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# The FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching



**John J. McGlone, PhD**  
Professor of Animal Science  
Texas Tech University  
Chair, FASS Animal Care Committee  
Board member, AAALAC International





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# The FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching

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Co-chairs:  
Janice C. Swanson, PhD  
John J. McGlone, PhD  
2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Edition  
(3<sup>rd</sup> edition)



- **On commercial farms** – no government regulations; industry “guidelines” [usually adapted from the Ag Guide]
- **At stockyards and slaughter houses** – USDA-FSIS has inspectors on hand to enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, the Packers and Stockyards Act and the 28-hour law (for transport)



## In Agricultural Research and Teaching

- Must comply with the Ag Guide if:
  - Funded by USDA (all land-grant institutions and many others are funded by USDA)
  - AAALAC Accredited
  - Institutional policies require compliance
- If it is a small institution with no government funding and no research activity, there is no obligation to comply with the Ag Guide

# Farm Animals in the USA

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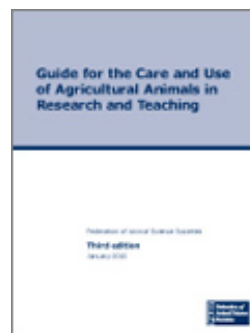
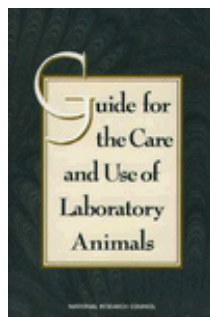
## In Biomedical Research

### Funded by NIH

- Must comply with the AWA and be USDA inspected
- Must follow the ILAR Guide for Animal Care and Use
- May use the Ag Guide as a reference document
- May be AAALAC Accredited

### Not Funded by NIH

- Must comply with the AWA and be USDA inspected
- May use the Ag Guide as a primary or reference document
- May be AAALAC Accredited





## The most comprehensive scientific document about farm animal care

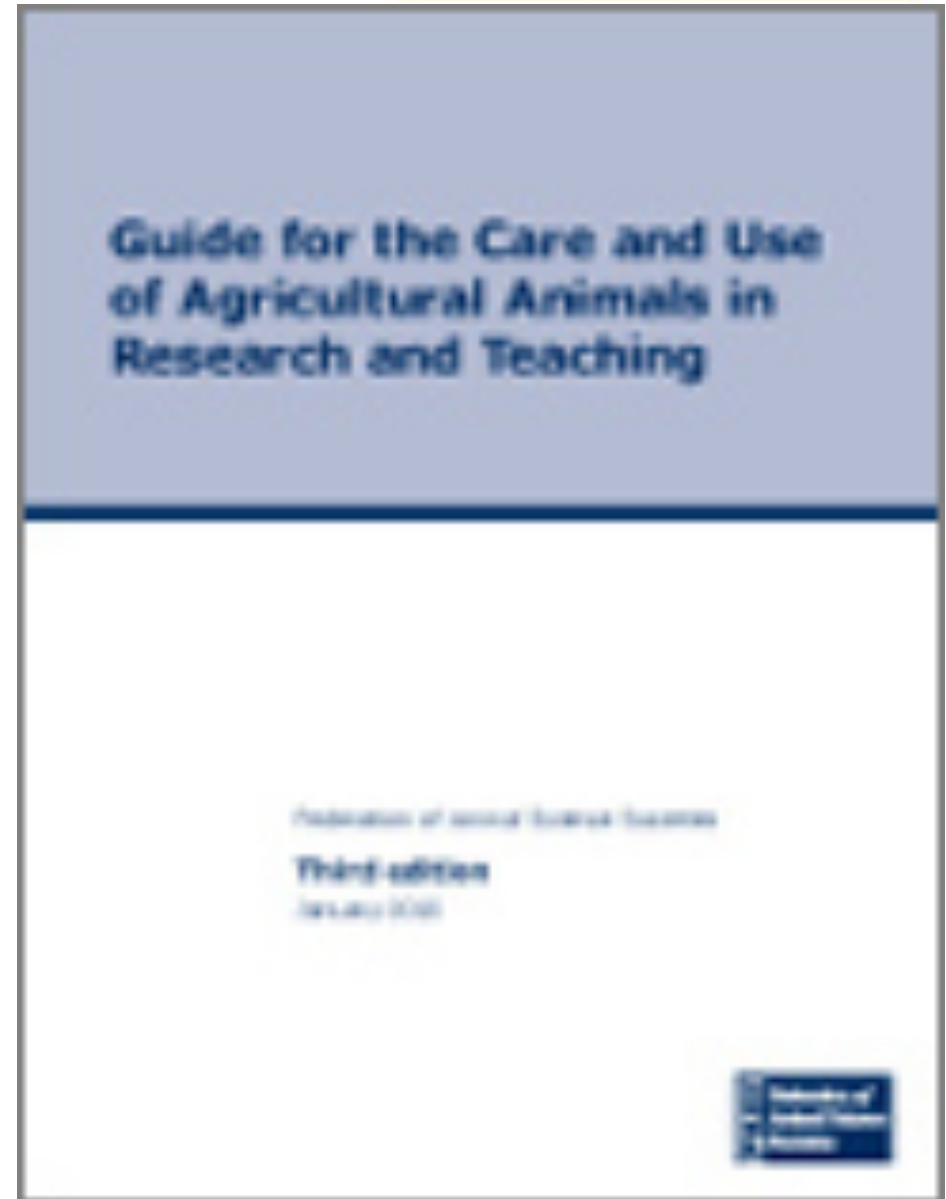
Process (2009-2010):

