

5th SAFO Workshop
Animal Health and Welfare in
Organic Inspection and Certification

Adopting the Bristol Protocol in
the Certification of Organic Farms

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Who am I

- UK situation
- Soil Association
- Soil Association Certification Ltd



Organic standards should provide for good animal welfare

We want to be able to:

- measure and report welfare in a consistent way
- demonstrate that welfare is good or improving
- collect data to show that organic farming provides good/better welfare



What we have done in the past

- A specific question in the report for each class of animal - with guidelines
- Replies were often brief and subjective



Bristol Welfare Assessment Programme

- All our inspectors and key office staff attended introductory day
- Senior inspectors and certification staff attended the full course
- and....



- All our inspectors are now being trained in BWAT



- Partnership with Bristol University - working with a Residency Vet



How we are implementing it

- Using welfare assessments within follow up inspections
- Inspectors are reporting on specific criteria at annual inspections
- Key inspectors undergoing further training to ensure consistency and repeatability



Residency Vet

- Madeleine Neale

- Training our inspectors:
 - running initial and follow up training courses
 - accompanied inspections
 - attending “difficult” inspections
- Working with certification staff
 - Reviewing health plans
 - able to talk to farm vets



In the future

- Continue to use in follow up inspections and where concerns have been raised
- Carry out regular welfare assessments on all poultry and dairy farms
- Collect data
 - monitor over time
 - compare



Need to overcome

- **Consistency** - 40 inspectors
- **length of inspection** - some farms already take all day
- **cost** - training and inspection time
- **Dealing with results** - intervention

