

# Do cows (should) have horns ?

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**SAD – ASTER-Mirecourt**



**EAAP 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Bratislava, Slovakia, August 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

**Do cows have horns ?**

**Do cows (should) have horns ?**



# Cows as horned animals

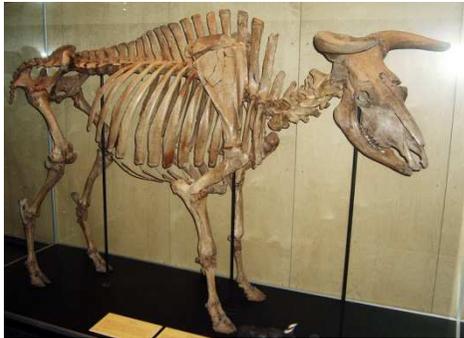
## Taxonomic Hierarchy

Order	<a href="#">Artiodactyla</a> Owen, 1841 – artiodactyls, porco do mato, veado, cloven-hoofed ungulates, even-toed ungulates
Family	<a href="#">Bovidae</a> Gray, 1821 – antelopes, cattle, goats, sheep, bovids
Subfamily	<a href="#">Bovinae</a> Gray, 1821
Genus	<a href="#">Bos</a> Linnaeus, 1758 – true cattle, oxen
Species	<i>Bos taurus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 – aurochs, domesticated cattle, domestic cattle (feral)

Bovinae



Bos



# Cows as horned animals



Angus

Galloway

Lincoln Reds

EAAP 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Bratislava, Slovakia, August 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2012



# The reasons why



- **The reasons** for the actual situation cover
  - the **diminution of risks**,
  - the easiness of **management**, and
  - economic arguments relative to the cost of **facilities** or the **marketing** of animals,
- **but**, in the other way,
  - dehorning or disbudding is a **source of pain** for the animals,
  - and the use of **genetically hornless cattle** may be considered as non-natural.

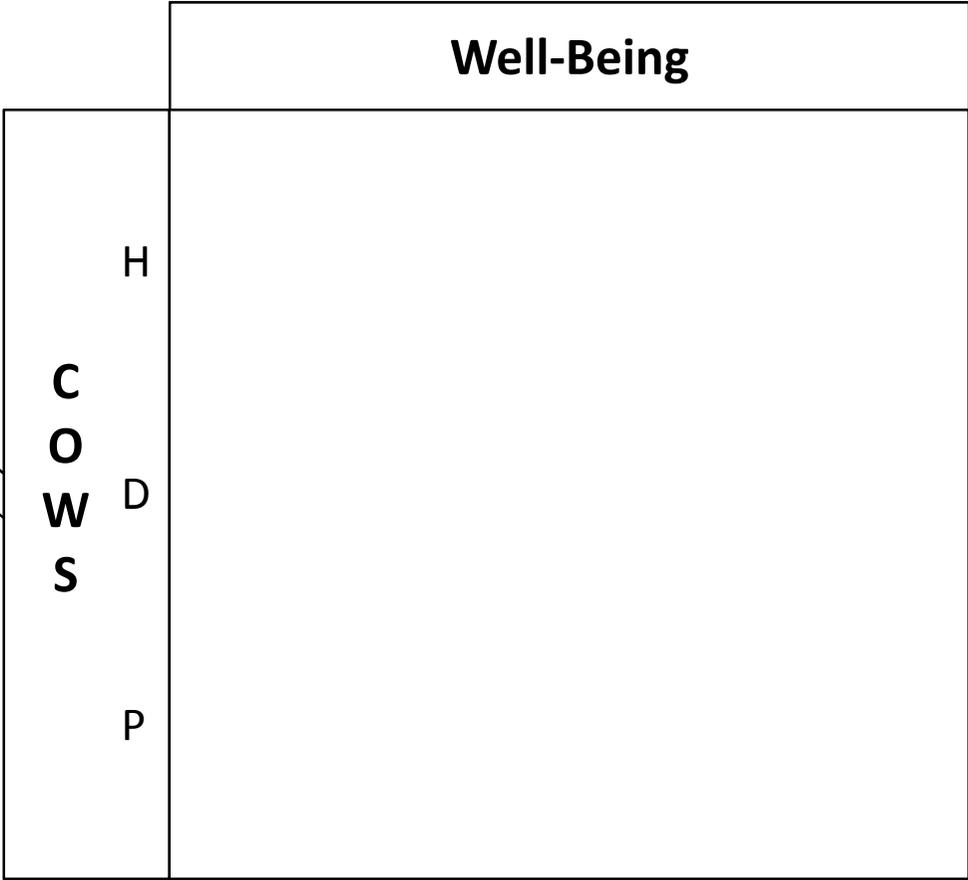
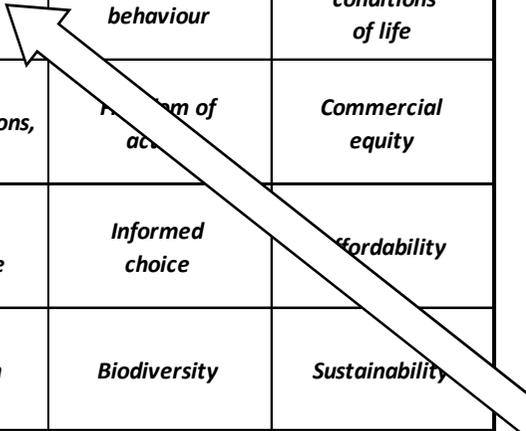
# Ben Mepham's Ethical Matrix

