

Master education in assessing farm animal welfare – a recent Danish initiative

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Background and aim

Increasing concern for the welfare of farm animals induces a growing need for documentation and understanding of animal welfare and its measures. Furthermore, it calls for relevant education.

Therefore, Aarhus University, Department of Animal Science, now offers a professional upgrade focusing on farm animal welfare.

The master program aims to offer an education to persons, who in their daily life, directly or indirectly, work with animal welfare.

Facts about the education:

- The education is intended for Scandinavian students and its obligatory to have a Bachelor or a master degree and at least two years of relevant professional work experience.
- The lectures are mainly in Danish and most literature in English.
- The master education is a part-time study organised in four 15 ECTS modules – and will thus last two years if all four modules are followed immediately after each other.



The first group of students will finish the Master in June 2015 and a second group has started the education in August 2014.

The participants are educated as veterinarians, in biology or animal science. They are employed by the authorities, NGO's or work as advisors for private agricultural organisations.

Participants can after graduation:

- Describe the biological basis of legislation on a national and international level.
- Describe relevant definitions of animal welfare and indicators of measuring animal welfare.
- Discuss and apply methods for the measuring and assessment of animal welfare in relation to different stakeholders and purposes of animal welfare assessment (decision support, certification and classification).
- Discuss the role and interaction between inspector / adviser and primary producer in relation to the solution of problems of welfare.



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