian: All animals are regularly looked after by a farm veterinarian. Thus, the health of both the herd and every single animal are maintained or possibly improved.</p> <p>Monitoring of veterinary drugs: All veterinary drugs and vaccines for the animals are applied conscientiously. The applications are carefully documented by the veterinarian and the livestock owner.</p> <p>Analgesics for piglet castration: If male piglets are castrated, analgesics are used to minimise postoperative pain.</p>
<p>Transport appropriate to provisions of animal welfare</p>	<p>Requirements for animal transport</p> <p>Prior to each transport it is verified that all animals are transportable. All loading devices are slip-resistant and sufficiently illuminated. During transport the animals' well-being is monitored regularly. All animals have sufficient space in the vehicle and are fed and watered at predetermined times.</p>



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Monitoring-programmes for continuous inspection

Salmonella Monitoring

Pig and poultry owners participate in the Salmonella Monitoring-programme. Depending on the results of the salmonella samples, measures are taken to detect the origin of the salmonella on the one hand and to eliminate the source on the other hand.

Antibiotics Monitoring

Calf producers as well as pig and poultry owners participate in the Antibiotics Monitoring-programme. Hence, the livestock owners and veterinarians can see if there is any need for action. The monitoring helps to continuously improve the company's use of antibiotics. Simultaneously it contributes to lowering the risk of the development of antibiotic-resistant germs.

Diagnostic Data Monitoring

Abattoirs in the QS scheme report diagnostic data that are collected during the slaughtering of pigs and poultry back to the livestock owners and/or enter them into the central QS database. The data are used for a comprehensive approach to the livestock's health. The feedback regarding liver, lung, heart and pleura diseases as well as foot pad lesions help the livestock owners and veterinarians to improve animal health.

Inspection and sanctioning

The compliance with the requirements is ensured by a multistage control system. **Violations against animal welfare and animal health requirements are harshly prosecuted: Such a company fails the audit („K.O.“) and may not deliver its animals into the QS scheme.** Only when the nonconformity is fixed and the requirement is re-checked may the company participate in the QS scheme again. Furthermore, a sanction procedure against the company is initiated.