	Well-Being	Autonomy	Justice
Cows			
Farmers			
Society			
Environment			



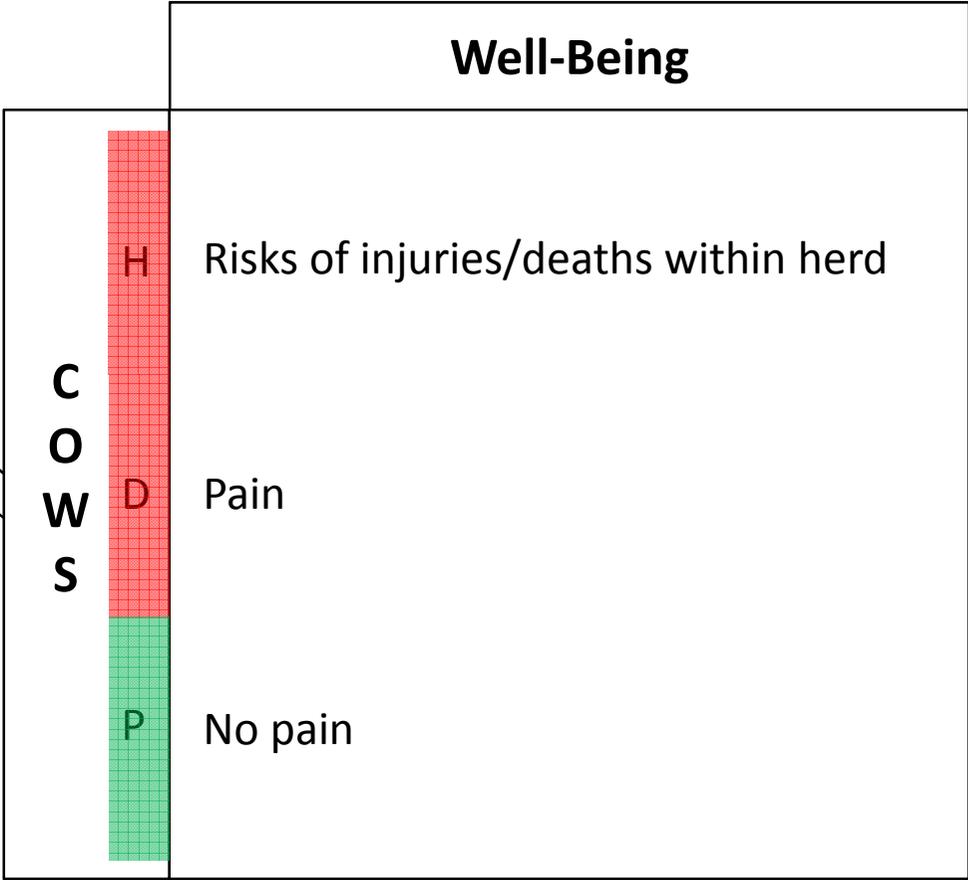
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		Well-Being	Autonomy	Justice
Cows	H D P	<i>Welfare</i>	<i>Freedom of behaviour</i>	<i>Equity of conditions of life</i>
Farmers	H D P	<i>Income, Working conditions, Risks</i>	<i>Freedom of access</i>	<i>Commercial equity</i>
Society	H D P	<i>Security, Quality of life</i>	<i>Informed choice</i>	<i>Affordability</i>
Environment	H D P	<i>Conservation</i>	<i>Biodiversity</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>



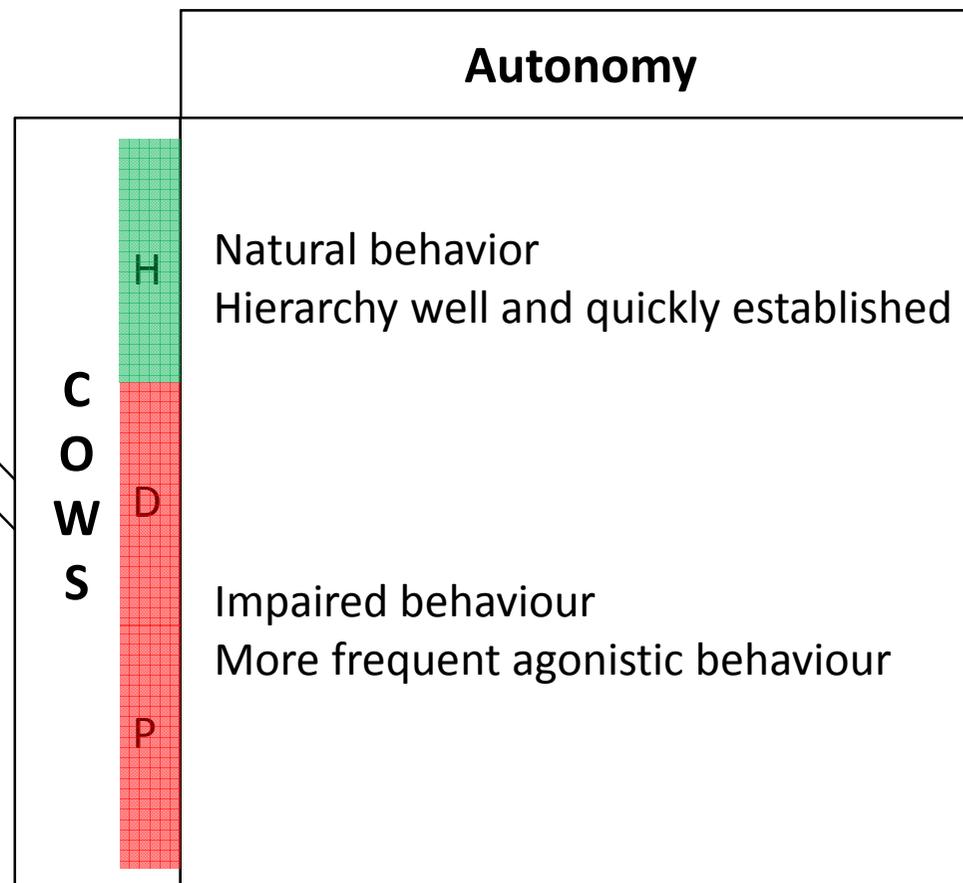
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		Well-Being	Autonomy	Justice
Cows	H	Welfare	Freedom of behaviour	Equity of conditions of life
	D			
	P			
Farmers	H	Income, Working conditions, Risks	Freedom of action	Commercial equity
	D			
	P			
Society	H	Security, Quality of life	Informed choice	Affordability
	D			
	P			
Environment	H	Conservation	Biodiversity	Sustainability
	D			
	P			



