
Climate Change and Animal Health, Welfare and Production

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Climate change is expected to exert an overwhelming negative effect on livestock health and welfare. The negative effects of climate change on animal health and welfare will be the consequence of combined changes of air temperature, precipitation, frequency, and magnitude of extreme weather events and may be both direct and indirect. The effect of climate change on animal health may be either direct or indirect. The direct effects of climate change may be due primarily to increased temperatures and frequency and intensity of heat waves. Depending on its intensity and duration, heat stress may affect livestock health by causing metabolic disruptions, oxidative stress, and immune suppression causing infections and death.

The indirect effects of climate change are primarily those linked to quantity and quality of feedstuffs and drinking water and survival and distribution of pathogens.

Although this issue focuses on the effects of climate change on health, welfare, performance farms' animals and sustainability of farming systems.

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