Pork and Dairy Producer Perspective - Perspectives on advancing animal welfare and the importance of farmer mental health

René Roy, Ph.D, P.Ag. Agricultural Producer

Presented at the Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council Forum 2020

Introduce myself

- Beyond the business... I am a husband, father, son, brother, friend
- Family business operated by more than one generation and produces various species
- Ph.D. in agricultural economics
- Involved in my industry (NFAHWC, Canadian Pork Council)
- Chair of the One Welfare Committee of the Council

Animal welfare, perspective of a producer

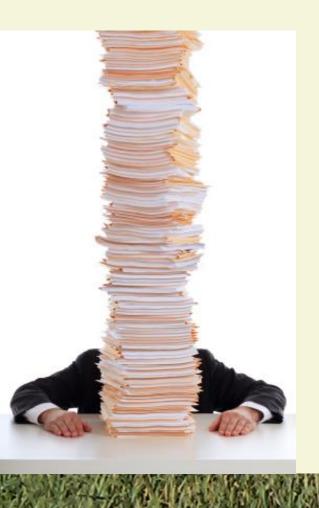
- Farmers make their living from animals
- Farmers are first interested in the health and welfare of animals
- Humans are also included in the animal category... we must also think of human well being



The frustrating part of animal



- The never ending demand from society without support
- Uneven competitive situation
- Rules and regulations can be disconnected from other consideration such as innovation, diversity, and resilience
- The forms, documents, procedures, and more!
- Some demands from society have counterproductive impacts



One Welfare: animal welfare that considers human welfare

- Always keep in mind that producers are human beings first!
- The codes of practice help to inform producers about expected animal husbandry practices and must be based on facts
- Certifications must bring added value to the product, or should be compensated
- Innovation, diversity, and resilience must survive rules and regulations



Thank you