# Ben Mepham's Ethical Matrix

		Well-Being	Autonomy	Justice
Cows	H	Welfare	Freedom of behaviour	Equity of conditions of life
	D		Freedom of action	
	P			
Farmers	H	Income, Working conditions, Risks	Informed choice	Commercial equity
	D			
	P			
Society	H	Security, Quality of life	Biodiversity	Sustainability
	D			
	P			
Environment	H	Conservation	Biodiversity	Sustainability
	D			
	P			

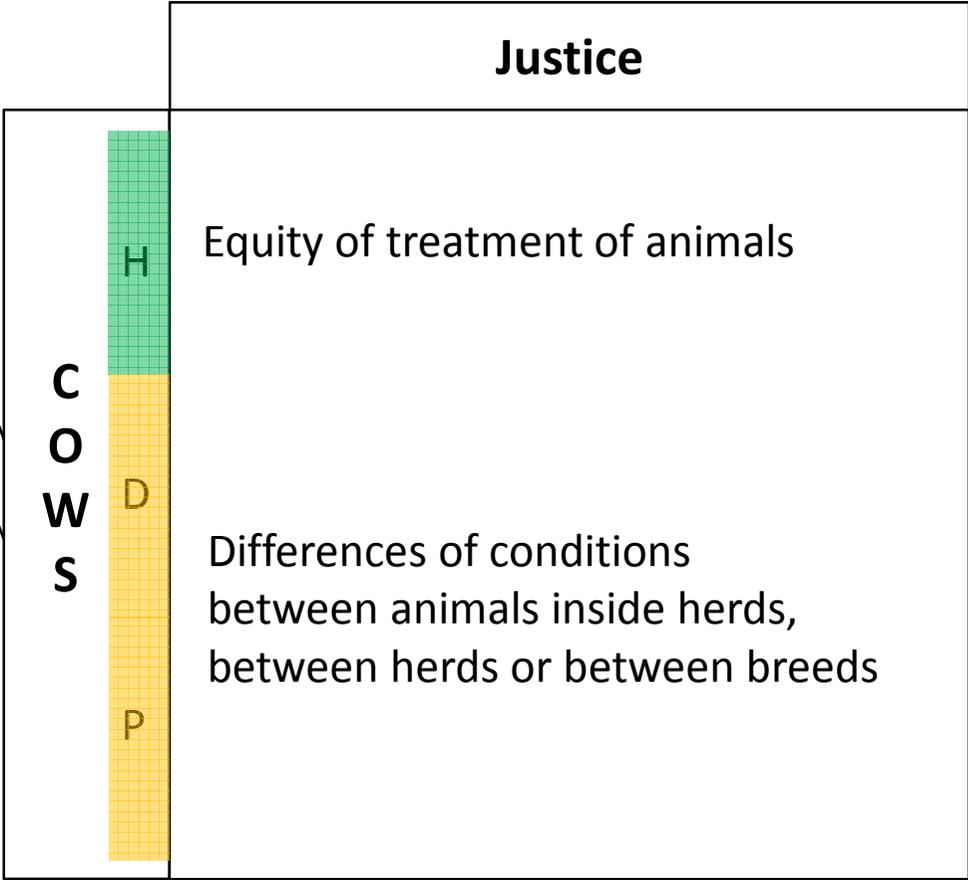


Martin Bienerth (cowherd, Switzerland):  
 « Horned cows win their fights quicker and results last longer. Often they have no need to fight to impose precedence. »



