

1 **On-farm welfare monitoring of small ruminants**

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22 **ABSTRACT**

23 The paper discusses assessment of animal welfare in small ruminant production systems and
24 reports on developments regarding various monitoring schemes, which are used to assess
25 small ruminant welfare at farm level. Further, welfare assessment protocols are presented;
26 these have been derived as results in the Animal Welfare Indicators ('AWIN') project, which
27 had been funded within the European Commission's 7th Framework Program. The role of the
28 European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in providing a scientific basis for future legislation
29 on animal welfare is described. Finally, emergency medicine to reduce small ruminant
30 suffering and support appropriate decisions to promote welfare of individual animals or
31 populations of animals is also discussed.

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33 *Keywords:* emergency medicine, EFSA, goat, monitoring schemes, sheep, welfare indicators

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38 **1. Introduction**

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40 Market demand from consumers for assurance schemes for high quality animal products (in
41 terms of health, safety and respect for animal welfare) is increasing. In response to this
42 demand, assessment of animal welfare at farm level is still an outstanding issue in the field of
43 animal husbandry. Therefore, development of on-farm welfare monitoring schemes to assess
44 welfare of farmed animals has become a need for production systems as an advisory and
45 management tool for farmers, as a tool to verify compliance with legislation or regulatory
46 standards and as a component of quality assurance schemes for consumers (Fraser, 2008).

47 Many different European Regulations have been issued regarding animal welfare. Although
48 no rules specific to small ruminants have been implemented, Commission Decision
49 2006/778/EC (European Commission, 2006) has reported that inspections of animals kept for
50 farming purposes should cover requirements laid down in specific acts, as well as general
51 animal welfare requirements as laid down in Council Directive 98/58/EC which relates to all
52 farmed species (European Commission, 1998). The animal welfare issue, however, is also
53 addressed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which is required to provide
54 scientific and technical support to Community legislation through development of scientific
55 opinions on risk factors related to all fields with direct or indirect impact on food and feed
56 safety, plant health, environment and animal health and welfare.

57 Since the beginning of the 21st Century, this topic has been widely discussed at international
58 level, in international workshops (e.g., Sørensen and Sandøe, 2001; Webster and Main, 2003)
59 and in specific working groups, e.g., the European Action 846 of the COST Framework
60 ‘Measuring and monitoring farm animal welfare’ (Blokhuys et al., 2003). That COST action
61 had led to the Welfare Quality[®] EU project, which had been funded by the European
62 Commission in 2004 with the aim to developing on-farm welfare monitoring schemes. The
63 project involved 43 establishments (from 13 European and four Latin American countries)
64 and resulted in the publication of welfare assessment protocols for cattle, pigs and poultry;
65 however, the development of on-farm welfare assessment protocols for small ruminants was
66 not addressed. In 2011, the EU’s 7th Framework Program for Research (FP7) funded the
67 ‘AWIN’ (Animal Welfare Indicators) project, which aimed at improving animal welfare by

68 developing, integrating and disseminating information regarding animal welfare indicators in
69 animal species that had not been previously covered in the Welfare Quality® project,
70 including small ruminants.

71 Development of awareness and of regulations regarding farm animal welfare follows closely
72 changes in under- and post-graduate teaching in the field in tertiary education. However, often
73 animal welfare teaching is not associated with clinical skills and diagnostic or monitoring
74 procedures in farms do not always take into account welfare considerations of individuals or
75 populations under consideration (Illmann et al., 2014).

76 In order to develop effective welfare assessment schemes, the role of the scientific community
77 should be enhanced through the involvement of the relevant stakeholders, e.g., producer
78 associations, animal breeding organisations, retailer and consumer organisations, policy
79 makers and veterinarians. In particular, veterinarians are required to evaluate, in cases of
80 small ruminant emergency, which remedial options for sick animals or for animals at risk of
81 becoming sick promote their welfare status. The present review discusses welfare assessment
82 from various perspectives applied to small ruminants.

