



Welfare assessment measures for meat sheep

We made a description of animal-based measures and their definition as used in the *meat sheep studies* by TechCare. These are NOT intended to be a comprehensive protocol for assessing overall welfare. The most important welfare indicators for meat sheep identified by TechCare stakeholders were: **Nutritional**



issues, Lameness, Gastrointestinal parasites, Poor maternal relationships, Ectoparasites, Water availability and quality*, Food competition, Housing and environmental conditions, Stocking density*, Respiratory disease and Mortality rate*. Several other welfare issues were also identified, and issues marked with an asterix can only be measured by resource-based or management measures and are thus not animal-based indicators. The TechCare welfare assessment protocol defines and describes each welfare issue, and suggests indicators to be used for monitoring and scoring

these welfare issues – both for extensive (unhandled/field) and housed (handled) management practices. As far as possible, these are validated indicators drawn from prior studies (particularly the AWIN project). Some welfare indicators are scored as yes/no or present/absent and others are described with a scale for scoring. In many cases the different scores are accompanied with example pictures. The TechCare welfare assessment protocol for **Meat Sheep** is freely available for anyone to download and use at this website: <https://techcare-project.eu/outputs/welfare/>.



TEHCARE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under grant agreement N°862050.