Animal welfare for farm animals in China

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As a country with a large population, research on animal welfare has not received sufficient attention in studies of farm animals in China. This phenomenon is because the issue of farm animal welfare has always been a controversial topic in China. Targeted studies need to investigate the factors considered in livestock production systems and the interactions between these factors. These studies have important implications for future animal welfare evaluations and can provide potential approaches for the sustainable development of animal farming.

This project will be based on a desk-top retrospective study. By searching for recent 6 years of research relevant to farm animals in China. By exploring Google Scholar and other web pages for keywords including animal welfare, animal production, performance and environment, and climate effects on farm animals. At present, 108 articles have been searched, most of which discuss the link between animal welfare and animal production quality (n=68), and there are few discussions on stress physiology (n=9). There and the published articles are mainly biased towards pig farming and the poultry industry (n=84). Qualifying articles were screened for retrospective analysis.

The results of the analysis were presented through an Excel spreadsheet. This retrospective study sought to determine whether improving animal welfare could be achieved while controlling farm budgets and improving the quality of meat, egg, and milk products from farm animals. The negative impact on local ecosystem output is minimized. As the most common farm animals in China are broiler chickens and pigs, two animals that are more harmful to the environment, and the farming conditions in China are poor. It is therefore essential to find ways to increase production while ensuring animal welfare and not damaging the environment. Objective welfare assessment tools such as non-invasive hormone measurements will be valuable for research applications.