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85 **2. Monitoring schemes**

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87 According to Scott et al. (2001), monitoring schemes should include indicators that are valid,
88 reliable and sensitive. In addition, they should be practically feasible to apply in the field.
89 Two broad categories of indicators can be used to assess animal welfare at farm level (Main et
90 al., 2003): (i) animal-based welfare measures (e.g., behavioural measurements, productivity,
91 health issues) and (ii) resource-based influencing factors (e.g., stocking density, feeding
92 regime, milking procedures).

93 Animal welfare monitoring schemes are generally based on the assessment of negative
94 consequences of farming factors on animals, while there are only few examples of positive
95 aspects being evaluated (e.g., the positive terms of qualitative behaviour assessment in the
96 AWIN and Welfare Quality® protocols). However, possible links between these adverse
97 effects on animal welfare and risk factors (e.g., poor flooring as risk factor for lameness) have
98 seldom been investigated. Therefore, albeit valid and reliable, such schemes can only be used

99 to express a scientifically-based judgement on the welfare state of the animals, whereas little
100 is done to promote a continuous process of animal welfare improvement (Whay, 2008).

101 Sheep welfare has been investigated in a number of studies, in which the effect of
102 management stressors has been assessed. Conversely, on-farm monitoring schemes for
103 assessing the welfare of small ruminants had not been available until a few years ago.
104 Napolitano et al. (2009) have adapted a protocol scientifically validated for cattle, termed
105 ‘Animal Needs Index (ANI) 35 L 2000’ (Bartussek et al., 2000), for the welfare evaluation of
106 sheep. The protocol used resource measures, which included structural and technical elements
107 (e.g., space allowance, feeding facilities) and showed to be feasible (mean time required to
108 perform welfare assessment was 85 min. per farm, with no sophisticated equipment necessary
109 in both time-consuming and financial terms) and reliable (inter-observer reliability of the
110 scores was high). As the ANI was a system mainly based on resource variables, several
111 animal-based variables were tested for possible inclusion in the protocol. Avoidance distance
112 showed high levels of convergent and scientific validity and intra-observer reliability (defined
113 by Waiblinger et al., 2006). Lameness, integument alterations and body condition score were
114 not tested for validity, but showed excellent intra-observer reliability (Napolitano et al.,
115 2011), whereas good inter-observer reliability was noted for integument alteration, hoof
116 overgrowth, lameness and dirtiness (Napolitano et al., 2009). Subsequently, monitoring
117 systems with animal-based measures, dealing with behaviour, health and physiology of the
118 animals or a combination of resource- or animal-based measures, have been developed to
119 obtain a valid assessment of animal welfare (Welfare Quality[®] project).

120 The main objective of the AWIN was the development of animal welfare indicators in sheep,
121 goats, horses, donkeys and turkeys. The overall research objectives were pursued through four
122 work-packages (WP1: development of animal welfare protocols; WP2: study of the impact of
123 pain and disease on animal welfare; WP3: study of the effects of pre-natal factors on
124 development and welfare of the offspring; and WP4: promotion of research and education in
125 animal welfare). These objectives focused on species that, although commercially relevant
126 worldwide, had been overlooked in previous animal welfare assessments. Both for sheep and
127 goats, the AWIN protocols were developed following a four-stage process: stage 1 included
128 literature review (Battini et al., 2014a) and expert panel meetings to select the most promising
129 candidate indicators for inclusion into the protocols, stage 2 included tests of selected

130 indicators for validity, reliability and feasibility, stage 3 included development and testing of
131 prototype protocols in commercial farms in various European countries and stage 4 included
132 refinement of the prototypes, taking into account the outcome of the tests and advice from
133 stakeholders. Stakeholders were involved during all these stages, through participation in
134 conference meetings and participation to direct or on-line surveys, in order to increase the
135 acceptability of the final protocols (Battini et al., 2014b).