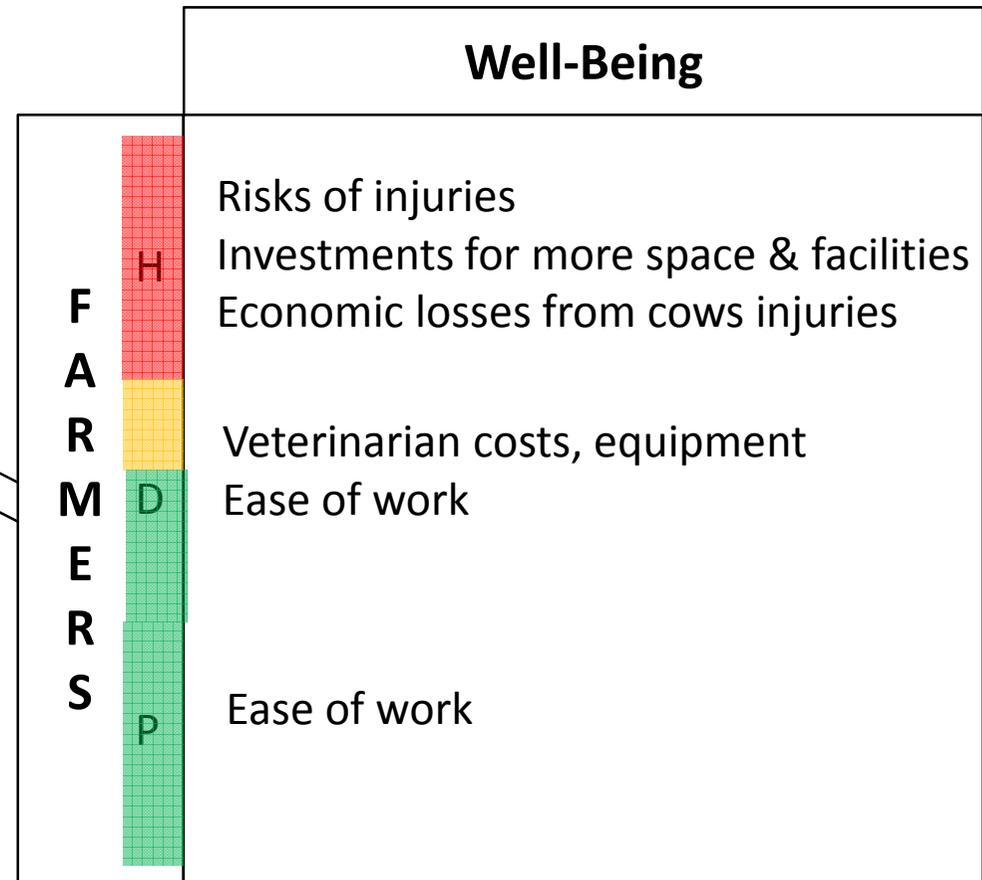
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Cows	H	Welfare	Freedom of behaviour	Equity of conditions of life
	D			Equity of conditions of life
	P			
Farmers	H	Income, Working conditions, Risks	Freedom of action	Commercial equity
	D			
	P			
Society	H	Security, Quality of life	Informed choice	Affordability
	D			
	P			
Environment	H	Conservation	Biodiversity	Sustainability
	D			
	P			



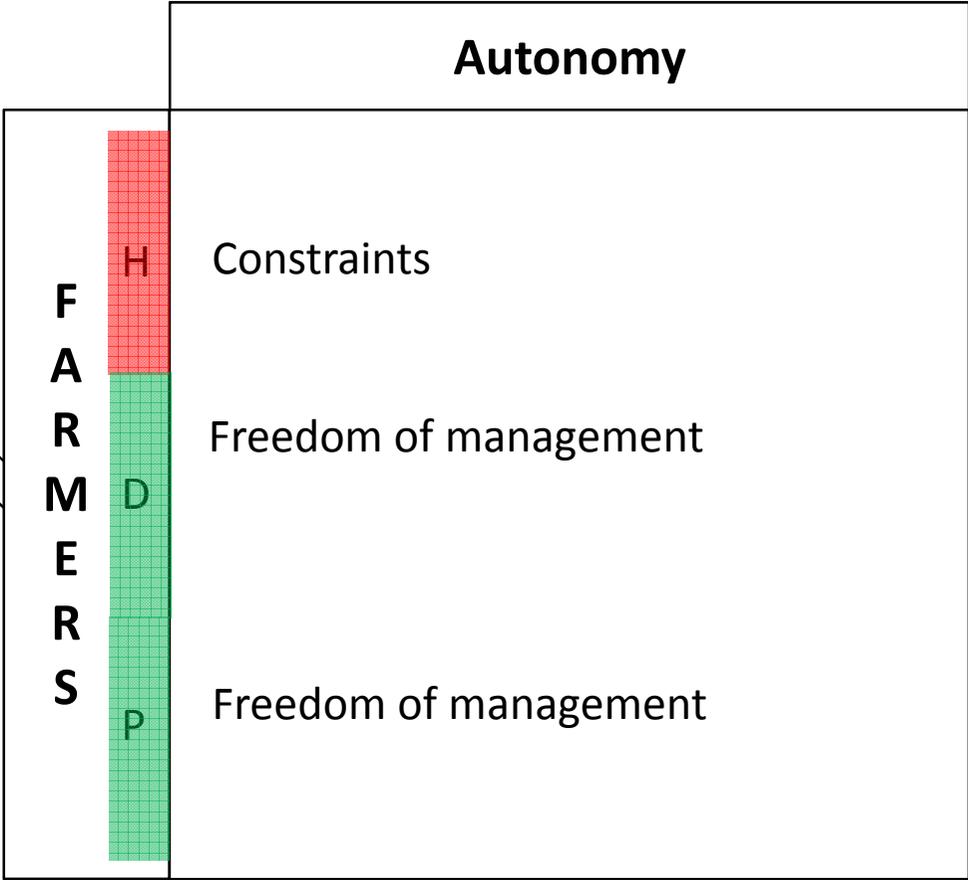
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Cows	H	Welfare	Freedom of behaviour	Equity of conditions of life
	D			Equity of conditions of life
	P			Equity of conditions of life
Farmers	H	Income,	Freedom of action	Commercial equity
	D	Working conditions, Risks		
	P	Working conditions, Risks		
Society	H	Security, Quality of life	Freedom of choice	Affordability
	D			
	P			
Environment	H	Conservation	Biodiversity	Sustainability
	D			
	P			



