Establishment of a partnership as a means of transferring animal welfare standards into dairy farms in Chile

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Introduction

In 2013 Chile launched a regulation on animal welfare during industrialized production, commercialization, and maintenance in other types of enclosures (Decreto N° 29). This regulation, based on the OIE welfare strategy, directly affects dairy farms, which due to the climatic and geographic conditions of Chile are diverse in terms of number of cows, production systems, and risk factors for animal welfare.

The same year the Chilean Dairy Consortium formed an animal welfare technical committee in order to provide a link between animal welfare researcher’s, the public sector (animal welfare authority), and producers. The committee is formed by academics from 3 Universities, a researcher from the public sector (INIA), a representative from the authority (SAG) and representatives from the Dairy Consortium.

Activities

2014: Development of a welfare assessment protocol for chilean dairy farms and application of the protocol for initial diagnosis

2015: Development of written and audiovisual material for knowledge transfer

2015: Implementation of a knowledge transfer strategy according to the results of the welfare assessment.

2016: Final welfare assessment applying for a second time the welfare protocol in the dairy farms that received knowledge transfer.

Conclusions

The formation of a partnership between the academy, public sector and dairy producers through their consortium enabled the transference of animal welfare standards and sensitization of producers on this topic.