



# Food Animal Initiative

ENVIRONMENTS FIT FOR ANIMALS FIT FOR THEIR ENVIRONMENT

## FAI 1 - Research and Development at FAI Updated August 2005

The FAI approach is to systematically tackle the fundamental underlying issues faced as we move agricultural food production towards methods that are ethically acceptable for modern society. The recent Eurobarometer Report undertaken by the European Commission found that over half of those interviewed across 25 member states considered animal welfare standards inadequate and are prepared to pay up to 25% more for food they consider to be ethically produced. Two key actions are required; 1) innovative development and 2) scientific analysis and assessment undertaken in an environment that understands both the market and primary production. To see how we are progressing in each species area see the individual Project Reports for Pigs, Poultry, Cattle and Sheep,

### What will we achieve?

#### Animal welfare

This is our core approach as livestock farming is, by definition, primarily about animals. Our experience has shown that understanding the needs of animals and providing for them is key to success in other respects. The areas we focus on are:

- *Comprehensive nutrition provision which allows normal gut physiology and oral satisfaction*
- *Provision for adequate rest, physical and thermal and comfort*
- *Disease control through promotion of immune competence*
- *Provision of integral environmental enrichments*
- *Allowance for important natural behaviours*
- *Development of genetics enabling animals to be fit for their environment*
- *Maintenance of peer groups, birth to death systems and positive handling*

- No routine use of antibiotics
- No mutilations
- No close confinement
- No bullying or aggression
- Healthy animals
- Systems which are easy to operate

#### Food quality

- *Removal of the need for any routine use of antimicrobials without compromise of animal welfare*
- *Reduction in the need for other animal medicines without compromise of animal welfare*
- *Reduction in the risk of food poisoning through known nutritional inputs and normal gut physiology*
- *Improved genetics, nutrition and stress free management.*

- No residues or contribution to antimicrobial resistance
- Food poisoning organisms reduced
- Consistently good eating quality

#### Environmental care

- *Waste management and nitrogen balance on farm*
- *Positive interaction with environmental schemes*
- *Use of local inputs and local sales*

- No environmental pollution
- Agricultural production and wildlife flourishing side by side
- Reduction in food miles

#### Rural livelihoods

- *Job satisfaction through training and pride in ethically run, profitable agricultural enterprises*
- *Development of viable modular systems which can be adopted by all farmers*

- Market focused, viable business
- Money for re-investment
- Decent working environments
- A positive future



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