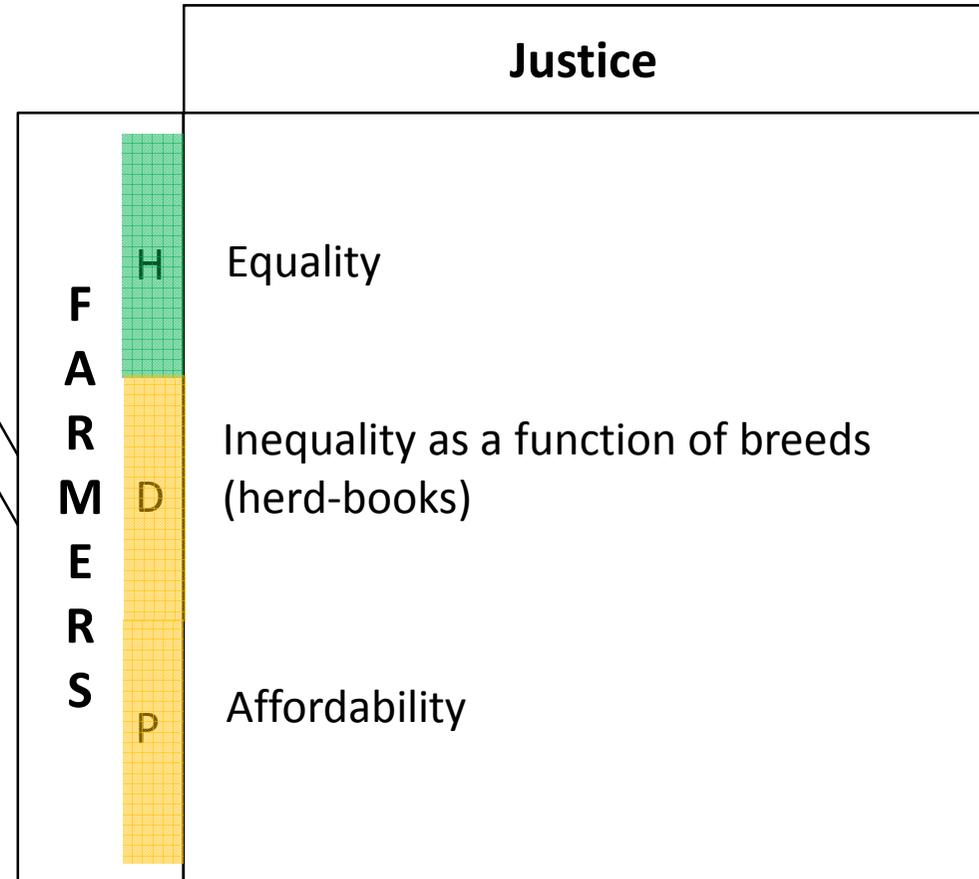
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	D			Equity of conditions of life	
	P			Equity of conditions of life	
Farmers	H	Income, Working conditions, Risks	Freedom of action	Commercial equity	
	D				Freedom of action
	P				Freedom of action
Society	H	Security, Quality of life	Informed choice	Responsibility	
	D				Informed choice
	P				Informed choice
Environment	H	Conservation	Biodiversity	Sustainability	
	D				Biodiversity
	P				Biodiversity



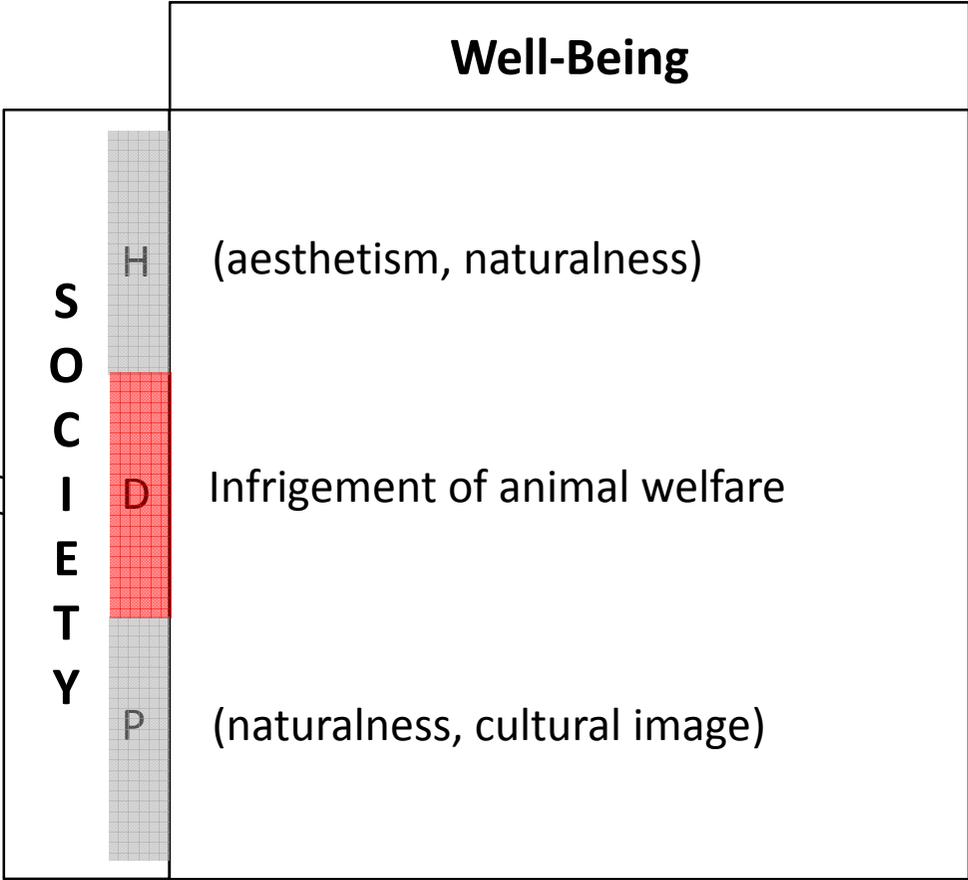
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	D			Commercial equity
	P			
Farmers	H	Income, Working conditions, Risks	Freedom of action	Commercial equity
	D			Affordability
	P			
Society	H	Security, Quality of life	Informed choice	Affordability
	D			Sustainability
	P			
Environment	H	Conservation	Biodiversity	Sustainability
	D			Sustainability
	P			



