

# Livestock and animal welfare: the question of labels to inform consumers in France.

Agnès Fabre <sup>a</sup>, Marie Barloy <sup>a</sup>, Caroline Gilbert <sup>a,b</sup>

*a. Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort, 7 Avenue du Général de Gaulle, 94700, Maisons-Alfort, France*  
*b. Laboratoire MECADEV, UMR 7179, CNRS/MNHN, 1 Avenue du Petit Château, 91800, Brunoy, France*

94 % of European citizens feel concerned by animal welfare and therefore, the animal welfare societal demand has increased significantly. In order to answer to that demand, the French Agriculture and Food Ministry implemented the animal welfare plan 2016-2020 that contains 20 actions. The action 18 reads to "allow access to an impartial definition of animal welfare and how it is applied in breeding [...]." In some EU countries (eg. Germany, Denmark and Netherlands) both private and public labels exist to inform consumers about the conditions of breeding of animals. These labels are carried on the food products. **A reflection is currently being undertaken by the French public authorities to see if it is possible to have a standard label for animal welfare. AIM : To see what can be done from a legal point of view.**

Fig. 1 French Animal Welfare Plan 2016-2020



To review what private labels related to animal welfare already exist in France and to do benchmarking in other countries.

- 1: Legal labels already existing (EU labels and national-French-labels) SIQO –Signes de Qualité Officiels-
- 2: Labels already existing in Germany, Denmark and Netherlands
- 3: Emerging private labels in France

Fig. 2 Legal labels SIQO



Regulation (EU) N° 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs. *Official Journal of the European Union* 343, 1-29

France : in charge : The Department of Finance and Department of Agriculture. Implementation : **French INAO**

Fig. 3 Welfare Labels in 3 EU countries

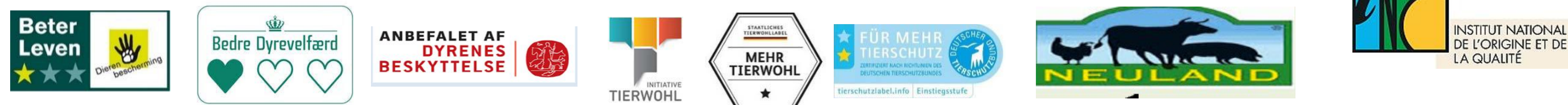


Fig. 4 Exemples of emerging private labels in France



Que dit ce nouvel étiquetage ?

Il figure sur l'emballage, avec le prix et le poids.

**Notation**  
Résultat d'une évaluation basée sur 230 critères.

**Echelle de notation**  
Une note A, B ou C garantit une amélioration significative du bien-être animal.

**Filière concernée**  
Pour l'instant, uniquement le poulet. Le panel devrait s'étendre progressivement.

LYNFOGRAPHIE. SOURCE: ETIQUETEBIENETREANIMAL.FR

Extrait des 230 critères évaluant le niveau de Bien-Être Animal des poulets :

	NIVEAU A	NIVEAU B	NIVEAU C	NIVEAU D
Accès à l'extérieur	✓	✓	✓	
Lumière naturelle en bâtiment d'élevage	✓	✓	✓	
Mise en place de dispositifs permettant aux poulets d'exprimer leurs comportements naturels	✓	✓	✓	
Espace supplémentaire en bâtiment par rapport au minimum réglementaire	+68%	+53%	+40%	*
Durée de vie minimale des poulets	81 jours	56 jours		
Rythme de croissance des poulets	Lent	Intermédiaire ou lent	Intermédiaire ou lent	
Durée maximale de transport des poulets	3 heures	6 heures	8 heures	
Document engageant le transporteur sur le respect de la protection animale	✓	✓	✓	
Obligation d'insensibilisation (étourdissement) préalable à la saignée	✓	✓	✓	
Vidéo de contrôle sur certaines zones dans les abattoirs où les animaux vivants sont manipulés	✓	✓	✓	

\*Exigence réglementaire dans l'Union Européenne : ≥ 238cm<sup>2</sup>/kg de poulet

**Question : for emerging private labels  
Where is the scientific data behind the labels ?  
Law of the Market or law of the State ?**

**Solution : ANSES to deliver a report about the scientific validated items to use to build and assess a welfare label ?**

French CNA (National Food Council) under dependency of Department of Ecology, Department of Health, Department of Finance, Department of Agriculture, is working on food labeling according to breeding conditions. President of the Working Group is linked to The Ministry of Finance, Vice President is linked to Ministry of Agriculture.



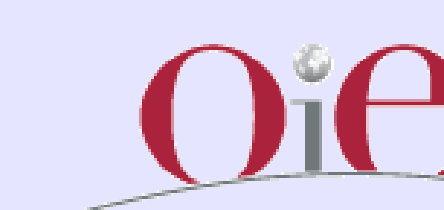
For the moment, The Department of Finance does not wish to build official welfare labels because of risks of Dispute in law courts.

No national legal definition of what is animal welfare and no national definition on how to assess it.

Definition :

only in an ANSES report (2018)

French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety  
Or OIE/WOAH definition



For more information :

- 1 Barloy M. (2018) Contribution to the public information of livestock animal welfare. Thèse pour le doctorat vétérinaire, Alfort.
- 2 Eurobarometer (2016) Attitudes of Europeans towards Animal Welfare 442, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
- 3 Roguet C. (2017). Les labels bien-être animal aux Pays-Bas, en Allemagne et au Danemark. Journée Productions porcines et avicoles, 22-23 novembre, Moulins de Beez, Belgique.  
[http://www.cra.wallonie.be/img/page/Conference/Roguet\(ifip\).pdf](http://www.cra.wallonie.be/img/page/Conference/Roguet(ifip).pdf)