



## Welfare assessment measures for dairy sheep

We made a description of animal-based measures and their definition as used in the *dairy sheep studies* by TechCare. These are NOT intended to be a comprehensive protocol for assessing overall welfare. The



most important welfare indicators for dairy sheep identified by TechCare stakeholders were: **Mastitis, Lameness, Gastrointestinal parasites, Nutritional issues, Indicators demonstrating the quality of the housing and environment, including bedding\*, Diarrhoea, and Abortion.** 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 **Dairy Sheep** is freely available for anyone to download and use at this website: <https://techcare-project.eu/outputs/welfare/>.



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