

 **Project 3.1.3 Animal Issues****Purpose**

When using animals in agriculture, issues sometimes arise. Key issues in animal agriculture include animal research, antibiotics and growth hormones, genetic modifications, confinement operations, manure and odor, meat consumption, and slaughter practices. All of these issues have positive effects or producers would not use them. What are negative views on key issues?

Often when an issue involves emotions, misconceptions are common. A misconception is an opinion or a view on an issue that is incorrect due to a misunderstanding. For instance, many consumers believe brown eggs are more nutritious than white eggs. A producer changes the nutritive value of an egg by feeding the hen differently. The breed of chicken does not affect the nutrition of the egg. Due to misconceptions in agriculture, producers need to provide correct information to the public in order for people to make educated decisions on animal issues. What could you do to help decrease misconceptions in animal agriculture?

Materials**Per pair of students:**

- Computer with Internet access and printing capabilities
- Piece of tape

Per student:

- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

Procedure

You will work with a partner to develop an informative flyer about a key issue in animal agriculture. Once all flyers are completed, your teacher will lead you in a gallery walk and you will use the information in the flyers to complete *Project 3.1.3 Student Worksheet*.

1. Your teacher will assign you and your partner a key issue in animal agriculture.
2. Use the Internet and research your assigned issue. Answer the following questions with your research.
 - What are two positive and negative effects of your issue on animal agriculture?
 - What common misconceptions are there about the use of this practice?
 - Have you found any reports of abuse or cruelty related to this issue?
 - What might happen if this practice is stopped?
3. Using the computer, develop a one page flyer containing the information you and your partner found in your research. Include graphics to grab attention of others. Use *Project 3.1.3 Evaluation Rubric* as a reference.
4. Print your flyer and using the piece of tape, display the flyer in an area designated by your teacher.
5. Use the flyers to complete Table 1 of *Project 3.1.3 Student Worksheet*.

Conclusion

1. Do the benefits of the issue you researched outweigh the concerns? Explain.
6. How might misconceptions affect practices in the animal industry?



Project 3.1.3 Student Worksheet

Table 1. Animal Issues

Animal Issue	Positive Effect	Negative Effect	Misconception
Animal Research	Contributes to the search for many cures for many deadly sicknesses.	Success in testing on an animal has the probability of still being harmful to humans.	Many think that the animals are purposefully being mistreated in testing.
Antibiotics and Growth Hormones	Meat and other products can be produced much faster.	Hormones are transvered through the product and into the consumer causing early purberty.	hormones are unsafe to consume.
Genetic Modifications	They produce greater amounts of beef/ milk for less resources.	Its not natural therefore it shouldn't be done.	GMOs causes cancer
Confinement Operations	Large number of animals grown on less land.	Disease can easily spread.	CAFOs have rivers of waste.
Manure and Odor	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meat Consumption and Animal By-Products	Red meat has a lot of vitamins and minerals and it contains a lot of protein.	Red meat can clog arteries and it can lead to health	N/A
Slaughter Practices	Kills animals for food and by products.	It causes people to protest against slaughter such as vegan people.	You don't need meat to survive.
Fish Farming and Fishing	Catch for food Good source living	You have to have a permit. Risks of eating spoiled fish	N/A
Hunting and Trapping			
Spaying and Neutering	N/A	N/A	N/A