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Mythbusting: Livestock Welfare

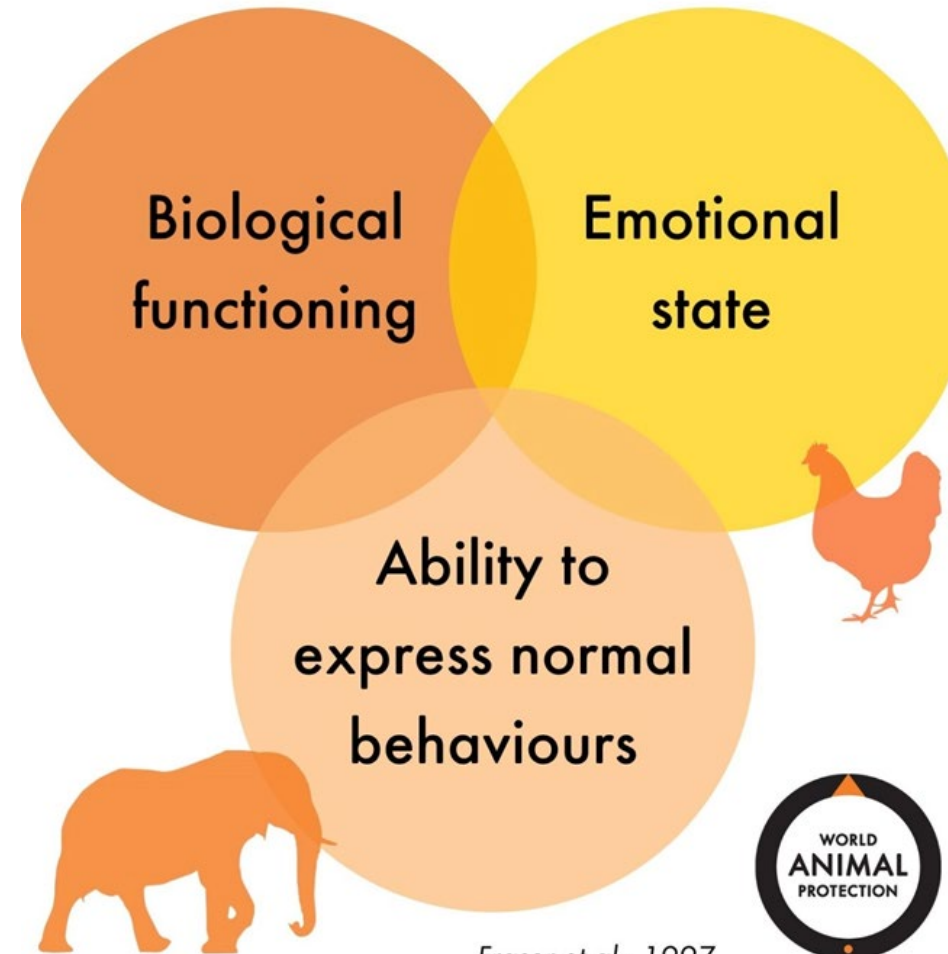
Cynthia Naydani, Teaching Fellow

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What is animal welfare?

- How well an animal is coping with his or her environment
- Falls along a spectrum from very bad to very good

The concept of animal welfare includes...



Fraser et al., 1997



Five Domains



(Mellor et al., 2020)



Livestock welfare myths

- Myth #1: All livestock have poor welfare, and cannot live good lives as production animals
- Myth #2: As long as livestock have their basic needs of food, water, and shelter met, and are not physically ill or injured, their lives are good enough



In reality

- Livestock can live good lives, according to the Five Domains model
- Data and technology can help farmers monitor livestock and make informed management decisions
- High-welfare animal products do exist!

