

Farm Animal Welfare

Farm Animal Welfare Council (1991). Colour VHS 17 minutes 11 seconds. Obtainable from MAFF Video and AV Unit, Block D, The Government Buildings, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surrey KT6 7NF, UK. Price £11.75.

Farm Animal Welfare provides a sound general introduction to several aspects of farm animal welfare and should prove most useful as a means of introducing the subject in schools and the early stages of courses in higher education establishments.

The video is mainly concerned with the welfare of meat animals and covers their production, transport and marketing. The particular needs in terms of stockpersons and facilities of each of these components are illustrated, but the main emphasis is given to the function of the farm stockperson who plays such a key role in ensuring the welfare of the animals under his/her care.

A balanced view of intensive and extensive systems of production is presented and the point is made that any system can only be as good as the personnel involved in its operation. Particular attention is given to the requirements of the good stockperson - the need for dedication, humaneness and alertness and, importantly, the need for training and updating.

The work of the Farm Animal Welfare Council is outlined and attention is drawn to the role and the availability of the statutory welfare codes for the species currently used for food production. The fact that these codes are regularly revised and updated should greatly help to raise the general standard of stockmanship and husbandry in our livestock units, as should the wide use of this informative video.

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