136 AWIN welfare assessment protocols for sheep and goats used a two-level approach; the first
137 level welfare assessment protocol consisted of a quick screening of the flock, including a
138 selection of robust and feasible animal-based indicators collected with no or minimal animal
139 handling. Depending on the outcome of the first level assessment, a second level, which
140 consisted of a more comprehensive and an in-depth assessment requiring restraint of the
141 animals and collection of individual data, was recommended. That approach was chosen, in
142 order to increase the feasibility of the assessment.

143 For both species, selection of the indicators was based on the four principles and twelve
144 criteria defined by the Welfare Quality[®] project, which covered all aspects of animal welfare.
145 Animal-based indicators were selected whenever possible; when no valid, reliable and
146 feasible animal-based indicators were available to cover welfare criteria, resource-based
147 indicators were used.

148 For sheep, the animal-based measures taken at the first level were: qualitative behaviour
149 assessment, quantitative behaviour assessment (e.g., social withdrawal, panting, stereotypy,
150 and excessive itching), fearfulness assessed using human approach (minimum distance, flight
151 distance, time to resume normal behaviour), physical assessment of fleece (cleanliness,
152 quality), tail length (full, docked well, docked short) and lameness, whereas the environment
153 was assessed outdoors (in terms of water supply, shelter provision, landscape) and indoors (in
154 terms of water supply and stocking density). In addition, lamb mortality was recorded. At the
155 second level, the following aspects were evaluated: gingival and eye mucosa (colour), eyes
156 (e.g., presence of ocular discharge), body and head lesions, respiratory quality (e.g.,
157 coughing), fleece quality (e.g., fleece loss), coat (cleanliness), legs (e.g., injuries), body-
158 condition scoring (as described by Russell et al., 1969), udder lesions and mastitis, tail
159 (length), faecal soiling (on a 5-point scale), lameness (on a 4-point scale) and overgrown hoof

160 (AWIN, 2015a;b). Details of welfare assessment indicators for first and second level
161 assessment are described in Table 1 (sheep) or Table 2 (goats).

162 An innovative aspect of the AWIN protocols was the presentation of the outcome to farmers.
163 First, in contrast to previous welfare schemes, the AWIN project decided to provide positive
164 feedback to farmers by presenting the results of the assessment in terms of animals that did
165 not present welfare problems. Further, the AWIN project aimed at giving results that could be
166 of help to farmers to improve the welfare level, therefore the outcome was informative about
167 the main welfare problems on the farm and did not produce an overall assessment score as in
168 the Welfare Quality[®] project. For these reasons, the outcome consisted of a visual output that
169 highlighted positive conditions and plotted the farm situation against that of a reference
170 population, giving the possibility to the farmer to compare the welfare level of a farm with
171 that of other farms and to immediately understand which were the strengths and weaknesses
172 from a welfare point of view. This was aimed at promoting identification of best practices and
173 implementation for welfare management and continuous improvement.

174

175 **3. The European Union strategy on animal welfare: the role of European Food Safety** 176 **Authority**

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178 Another approach in the development of tools for on-farm control and management of animal
179 welfare was the use of the risk assessment (RA) methodology, which allowed identification of
180 the major hazards that posed potential risks to animal welfare. This approach started with the
181 identification of the hazards, the quantification of their likelihoods and the potential impacts
182 in terms of intensity, duration and prevalence in order to rank the risks and prioritize areas of
183 intervention where monitoring and managing of animal welfare risks may be needed (Ribó
184 and Serratosá, 2009). The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) can be asked by the
185 various European Commission services, as well as also by the European Parliament, EU
186 Members States or itself ('self-mandate'), to provide a scientific assessment following,
187 whenever possible, a RA approach. EFSA has developed RA methodologies for a number of
188 farm animal species and production systems (e.g. dairy cattle, beef cattle, pig, chicken, fish).
189 Risk assessment has been defined by the EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare as a
190 scientifically-based process consisting of exposure assessment (in terms of level, duration,