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	P			
Society	H	Security, Quality of life	Informed choice	Affordability
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	P			
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	D			
	P			
Environment	H	Conservation	Biodiversity	Sustainability
	D			
	P			

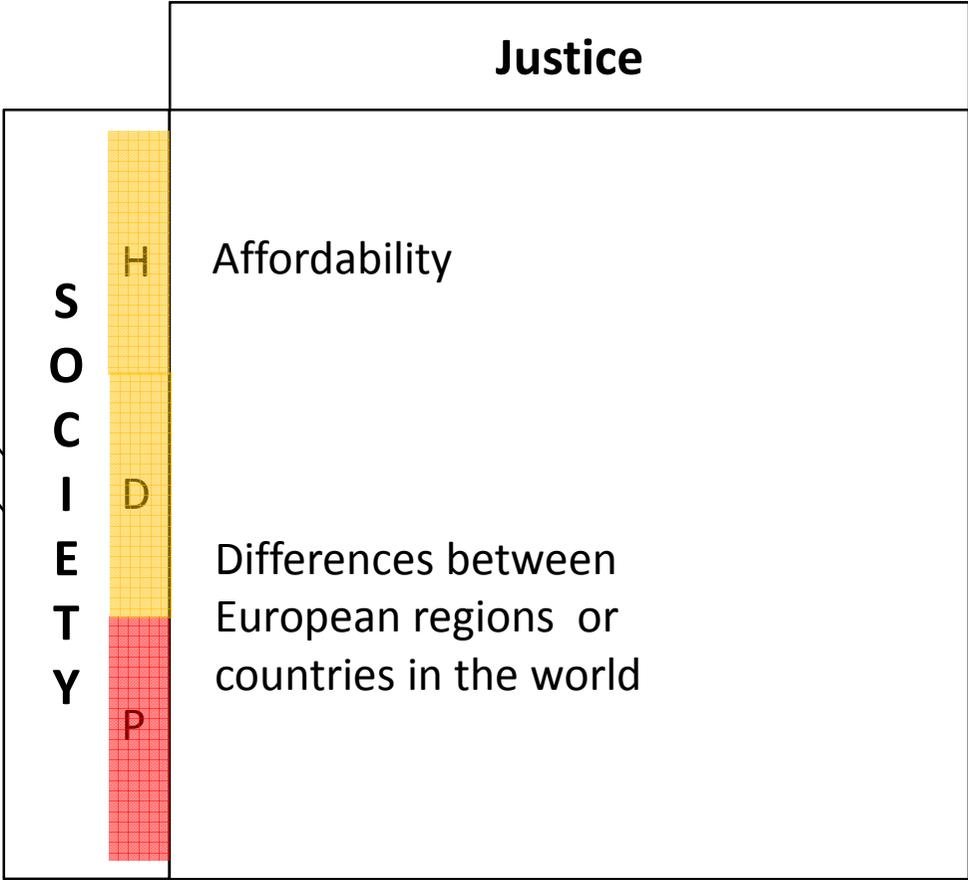


		Autonomy
S O C I E T Y	H	The animal is corresponding to the public's image
	D	The nature of the treatment of the animals is not informed
	P	The nature of the animal status is not reported



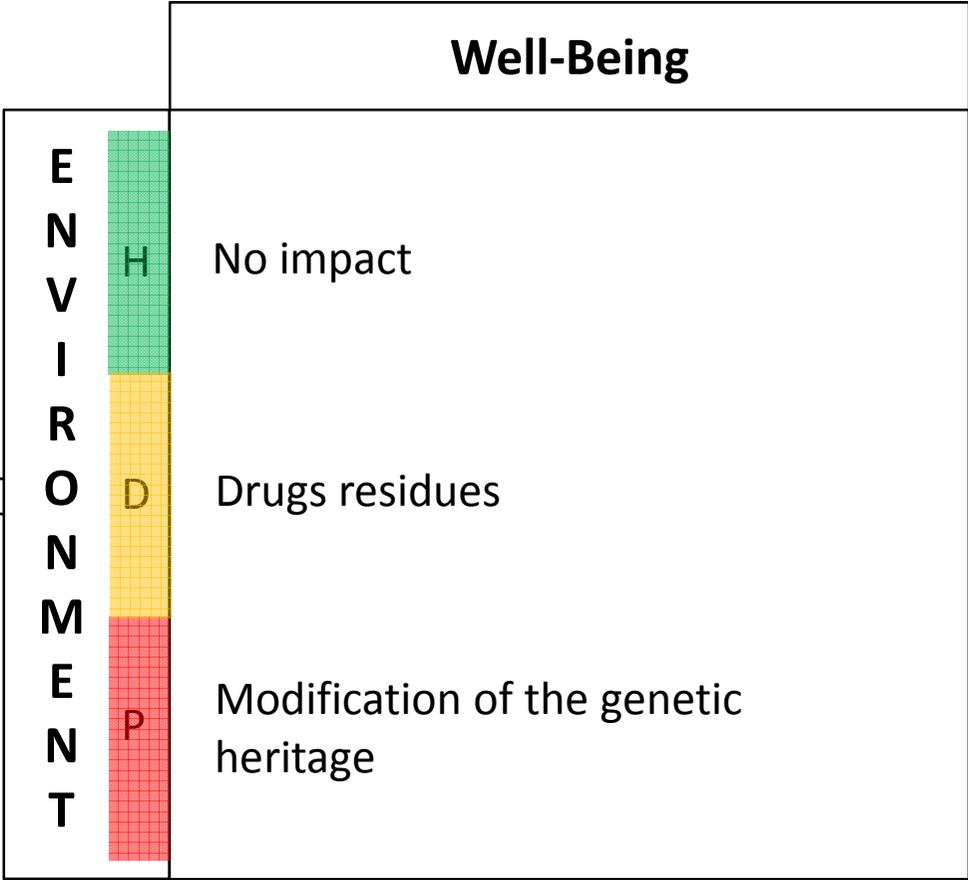
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	D			
	P			
Environment	H	Conservation	Biodiversity	Sustainability
	D			
	P			



