

Animal Rights / Animal Welfare

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Animal Rights vs. Animal Welfare

- Animal rights and animal welfare are often confused but are not the same thing!
- Animal rights call for extending human rights to animals.
- Animal welfare calls for animals to be treated humanely, not treated like humans!

Animal Rights

- It is not illegal anywhere in the U.S. to produce or to consume animal products
- In fact, 97.5% of US consumers eat meat protein, with a growing demand throughout global export markets
- At the end of the day, animal rights (as opposed to animal welfare) is not a business issue nor is it a legal issue, **it is a personal issue!**
- And it is not supported by at least 97.5% of U.S. consumers.

If the community determines that animal rights (or other personal issues) are a “litmus test” for “acceptable economic development”, then it should do so;

Anticipate that message will be heard by any business that might consider locating or developing in the region!

Animal Welfare

- Treat animals ethically
- Bion completely agrees and holds animal welfare as a fundamental principle of both project development and ongoing operations for many reasons:
 - 1) It is clearly the right thing to do...
 - 2) It is a marketing / branding imperative
 - 3) It results in improved operational efficiencies.

Shelter provides animal comfort that directly supports increased productivity!

Animal Welfare

Productivity Reflects Animal Health and Comfort

- Exposure to adverse weather conditions in both winter and summer stresses animal comfort and health, significantly deteriorating growth rates.



Animal Welfare

Predators Impact Mortality Rates: McGowen Ranch, Drummond



Shelter and Animal Comfort

Improved Cattle Performance with Housing

- Mortality: experience shows less than half the industry average
- Performance improves by 5% - 10% above industry standards
 - Average daily gain
 - Feed conversion efficiency
- Implications:
 - Fewer days on feed
 - Lower inputs- less ration per pound of gain
 - Lower outputs- reduced environmental footprint per head

Improved animal conditions directly increase farm operating efficiencies!

PEW Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production

Putting Meat on the Table: April 29, 2008 Findings

- 2 ½ year assessment of industrial livestock production impacts on:
 - Public health
 - The environment
 - Farm communities
 - Animal health and well-being
- Documents numerous problem:
 - Overuse of antibiotics
 - Air quality problems from emissions of ammonia, VOC's, methane, etc.
 - Contamination of groundwater as well as rivers, streams and coastal waters
 - Animal welfare problems
 - Impacts on the social structure and economy of farming regions

The PEW Solution: fix the problems, don't ban large scale animal production!

PEW Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production Key Operational Recommendations

- Commission recommendations are intended to ensure that the system is able to provide safe, affordable meat, dairy and poultry products in a sustainable way:
 - Phase out the non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials
 - Improve disease monitoring and tracking
 - Develop and implement a new system to deal with farm waste (that will replace the inflexible and broken system that exists today)...
 - Implement better animal husbandry practices to improve public health and animal well-being;
 - Phase out the most intensive and inhumane production practices...

Bion's project will directly address all of these key recommendations of the PEW Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production.