191 frequency and variability of exposure to hazards), consequence characterisation (i.e.,
192 evaluation of the nature of animal welfare effects caused by a hazard) and risk
193 characterisation (estimation, including associated uncertainties, of the probability of
194 occurrence and magnitude of adverse animal welfare effects) (EFSA Panel on Animal Health
195 and Welfare, 2012d). Risk assessment is part, along with risk management and risk
196 communication, of a wider process termed 'risk analysis'. The EFSA Panel on Animal Health
197 and Welfare is composed by 21 independent scientific experts. Of these, approximately one
198 third consists of experts in animal welfare issues, one third of experts in animal diseases and
199 one third of experts in animal health and welfare horizontal issues related to risk assessment
200 methodologies, epidemiology and modelling. The panel is responsible for all adopted
201 scientific opinions and receives the full administrative support by EFSA staff. When EFSA
202 receives a request to provide scientific advice, a working group is set up. The working group
203 is composed of experts on the specific issue and a risk assessor in charge of defining the risk
204 pathways and the risk assessment methodology. Through different meetings, the working
205 group collects all available scientific data and information on the issue, performs the risk
206 assessment when pertinent and possible and drafts conclusions and recommendations. The
207 process results in a draft scientific opinion, sometimes opened for public consultation, which
208 is finally discussed, reviewed and adopted by the experts' panel. In agreement with EFSA's
209 policy on transparency, all scientific documents are published in the EFSA's website
210 (www.efsa.europa.eu).

211 In particular, EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare provides specific advice on risk
212 factors related to animal diseases and welfare, mainly of food producing animals, including
213 fish. The outcomes of the risk assessment methodology together with the identification of
214 welfare indicators will allow the establishment and implementation of welfare control and
215 monitoring plans at farm level and detection of poor welfare situations. Future legislative
216 provisions based on appropriate scientific evidence should include animal-based welfare
217 indicators or assessment systems, which will support decision making on the acceptable
218 conditions for farmed animals and will be used to underpin control and monitoring of animal
219 welfare at farm level (Ribó and Serratosa, 2009).

220 During the period 2003 to 2013, the EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare delivered
221 109 scientific opinions regarding various animal diseases (n=60) or welfare (n=49) matters.

222 Other EFSA panels and units have also been involved in the delivery of opinions related to
223 animal health and welfare (i.e., biological hazards, feed additives, contaminants, zoonoses).
224 The main objective of the scientific opinions on animal welfare is the identification of hazards
225 leading to negative welfare outcomes and make recommendations to reduce or eliminate these
226 hazards. In 2006, EFSA was asked by the European Commission to include measurable
227 welfare indicators, whenever possible, in the conclusions and recommendations of the future
228 scientific opinions on animal welfare. In 2011, EFSA was further asked to identify how
229 animal-based measures could be used to ensure fulfilment of the recommendations of the
230 EFSA scientific opinions on animal welfare and how the assessment protocols suggested by
231 the Welfare Quality[®] project covered the main hazards identified in EFSA scientific opinions
232 and vice-versa. The Welfare Quality[®] protocols use animal-based measures to assess animal
233 welfare by measuring the magnitude of the welfare outcomes. Therefore, the results of the
234 welfare assessments would be used to take appropriate measures to improve welfare. These
235 results will also provide crucial quantitative data to be used in future animal welfare risk
236 assessments to identify additional welfare hazards. Consequently, the identification of welfare
237 hazards in the scientific opinions will support further development of animal-based indicators
238 for welfare assessment at farm level (Ribó and Blokhuis, 2012). Following this approach, in
239 2012, three scientific opinions regarding use of animal-based measures to assess welfare of
240 pigs, cows and broilers were published (EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare,
241 2012a;b;c). The three opinions commonly concluded that the Welfare Quality[®] protocols
242 covered most of the hazards identified in the EFSA's scientific opinion and that animal-based
243 measures were necessary to assess whether the recommendations for welfare improvement
244 have been achieved. The work continued to cover all farm species. A scientific opinion on
245 risk assessment for animal welfare (EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare, 2012d) and a
246 statement on the use of animal-based measures to assess animal welfare (EFSA Panel on
247 Animal Health and Welfare, 2012e), establishing a common framework for future scientific
248 opinions, were also published in 2012.