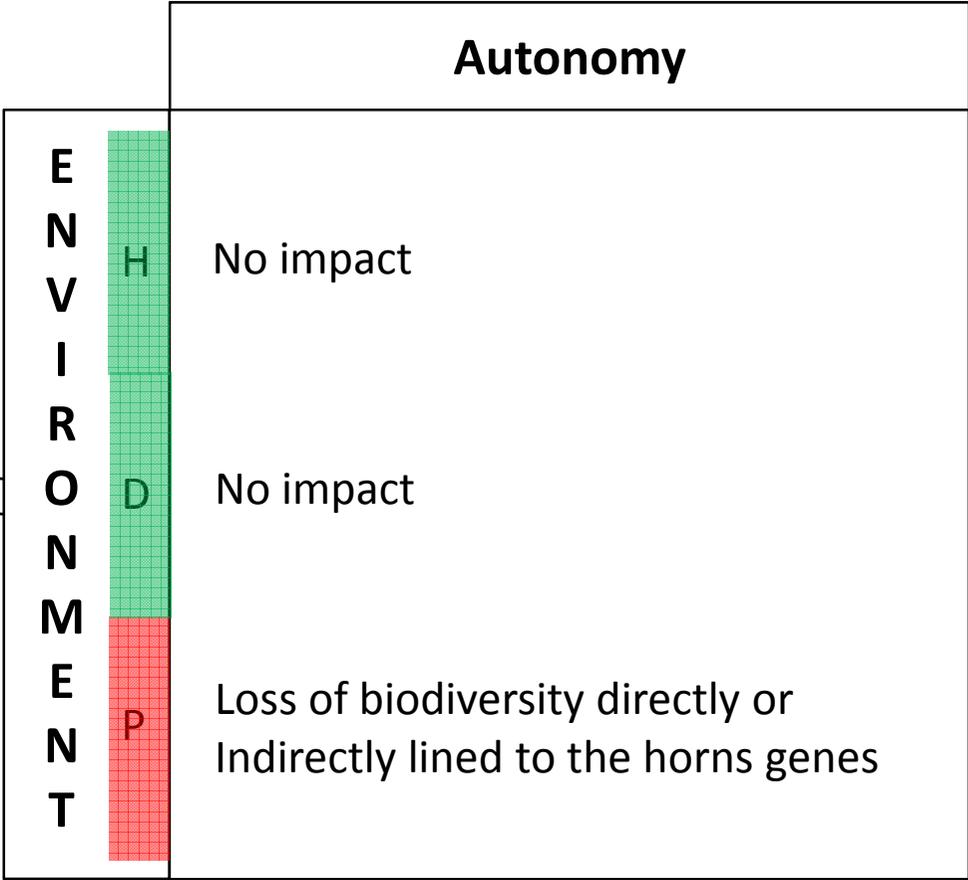
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	P			
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	D			
	P			
Environment	H	Conservation	Sustainability	
	D			
	P			



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	D			
	P			
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	D			
	P			

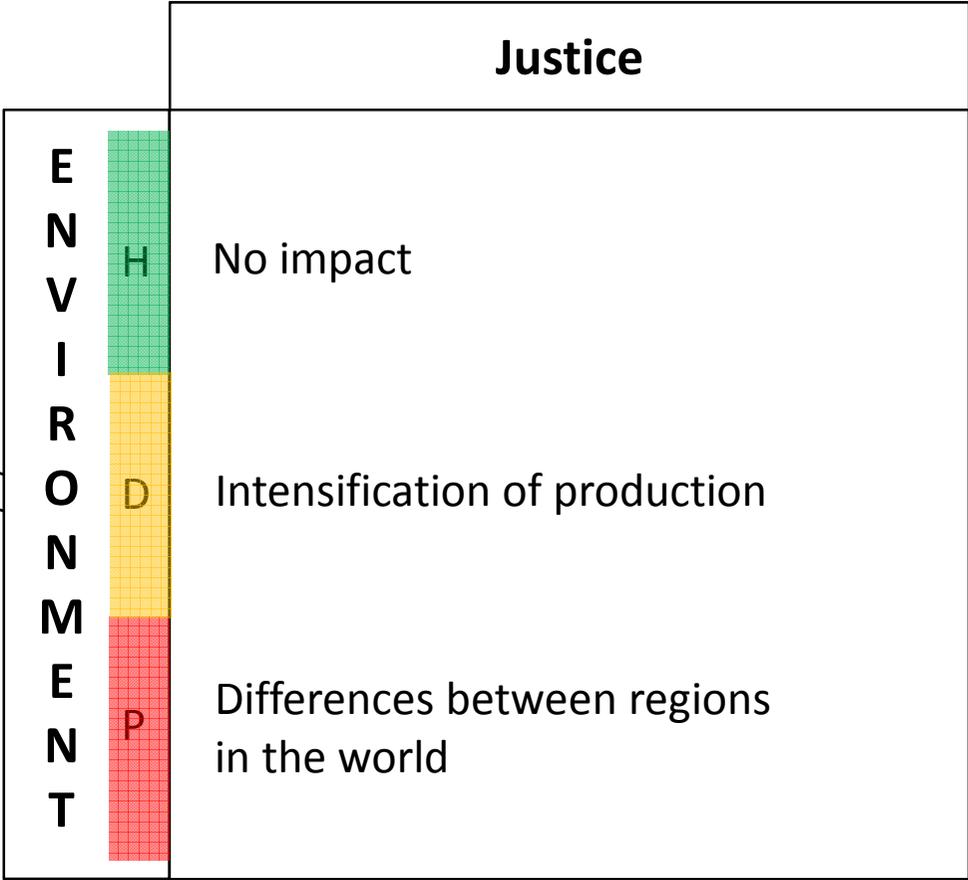


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	D			
	P			
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	D			
	P			



