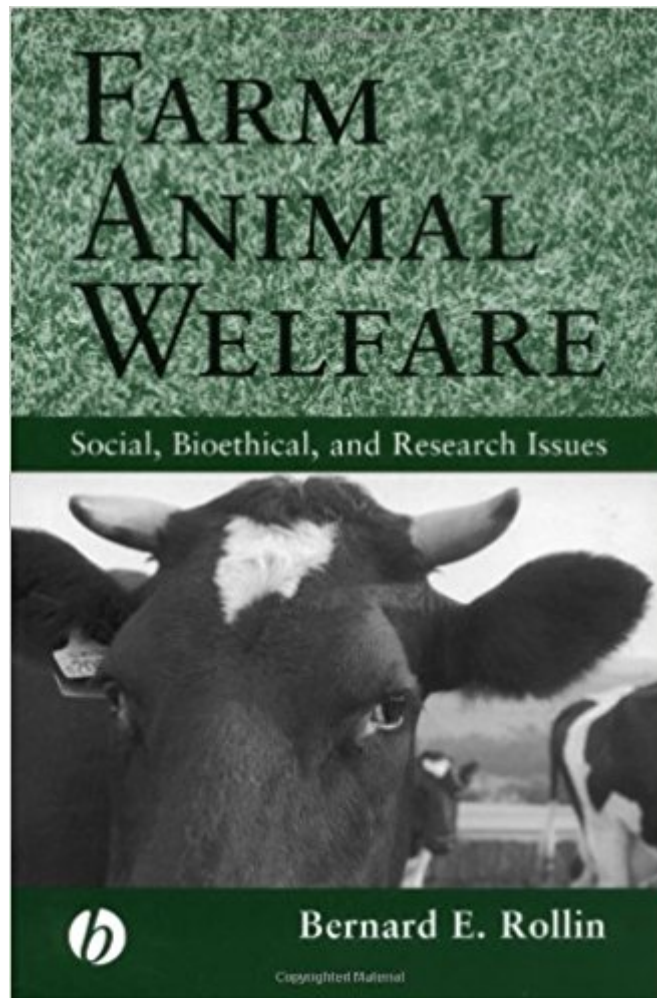




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Farm Animal Welfare: Social, Bioethical, And Research Issues



Synopsis

Animals born with bones and muscles are meant to move. In modern systems of intensive agriculture, however, many animals -- notably, swine, veal calves, and poultry -- are rigorously confined. In this book Professor Bernard E. Rollin describes problems of animal welfare in today's agriculture, discusses the research that exists for improving these systems, and proposes topics for further study. Rollin urges animal producers and agricultural scientists to begin now to address welfare problems. He cites the biomedical research community, which ignored issues of pain control and animal welfare until public concern led to federal legislation. Promising work has already been done in Europe, where the public has demanded that livestock not suffer. A new social ethic in the United States calls for humane agricultural systems that meet the needs and natures of the animals we use. Striking a balanced and rational approach, Rollin's thoughtful text is valuable reading for animal producers, agricultural scientists, veterinarians, animal advocates, and the general public.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Published fifteen years ago, this book predicts exactly what would happen to the farming industry if corporate agriculture did not respond to the horror and disgust consumers were expressing over

things like veal crates and debeaked chickens. It's dry going, because his focus is on existing scientific research that addresses animal welfare and proposals for additional research. So the audience is small: agricultural researchers. But during those fifteen years, corporate agriculture has adopted the motto, "Shut up and eat," refusing to address abuses, attempting to legislate against investigative reporting, and demonizing the animal welfare movement. And now we are seeing exactly the outcome Rollins has been predicting for more than a decade: Legislation sponsored by people NOT knowledgeable about agriculture but disgusted by what industrializing the production of "meat products" has done to husbandry. On second thought, five stars.

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