249 In December 2014, the EFSA Panel of Animal Health and Welfare adopted a scientific
250 opinion on the welfare risks related to the farming of sheep for wool, meat or milk production
251 (EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare, 2014). In the same way as for the Welfare
252 Quality[®] project, the welfare protocols developed in the AWIN project (AWIN, 2015a;b)

253 were used in this opinion as a basis to identify animal-based welfare measures in small
254 ruminants. In this case, the working group on sheep welfare adopted a novel approach starting
255 with the description of the main categories of management systems: shepherding (continuous
256 presence of the shepherd with the flock), intensive (no outdoor access), semi-intensive
257 (housing during the night and part of the day), semi-extensive (kept in fenced pasture and
258 receiving feeding supplementation), extensive (no fencing but receiving feeding
259 supplementation), very-extensive (no fencing and receiving no supplementation) or mixed
260 system. Subsequently, in agreement with Phythian et al. (2011), a bottom-up approach had
261 been followed with the identification of the main welfare adverse effects of farming as
262 resulted from the analysis of a questionnaire circulated among over 300 sheep farming
263 experts, including academics, practitioners or farmers. Overall, the main issues that were
264 considered to adversely affect welfare of sheep were (i) for ewes: lameness, thermal
265 discomfort, enteric disorders, mastitis and skin disorders and (ii) for lambs: pain induced by
266 management procedures (e.g., castration), enteric disorders, thermal discomfort and mis-
267 mothering. A restricted group of experts was then asked to associate the main risk factors to
268 those adverse effects following the scheme reported in Table 3 (for the sake of brevity, only
269 consequences for ewes are shown as an example). The identification of adverse effects and
270 related risk factors was conducted within the framework set by the Welfare Quality® protocol,
271 consisting of 4 welfare principles and 12 welfare criteria. The pitfall of the risk assessment
272 approach is that it is not usually performed on individual farms, therefore it can be used as a
273 tool to support scientifically driven policy making, while identifying and characterising risk
274 factors potentially threatening sheep welfare. However, no indications regarding specific farm
275 situations may be given in terms of animal welfare or as a tool for continuous welfare
276 improvement.

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278 **4. Welfare considerations in small ruminant emergency medicine**

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280 In small ruminants, extensive and very extensive rearing systems are practiced frequently.
281 These systems are often accompanied by lack of monitoring veterinarian programs. Hence,
282 emergency medicine plays a key role in providing rapid and effective veterinary and nursing
283 care in cases threatening the life of small ruminants and/or their health and production.

284 Further, in emergency medicine in small ruminant health management, financial constraints,
285 as well as the welfare of sick or at risk to become sick animals, should always be taken into
286 account.

287 Emergency medicine in individuals aims at treating disease problems with an immediate risk
288 for the life of animals. These can refer to problems in young (e.g., neonatal hypothermia) or
289 adult (e.g., dystocia, urethral obstruction) animals and can be dealt with by using knowledge
290 from various veterinary specialities (e.g., anaesthesiology, obstetrics, neurology, surgery).
291 Emergency medicine in populations aims to control various diseases with a risk to the animals
292 of a farm or a geographical region. Moreover, it functions as a safety net for animal
293 production. These diseases may be of endemic (e.g., cases of abortion), epidemic (e.g.,
294 bluetongue disease in Northern Europe) or emerging (e.g., Schmallenberg disease) nature and
295 can be dealt with by using knowledge from various scientific fields (e.g., diagnostic medicine,
296 epidemiology, preventive medicine) (Arsenos and Fthenakis, 2014).

297 In all circumstances, the welfare status of individuals must be maintained to a standard
298 appropriate for those individuals at that moment. The traditional ‘cost-benefit’ analysis will
299 need to be extended to take into account facets beyond the traditional financial implications,
300 to a meaning that includes the degree of suffering acceptable by the affected animals, as well
301 as taking into account that positive outcomes of treatment are by no means certain (Roger,
302 2014).

