

Instructional Scenario

Animal Rights vs. Animal Welfare: What's the Difference?



Course/Duty Area: Operating the Farm Business/Understanding the Connection Between Agriculture and the Public

Scenario:

A local consumer group known as Consumers for Informed Choices is hosting a community event focused on animal agriculture. Many members of this group are concerned about animal treatment in agriculture but have limited experience and knowledge of the subject. They have expressed interest in learning about the differences between animal rights and animal welfare, as they want to make informed decisions about their food choices and animal products. You have been selected to create a presentation to educate the group about the key differences between animal rights and animal welfare.

Big Question:

What are the differences between animal rights and animal welfare?

Focused Questions:

- What defines the animal rights perspective?
- What defines the animal welfare perspective?
- How do you explain the difference between the two viewpoints to consumers?
- How are animals treated in agriculture?
- What are ethical farming practices? How are these practices implemented in animal production?
- What is the [Humane Methods of Slaughter Act](#) (HMSA)? How is it enforced? What are the regulations?

Student Project or Outcome:

Students will develop a presentation to address the concerns of the local consumer group. The presentation should aim to clarify the difference between animal rights and animal welfare; provide real-world examples of how HMSA requires the humane treatment and handling of food animals at the slaughter plant and is enforced by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS); and engage the audience in discussion.

Project-Based Assessment:

Students will present their projects to agricultural stakeholders for evaluation.

Teacher Resources:

- [Animal Welfare](#), Dr. Temple Grandin's Website
- [Animal welfare and animal rights: Ethics, science and explanations](#), Purdue University Extension

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