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Farm official animal welfare inspections in France: a synthesis of the situation in the cattle sector between 2010 and 2013

Anne-Claire Lomellini-Dereclenne, Isabelle Veissier, Luc Mounier and Mara Miele

We present an overview of the results from animal welfare inspections carried out by official control services from the French Ministry of agriculture between 2010 and 2013 in the cattle sector.

Each inspection was carried out using a grid allowing the assessment of the requirements of the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes. The points of vigilance pointed by the regulation correspond to items / sub-items that are evaluated individually as compliant or not. An overall score is then awarded to the farm to situate it on a severity scale in relation to the welfare of animals. This influences the decision to carry out a new inspection for cases considered most unfavorable.

We analyzed inspections carried out between 2010 and 2013 to have an overview of the French situation regarding the compliance with the regulation and of its enforcement difficulties. A specific attention will be given to farms with a low score at the first inspection and that have been subjected to additional inspections. The aim is to identify the various factors vs. barriers that can influence improvements of farm scores.