303 The peri-parturient period is a time in the life of a ewe or doe when most emergency problems
304 would arise. This is mainly the effect of pressure in the metabolism of the pregnant animal
305 and the specific financial circumstances at that stage. Pregnancy toxemia, abortion, dystocia
306 and hypocalcaemia (among others) require an immediate action from a veterinarian.
307 Nevertheless, there are circumstances, in which the scientific literature indicates an
308 unfavourable prognosis. For example, in pregnancy toxemia, these include the development
309 of neurological signs in the ewe and the *in utero* death of foetus(es) (Brozos et al., 2011).
310 Therapeutic efforts need to take place for a long period and can often be unsuccessful; at the
311 same time, veterinary expenses can be high, but unrewarding to the farmer. Moreover, in such
312 cases, welfare status of the affected animal is reduced and, possibly, may never be restored.
313 The attending veterinarian will need to take a professional decision, based on their scientific

314 background: is effective treatment a feasible option or is euthanasia the best approach for the
315 welfare of the affected animal?

316 The first days of life of a sheep/goat will be the most stressful period in the life of that animal.
317 A variety of adverse conditions, often caused or predisposed by inappropriate management
318 (e.g., liver rupture, hypothermia, dislocation) can affect newborns, reducing their welfare
319 status and requiring immediate veterinary care (Fragkou et al., 2010). Again, some of these
320 disorders, depending on the severity of each condition, may have an adverse prognosis, which
321 will require from the attending veterinarian a welfare evaluation. Moreover, in those
322 scenarios, diseased animals have a small financial value and, further, have not produced any
323 economic benefits to the farmer. The attending veterinarian will need to make a professional
324 decision, based on its scientific and professional knowledge: is the treatment an option that
325 would financially compensate the farmer in the future or is euthanasia the preferred approach
326 for financial viability of the farm?

327 There are many examples of emergency medicine in animal populations (e.g. foot-and-mouth
328 disease, sheep pox), in which healthy individuals, with generally acceptable standards of
329 welfare, are accounted for euthanasia. This occurs within the appropriately defined
330 surveillance areas. The attending veterinarian will need to make a professional decision, based
331 on their scientific background: is euthanasia of the defined cohort a means to control the
332 disease or, possibly, euthanasia of a much larger number of animals would be required in the
333 future?

334 In all cases, accurate and rapid diagnosis of the problem is paramount. This should be
335 followed by analysis of the situation and evaluation of the various remedial options.
336 Assessment of the welfare status of the animals, coupled with prognosis of the probabilities
337 for recovery, as well as the time-scale for achieving full recovery needs to be an integral
338 element of the decision process. That way, emergency responses are correct and promote
339 welfare status of individual animals or populations of animals.

340

341 **5. Concluding remarks**

342

343 The development of on-farm welfare assessment protocols is of great practical importance.
344 Within the EU's 7th Framework Program for Research (FP7), the AWIN project had as a

345 main objective to promote the identification of best practices and their implementation for
346 welfare management and improvement. The development of on-farm welfare monitoring
347 protocols can contribute to markedly improve the quality standards on the management of
348 small ruminants. Moreover, most of sheep and goat products are officially recognized in the
349 European Union legislation with a protected designation, hence inclusion of a welfare
350 monitoring system into the specifications of such products would further improve their market
351 value. Within the general aim to promote the welfare of small ruminants, EFSA plays a
352 central role in providing scientific basis for future legislation. In addition, emergency
353 medicine is fundamental to minimize suffering and support appropriate decisions concerning
354 medical treatments and euthanasia.

355 Further reports are needed about concerns and feelings of shepherds and goatherds with
356 respect to welfare issues in their production systems. The delivering of the best practices
357 identified and promoted within AWIN project and EFSA scientific advice could implement
358 the diffusion of welfare management of small ruminants with the contribution of animal
359 welfare experts.

360 **Conflict of interest statement**

361 None of the authors of this paper has a financial or personal relationship with other people or
362 organizations that could inappropriately influence or bias the content of the paper.

