

SURVEY ON THE USE OF ECONOMICS IN ANIMAL HEALTH EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND POLICY MAKING

World-wide, problems in animal health are of increasing concern to society in general and for agricultural production and human health policies in particular. Animal diseases reduce production, food security and safety, and impact on animals' welfare. Many human diseases originate in animals. Increasing world population, climate change, global trade and international mobility of people and animals present new challenges for scientists and practitioners in achieving improved disease control. But to get the benefits from disease control, resources must be invested and costs incurred. Thus animal disease is of economic concern.

Few people in the world specialise in the economics of animal disease. Currently, there is insufficient capacity to analyze the many economic dimensions of problems in animal health satisfactorily. We urgently need to increase capacity so that economists can assist in decision-making for animal health policy, e.g. by identifying and defining priorities, estimating benefits and costs of disease control, identifying budget requirements, and by estimating who gains, by how much, and where limited resources should be allocated to achieve the best outcomes.

This is the background to the NEAT project (www.neat-network.eu). Our aim is to raise the profile of animal health economics by international co-operation, leading to enhanced provision for professional training in the skills essential for problem analysis. But before we can design curricula appropriate to current and future needs, we need to know about the animal health problems identified by persons and organisations most affected. These can range from farmers to pet owners, industries processing and trading animal products, government agencies responsible for both animal and human health, those dependent on recreational animals (e.g. equestrian sports), and so on.

We have identified your organisation as belonging to one of these key groups, and we shall be grateful for your assistance by answering an on-line questionnaire¹. The questions are designed to elicit your opinions on

- problems in animal health which you consider of direct importance to you or your organisation
- other problems relating to animal health, not of direct importance to you or your organisation, but which you consider merit attention.

We kindly ask you to **complete the questionnaire by the 14th of June** or to identify an appropriate person within your organisation to do so. The person should have an overview of the organisation's activities and be involved in processes that require some economics skills. The questionnaire should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The results of our survey will be used to enhance the use of economics in animal health education, research and policy making. Please access the questionnaire by clicking [here](#).

Thank you for your response,

Jarkko Niemi
MTT Agrifood Research Finland, Finland

Agnés Waret
Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse, France

Jörn Gethmann
Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Germany

Maurizio Aragrande
Università di Bologna, Italy

¹ This study has received an ethical approval (reference: URN 2013 0080H).