



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.

2. How might misconceptions affect practices in the animal industry?



Table 1. Animal Issues

Animal Issue	Positive Effect	Negative Effect	Misconception
Animal Research	Research is used to develop new medical treatments. It is appropriate to research animals because they are similar to humans in many ways	The research of some animals leave cruel living conditions of the animals. Many people question if animals research is morally correct	Many people believe that animal research is less and is not a good use of resource.
Antibiotics and Growth Hormones	Increases milk production It helps prevent diseases	It has human risks I can disrupt human hormone balances.	Antibiotics are fed to animals to promote growth. All animals are given growth hormones. Antibiotics and growth hormones poison the animals. Organic means you will get no hormones or antibiotics.

Genetic Modifications	Gives food a better taste faster crop output	The potential head the risks including allergies antibiotic resistance, and unknown effects.	GMO's offer contain and produce things that can harm humans. Gmo's are new and haven't been used recently.
Confinement Operations	increased role in the market Kept in buildings always from predators	Generates millions of tons of manure can be a substantial rush to the environment any public health.	must be labeled with a sign can cast an employee his or her life. Does not require signs. No signs no way to worn employees.
Manure and Odor	manure is used for fertilizer Increased soil carson	Smell animal foot injury slick when walking	Manure pits always smell bad
Meat Consumption and Animal By-Products	meat production feeds millions of people all over the world and meat is a renewable source of food that will never run out as long as we take good care of meat production.	animals aren't always kept in good conditions some suffer, also produce massive amounts of wast.	animals aren't treated right animals alive when slaughtered people kill animals for fun
Slaughter Practices	Meat production	they treat the animals poorly. Some animals are hung upside down.	Federal law ensures that slaughterhouses in the U.S. are heavily regulated and strictly monitored.
Fish Farming and Fishing	More job opportunities people will eat healthier meets the growing demand for food Helps replenish marine life	effects the ecosystem Over populate other species.	Anglers keep every fish they catch Anglers litter the water Anglers are anti-social Anglers are depleting the fish population.
Hunting and Trapping	Helps control animal population. Provides food provides recreation can help business turns and profit	inhumane suffering danger associated with hunting trophy hunting affects the biosphere	Cruel to animals harm wildlife populations Selfish

<p>Spaying and Neutering</p>	<p>focus their attention on hormones Neutered dogs to protect their homes</p>	<p>They still roam in search of mate;increase risk in Injury. They urinate and it smells bad</p>	<p>It's better to have one litter than spay/ neuter female. The animal will not be protective is untrue The animal will get fat and lazy is untrue.</p>
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