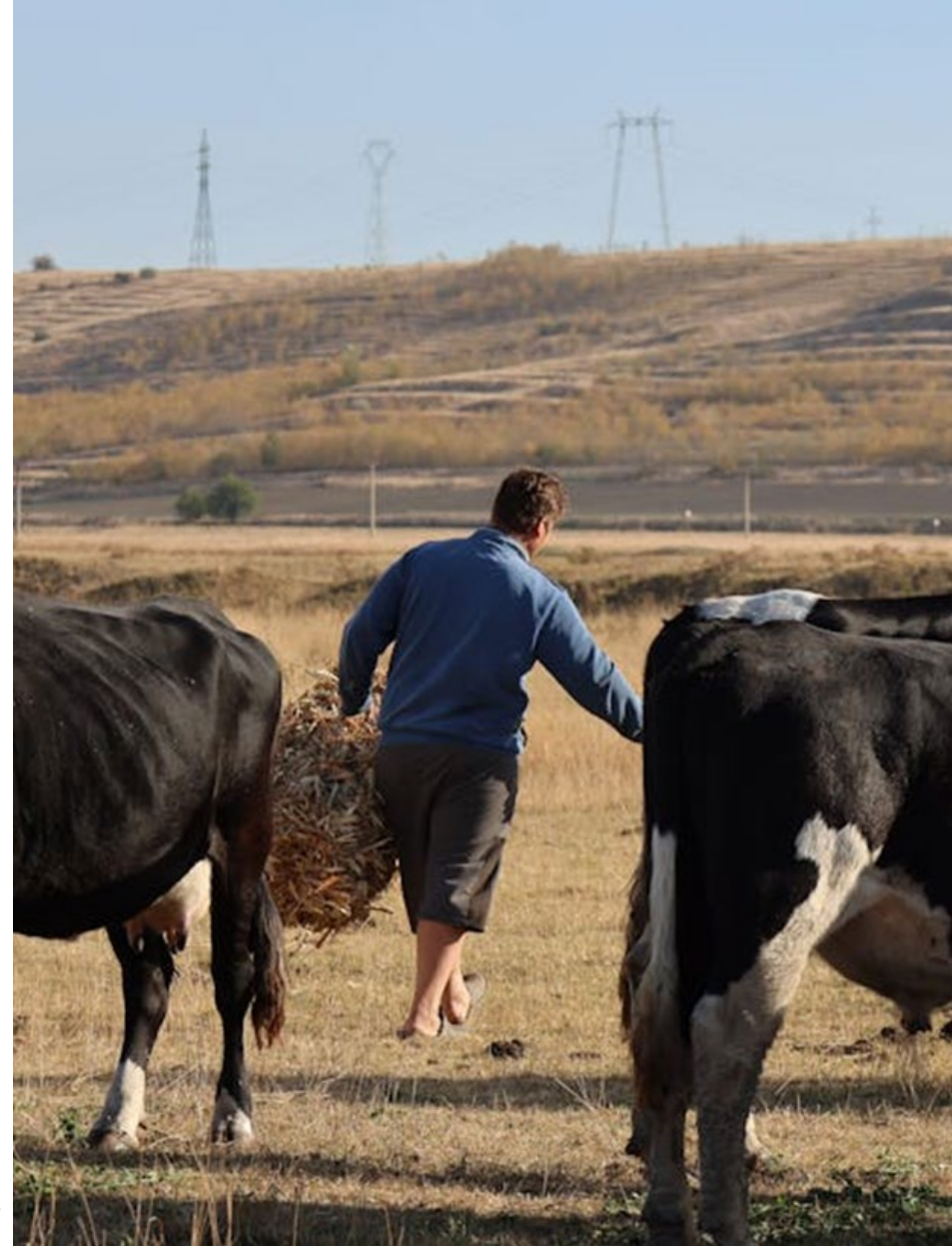


Photo by [Alexandra Muscă](#)
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What can you do?

- Knowledge is power
- Assurance schemes can be useful
- Get to know your farmer



Photo by Lucas from Pixabay



Learn more

- Learn more about data for livestock welfare: <https://edin.ac/farm-data>
- Further resources on farm animal welfare: <https://vet.ed.ac.uk/education/centres/animal-welfare-centre/cpd/farm-animal-welfare>



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Thank you

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