

LIVESTOCK WELFARE ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Animal Welfare Research Results

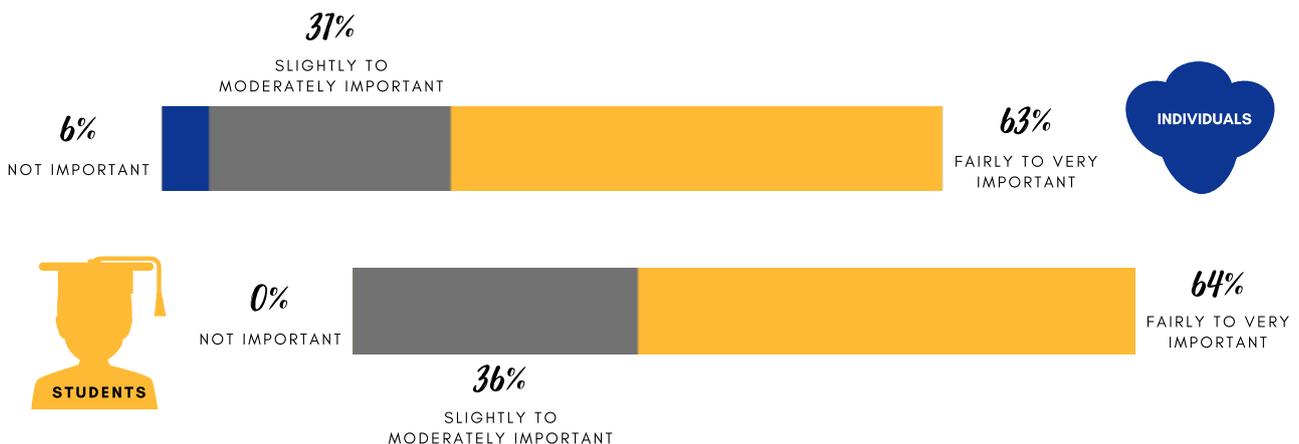
The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project (LWEP) brought together input from a broad cross-section of livestock industry participants in Alberta, to provide an understanding of the livestock welfare landscape in the province from the industry's perspective.

The project was conducted primarily throughout 2018. Data was collected through an online survey and a series of in-person focus groups across Alberta. The majority of respondents were individuals, such as producers and farm employees.



This is a summary of industry information and perspectives on animal welfare research collected for the LWEP. The knowledge gathered through this project provides a resource to inform Alberta's ongoing understanding, activity and progress in this critical area.

Most respondents reported that they believed that animal welfare research is important.



The most common areas of research selected by individuals and students included:

- Animal management practices
- Biosecurity
- Communication materials
- Producer mental health
- Slaughter
- Transportation

Less than half of the organizational respondents and less than a third of the abattoir and auction market respondents indicated that they participated in animal welfare research.

The most common areas of research in which organizational respondents reported to be participating in included:

- Animal management practices
- Antimicrobial use
- Biosecurity
- Research supporting standards and policies



Common organizational motivators towards participating in research included consumer demand, producer demand, and regulations and guidelines. Common barriers included lack of resources and funding.

Focus group participants stressed that as the industry evolves, there is growing need for a strong base of research. However, many noted that there is an overall lack of awareness about the research taking place.

Extension was raised as a significant gap in the industry. Participants often pointed out that research is beneficial but does not have an impact on its own. They stressed that resources are necessary to share research findings and encourage on-farm implementation.



Participants stressed that research should be more industry-driven. There was a demand for research focused on practical on-farm solutions. Benchmarking studies were seen as a priority, as they play an essential role in providing science-based data to back industry practices and track progress.