Photo by The Western Dairyman



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	P			
Society	H	Security, Quality of life	Informed choice	Affordability
	D			
	P			
Environment	H	Conservation	Biodiversity	Sustainability
	D			
	P			

<b>Horned</b>	Well-Being	Autonomy	Justice
Cow	Red	Green	Green
Farmer	Red	Red	Green
Society	Light Green	Green	Yellow
Environmt	Green	Green	Green
<b>Deprived</b>	Well-Being	Autonomy	Justice
Cow	Yellow	Red	Yellow
Farmer	Green	Green	Yellow
Society	Red	Yellow	Yellow
Environmt	Yellow	Green	Yellow
<b>Polled</b>	Well-Being	Autonomy	Justice
Cow	Green	Red	Yellow
Farmer	Green	Green	Yellow
Society	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Environmt	Red	Red	Red



# Discrepancies

- Not only an opposition between farmers and the Society
- Inside farmers, different opinion arise
  - A.C. Dockès, F. Kling-Eveillard (2006), Liv.Sci. 103, 243-249.
  - Farmers:  
for animal / with animal / in spite of animal / for technology  
**affect**    **communication**    **instrumentalisation**  
  
highland / lowland                      organic / conventional



# Introducing another approach

- The **reflexive equilibrium method** (after van Willigenburg and Heeger, 1989, van der Burg and van Willigenburg, 1998), enables to introduce other values such as aesthetics, naturalness, intrinsic value or integrity.
- The moral decision is obtained when there is **accordance** between an **initial moral intuition** and an **opinion based on principles**; new values are introduced and a new evaluation is performed until this equilibrium is reached.



# Aesthetics as a value

- Aesthetics is relative to sensory or emotional values, relative to art, culture or nature.

*“farmer: She was born like this, why I should suppress her horns? I feel her more aesthetic like this”*



# Naturalness as a value

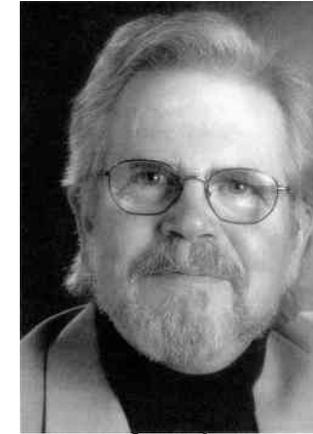
The value of naturalness refers to a basic respect for the intrinsic value of nature, i.e., the *value nature* has, independent of the benefits it may have for humans.

This manifests itself in three ways: (1) in the use of natural substances, (2) in respecting the self-regulation of living organisms and ecosystems, and (3) in *respecting the characteristic (species-specific) nature of living organisms.*

**H. Verhoog, E.T. Lammerts Van Bueren, M. Matze and T. Baars (2007),**  
NJAS wageningen journal of life sciences, 54, 333-345.



# Intrinsic value



- **T. Regan (1983):**
  - Animals have beliefs, desires, perceptions which make them **ends-in-themselves**.
  - They have **direct rights**, and human have direct duties towards their well being
- **P. Taylor** (*Respect for nature*, 1986):
  - Animals and living beings have **inherent worth** (their life)
  - for this they **matter morally**
- **Animal Health & Welfare Act (NL, 1992)**

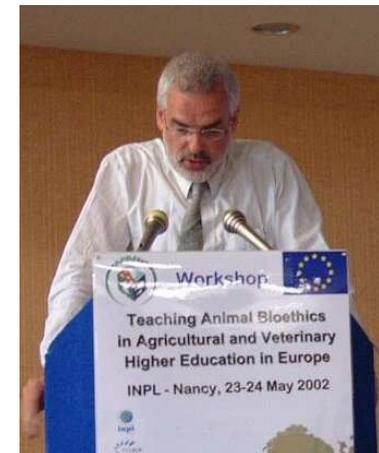
"Any right accorded by or pursuant to this Act shall be exercised in recognition of the **intrinsic value** of animal life"



# Integrity as a value

- Animal **integrity**: « the **wholeness** of the animal and the **species-specific balance** of the creature, as well as the animal's capacity to **maintain itself independently** in an environment suitable to the species »

B. Rutgers



## As a (provisional) conclusion:

- What is preferable?
- What is acceptable?
  - It seems that taking into account more values could allow reaching an equilibrium and a morally-based position on our problematic, but more probably at the level of a group of stakeholders, or even at the level of individuals.
  - A normative approach (either legal or regulatory) based on integrity would lead to a different position than that arising from the utilitarian-sensitient being approach.





Thank You for your attention

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Society	Red	Yellow	Yellow
Environmt	Yellow	Green	Yellow

Polled	Well-Being	Autonomy	Justice
Cow	Green	Red	Yellow
Farmer	Green	Green	Yellow
Society	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Environmt	Red	Red	Red

Aesthetics



Naturalness

Intrinsic value

Integrity