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Table 1. Animal welfare indicators of the AWIN welfare assessment protocol for sheep, divided according to principles and criteria (first or second level welfare assessment) (AWIN, 2015a).

Welfare principles	Welfare criteria	Welfare indicators	
		First level	Second level
Good feeding	Appropriate nutrition	Lamb mortality	Body condition score
	Absence of prolonged thirst	Water availability	
Good housing	Comfort around resting	Fleece cleanliness	Fleece cleanliness
	Thermal comfort	Panting, access to shade/shelter (only animals living outdoors)	
	Ease of movement	Stocking density (only housed animals)	Hoof overgrowth (only housed animals)
Good health	Absence of injuries		Body and head lesions, leg injuries Lameness, faecal soiling, mucosa colour, ocular discharge, mastitis and udder lesions (lactating ewes only), respiratory quality, fleece quality
	Absence of disease	Lameness; faecal soiling; fleece quality	
	Absence of pain and pain induced by management procedures	Tail length	Tail length
Appropriate behaviour	Expression of social behaviour	Social withdrawal	
	Expression of other behaviours	Stereotypy; excessive itching	
	Good human-animal relationship	Familiar human approach	

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474 **Table 2.** Animal welfare indicators of the AWIN welfare assessment protocol for goats,
 475 divided according to principles and criteria (first or second level welfare assessment) (AWIN,
 476 2015b).

Welfare principles	Welfare criteria	Welfare indicators	
		First level	Second level
Good feeding	Appropriate nutrition	Hair coat condition, queuing at feeding	Body condition score, hair coat condition, queuing at feeding
	Absence of prolonged thirst	Queuing at drinking	Queuing at drinking
Good housing	Comfort around resting	Bedding	Bedding
	Thermal comfort	Thermal stress	Thermal stress
	Ease of movement	Kneeling at the feeding rack	Kneeling at the feeding rack
Good health	Absence of injuries	Severe lameness	Severe lameness
	Absence of disease	Abscesses, hair coat condition, oblivion, overgrown claws, udder asymmetry	Abscesses, body condition score, faecal soiling, hair coat condition, nasal discharge, oblivion, ocular discharge, overgrown claws, udder asymmetry
	Absence of pain and pain induced by management procedures	Improper disbudding, severe lameness	Improper disbudding, severe lameness
	Expression of social behaviour	Queuing at drinking, queuing at feeding	Queuing at drinking, queuing at feeding
Appropriate behaviour	Expression of other behaviours	Oblivion	Oblivion
	Good human-animal relationship	Latency to the first contact test	Latency to the first contact test
	Positive emotional state	Qualitative behaviour assessment	Qualitative behaviour assessment

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482 **Table 3.** Example of association between the main welfare consequences identified in sheep
 483 and the corresponding risk factors (hazards) in the main management systems.

Welfare consequence	Management system			
	Shepherding	Intensive	Semi-intensive	Extensive
Prolonged hunger	Poor pasture quality, lack of supplementation			Poor pasture quality, lack of supplementation
Thermal stress	Lack of shade/shelter, extreme climate	Inappropriate housing, stocking density, delay in shearing, extreme climate	Inappropriate housing, stocking density, delay in shearing, lack of shade/shelter	Lack of shade/shelter, extreme climate, winter shearing
Mastitis	Poor udder hygiene, teat lesions, inappropriate drying-off, inappropriate milking, udder conformation, maintenance of milking system	Poor udder hygiene, teat lesions, inappropriate drying-off, inappropriate milking, udder conformation, maintenance of milking system	Poor udder hygiene, teat lesions, inappropriate drying-off, inappropriate milking, udder conformation, maintenance of milking system	Poor udder hygiene, teat lesions, inappropriate drying-off
Lameness	Pasture conditions Poor biosecurity Improper hoof care	Improper hoof care, inappropriate nutrition, poor flooring	Improper hoof care, inappropriate nutrition, poor biosecurity	Soil conditions (wet), improper hoof care, inappropriate nutrition*, poor biosecurity**

484 * only in extensive or very extensive systems, ** only in semi-extensive systems.

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