Effective Animal Health and Welfare Planning

What is animal health and welfare planning?

Animal health and welfare planning is a way to work towards positive health including animal disease prevention and control: positive health is not just absence of disease or infirmity but is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. It is really a process of formalising and adding value to what farmers do instinctively as livestock keepers but it can help with keeping abreast of new problems and solutions, pre-empting potential health crises and the resulting huge costs both in medicines and lost stock.

Why do I need an AHP?

Many think the written AHP is just more paperwork, but it has a number of important roles. Firstly, it is important for documenting the health planning process, it is compulsory to have an AHP to gain organic certification in the UK and many livestock organisations also make it compulsory for Quality Assurance accreditation (e.g. FAWL). Secondly, a written record of health related issues is much more accurate than most people's memories and when viewed over time can identify both progress and potential problems.

How do I draw up an AHP?

Outside opinion can provide a new perspective and advice on issues so it is helpful bring in external expertise when developing an AHP. It is also useful if they have some knowledge of your system – therefore your vet may be the ideal person. There are a number of AHP templates that are available - your vet, certification or quality assurance body should be able to provide one.

The content of the AHP (that is, the process of improving health and welfare) should cover a number of key steps. These are:

- Establish a baseline (the current situation)
- Identify problem areas
- Devise a strategy for improvement
- Implement strategy and system for monitoring
- Review and evaluate

This process should be continuous so review and evaluation should be carried out at least annually and be based on information that has been collected through the year. By following the outlined process, continual improvement in animal health and welfare can be achieved.

Your local veterinary surgery should be the first point of call for advice on animal health and welfare planning, and organic certification and quality assurance bodies may also be useful sources of information. There are also a number of health planning resources available on the internet such as:

- The Animal Health and Welfare Compendium (www.organic-vet.reading.ac.uk) produced by the University of Reading is a resource material and training tool on issues related to general and specific animal health and welfare aspects of organic livestock production.

- NADIS (National Animal Disease Information Service) (www.nadis.org.uk) collects disease information from 54 veterinary practices and 6 veterinary colleges across the UK and provides up to date disease surveillance reports and disease forecasts on a region by region basis.

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Cynllunio Iechyd a Lles Anifeiliaid yn Effeithiol

Beth yw cynllunio iechyd a lles anifeiliaid?

Ffordd o weithio tuag at iechyd cadarnhaol, gan gynnwys atal a rheoli afiechydon, yw cynllunio iechyd a lles anifeiliaid. Nid absenoldeb afiechyd neu wendid yw iechyd cadarnhaol ond, yn hytrach, cyflwr o les corfforol, meddyliol a chymdeithasol llwyr. Mewn gwirionedd, mae'n broses o ffurfioli ac ychwanegu gwerth at yr hynny a wna ffermwyr yn reddfol wrth gadw anifeiliaid. Ond gall eu helpu hefyd i fod yn ymwybodol o broblemau ac atebion newydd, ac i achub y blaen ar argyfyngau iechyd posibl a'r costau enfawr a ddaw o ganlyniad iddynt o ran moddion a cholli stoc.

Pam fod angen Cynllun Iechyd Anifeiliaid arnaf?

Mae llawer yn credu bod cynllun ysgrifenedig yn golygu rhagor o waith papur a dim arall. Ond mewn gwirionedd mae iddo nifer o swyddogaethau pwysig. Yn gyntaf, mae'n bwysig ar gyfer dogfennu'r broses cynllunio iechyd. Rhaid cael Cynllun Iechyd Anifeiliaid er mwyn sicrhau ardystiad organig yn y DU, ac mae llawer o fusnesau da byw hefyd yn ei wneud yn ofynnol ar gyfer achrediad Sicrwydd Ansawdd (e.e. FAWL). Yn ail, mae cofnod ysgrifenedig o faterion sy'n ymwneud ag iechyd yn llawer cywirach na chof y rhan fwyaf o bobl ac, wrth edrych arno dros gyfnod o amser, gellir gweld cynnydd yn ogystal â phroblemau posibl.

Sut ydw i'n mynd ati i lunio Cynllun Iechyd Anifeiliaid?

Gall barn o'r tu allan roi persbectif newydd a chyngor ar faterion, felly mae'n fanteisiol holi am gymorth allanol arbenigol wrth ddatblygu Cynllun. Mae hefyd yn fuddiol siarad â rhywun sy'n gwybod rhywfaint am eich system - efallai mai eich milfeddyg fyddai'r person delfrydol. Mae nifer o dempledi ar gael i'ch helpu i ddatblygu cynllun - dylai eich milfeddyg, neu gorff ardystio neu sicrwydd ansawdd allu darparu un ar eich cyfer.

Dylai'r Cynllun (h.y. y broses o wella iechyd a lles) gwmpasu nifer o gamau allweddol, sef.

- Sefydlu man cychwyn (y sefyllfa bresennol)
- Nodi meysydd lle ceir problemau
- Llunio strategaeth i wella pethau
- Rhoi strategaeth a system fonitro ar waith
- Adolygu a gwerthuso

Dylai'r broses hon fod yn barhaus fel y gellir adolygu a gwerthuso o leiaf unwaith y flwyddyn, a hynny'n seiliedig ar yr wybodaeth a gasglwyd drwy gydol y flwyddyn. Drwy ddilyn y broses hon, gellir sicrhau gwelliant parhaus yn iechyd a lles yr anifeiliaid.

At eich milfeddygfa leol y dylech droi yn gyntaf i gael cyngor ynglŷn â chynllunio iechyd a lles anifeiliaid. Gall cyrff ardystio organig a sicrwydd ansawdd hefyd fod yn ffynonellau gwybodaeth defnyddiol. Ar ben hyn, mae nifer o adnoddau cynllunio iechyd i'w cael ar y rhyngrwyd:

- Mae'r Compendiwm Iechyd a Lles Anifeiliaid (www.organic-vet.reading.ac.uk), a gynhyrchwyd gan Brifysgol Reading, yn adnodd pwysig ar gyfer materion iechyd a lles anifeiliaid (penodol neu gyffredinol) sy'n gysylltiedig â chynhyrchu da byw organig.

- Mae NADIS (National Animal Disease Information Service) (www.nadis.org.uk) yn caslgu gwybodaeth am afiechydon oddi wrth 54 o filfeddygfeydd a chwe choleg milfeddygol ledled y DU, ac yn darparu adroddiadau arolygu afiechydon a daroganau afiechydon fesul ardal.

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Ni all Canolfan Organig Cymru a'i phartneriaid dderbyn cyfrifoldeb am ganlyniadau unrhyw weithredu a wneir ar sail ei ffeithlenni neu gyhoeddiadau eraill.