



## **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANIMAL WELFARE and ANIMAL RIGHTS?**

### **Animal Welfare**

The state of the animal and how well the animal is able to cope with its living conditions.

Characterizes the parameters by which the animal is healthy, comfortable, well-nourished, and able to express natural behavior.

Not suffering from unpleasant states including pain, fear, or distress.

The aggregate of animal husbandry skills to provide for the animal.

The knowledge and experience with that specie of animal to understand what their biological needs are and their behavioral patterns.

Cattle have different needs and biological processes than pigs or horses do, so they need to be cared for to meet those needs.

If cattle were treated like they were pigs, or pigs like they were sheep, or sheep like they were horses, those animals would not have their needs met and they wouldn't be able to thrive in their environment.

### **Animal Rights**

Animal Rights is a political and social movement that holds the belief that all animals have rights that belong to them to be free from any human service including hunting, research, and food.

Animal Rights seek to remove animal proteins completely from the human diet.

No distinction between human and animal rights.

No distinction among species. All species, including humans, should be treated the same way.

Good animal welfare practices enhance livestock's ability to adapt and thrive in their environment and provide a nutrient-packed food product to feed consumers, farmers, and their families.

Animal welfare is the ultimate goal of farmers and ranchers.

There are Quality Assurance programs and educational resources that provide training for farmers, their families, and their employees to utilize proper animal handling and husbandry techniques.

Farmers & Ranchers can be audited by standards of care.

*\*Animal Agriculture Alliance, Animal Welfare or Animal Rights? What's the Difference?, written by Alexis Main, College Aggies Online blog, 2022.*