

Trajnostni razvoj, ki vključuje okoljske in podnebne razmere ter poudarek na dobrobiti živali, pridobiva čedalje večji pomen pri razvoju kmetijstva-živinoreje v Evropi. Obenem dajejo potrošniki pri odločitvi o nakupu živalskih proizvodov vse večjo pozornost temu, v kakšnih pogojih reje so bile živali vzrejene. Različni pogoji reje v konvencionalnih ali alternativnih sistemih, še posebno pri skupinsko uhlevljenih živalih, različno vplivajo na pojav anomalij v obnašanju, kot je kanibalizem pri kokoših nesnicah in prašičih, kakor tudi na pojav dermatitisa pri pitovnih piščancih in na splošno počutje živali. Na področju slovenske zakonodaje ni predpisanih pravil oziroma smernic za zagotavljanje dobrobiti živali v različnih sistemih rej perutnine in prašičev. Zato bomo v tem projektu testirali protokole ter kazalce, s katerimi bomo na neinvaziven način ocenili dobrobiti perutnine in prašičev in določili kritične meje dobrobiti, vključno z zdravstvenim varstvom, s poudarkom na ocenah posamezne živali. S tem bomo podali prvo znanstveno oceno dobrobiti perutnine in prašičev v konvencionalnih in alternativnih sistemih rej v Sloveniji in dobili prvi natančnejši vpogled v stanje dobrobiti v rejah. Posamezni sistemi reje bodo tudi prvič opisani z vidika dobrobiti živali, kar bo služilo k večji prepoznavnosti načinov reje in proizvodov. Nadalje bomo v okviru projekta preizkusili inovativne pristope za zmanjšanje kanibalizma, kot je uporaba odvračal pri kokoših nesnicah in testiranje različnih načinov oblikovanja skupin prašičev po odstavitvi. Istočasno bomo spremljali indikatorje stresa, kot so kazalniki oksidativnega stresa v krvi in slini prašičev ter vsebnost kortikosterona in imunoglobulinov perju ali jajcih kokoši nesnic oziroma pitovnih piščancih. Pri kokoših nesnicah pa v praksi, poleg kanibalizma, velik problem z vidika dobrobiti predstavljajo tudi poškodbe grodnice, zato bo eden od ključnih ciljev projekta tudi spremljanje le-teh v različnih sistemih rej in priprava priporočila o možnostih preventive. Ključni cilj projekta je interdisciplinarno pristopiti k reševanju problematike dobrobiti vključno z zdravstvenim varstvom perutnine in prašičev. V projektu bodo sodelovale tri znanstvene organizacije z dveh univerz v Sloveniji in se povezale z gospodarstvom. Skupaj želimo predstaviti tehnološke inovacije, ki bodo omogočile živalim prijaznejše pogoje reje ter zagotavljale varnejšo hrano za potrošnika.

Sustainable development, which includes environmental and climatic conditions, and an emphasis on animal welfare, has been gaining an increased importance in the development of agriculture livestock production in Europe. At the same time the consumers, when deciding to purchase animal products, pay more and more attention to the housing conditions farm animals were exposed to. Different rearing conditions in conventional or alternative systems, especially in group housed animals, affect differently the development of behavior abnormalities such as cannibalism in laying hens and pigs, as well as the onset of dermatitis in broilers and general welfare. There is no legislation (laws or directives) available in Slovenia to ensure the welfare of animals in various housing systems of poultry and pigs. Therefore, in this project we will test the protocols and indicators as a non-invasive way to assess the welfare of poultry and pigs, and establish critical limits of animal welfare, including health care, with emphasis on an individual animal. With this we will make the first scientific assessment of the welfare of poultry and pigs in conventional and alternative housing systems in Slovenia and get the first detailed insight into the state of welfare on the commercial farms. Also, individual housing systems will be described the first time in terms of animal welfare, which will enable housing systems and the corresponding animal products to be better recognized. Furthermore, the project will test innovative approaches to reduce cannibalism as the use of repellents in laying hens and by testing different ways of creating groups of pigs after weaning. At the same time, we will monitor indicators of stress, such as biomarkers of oxidative stress in the blood and saliva of pigs and the concentration of corticosterone and immunoglobulins feathers and eggs in laying hens or broilers. As for laying hens in practice, in addition to cannibalism, keel bone damage represents a big welfare problem, so one of the project key objectives will include the monitoring thereof in the various housing systems. We will also prepare recommendations on the possibilities of their prevention. The last, but not the least key objective of the project is an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the problem of welfare including health care of poultry and pigs. The project will consist of the three scientific organizations from two different universities in Slovenia that will closely work with the industry. Together we want to introduce technological innovations that will allow the animal-friendly rearing conditions and provide safer food for consumers.