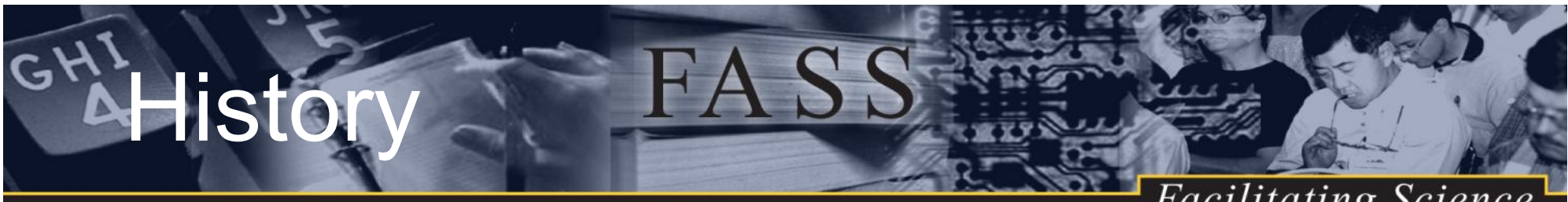
- 64 authors wrote the current version
- Peer reviewed by scientists and IACUCs
- Public comment period
- Final revision produced



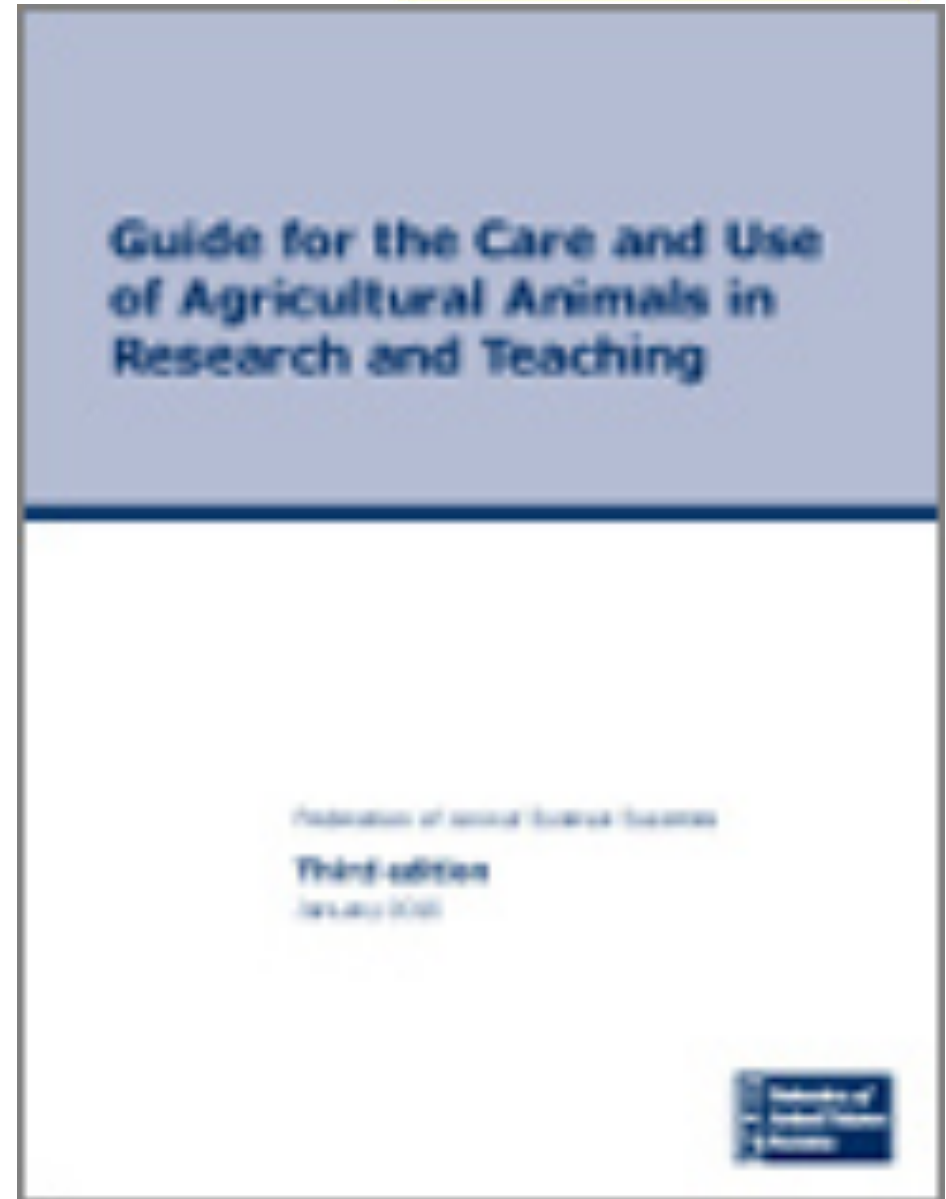


- First Edition 1988
- Second Edition (first revision) 1999
- Third Edition 2010





- Prior to the first edition, there was a lab animal guide, but no farm animal guide

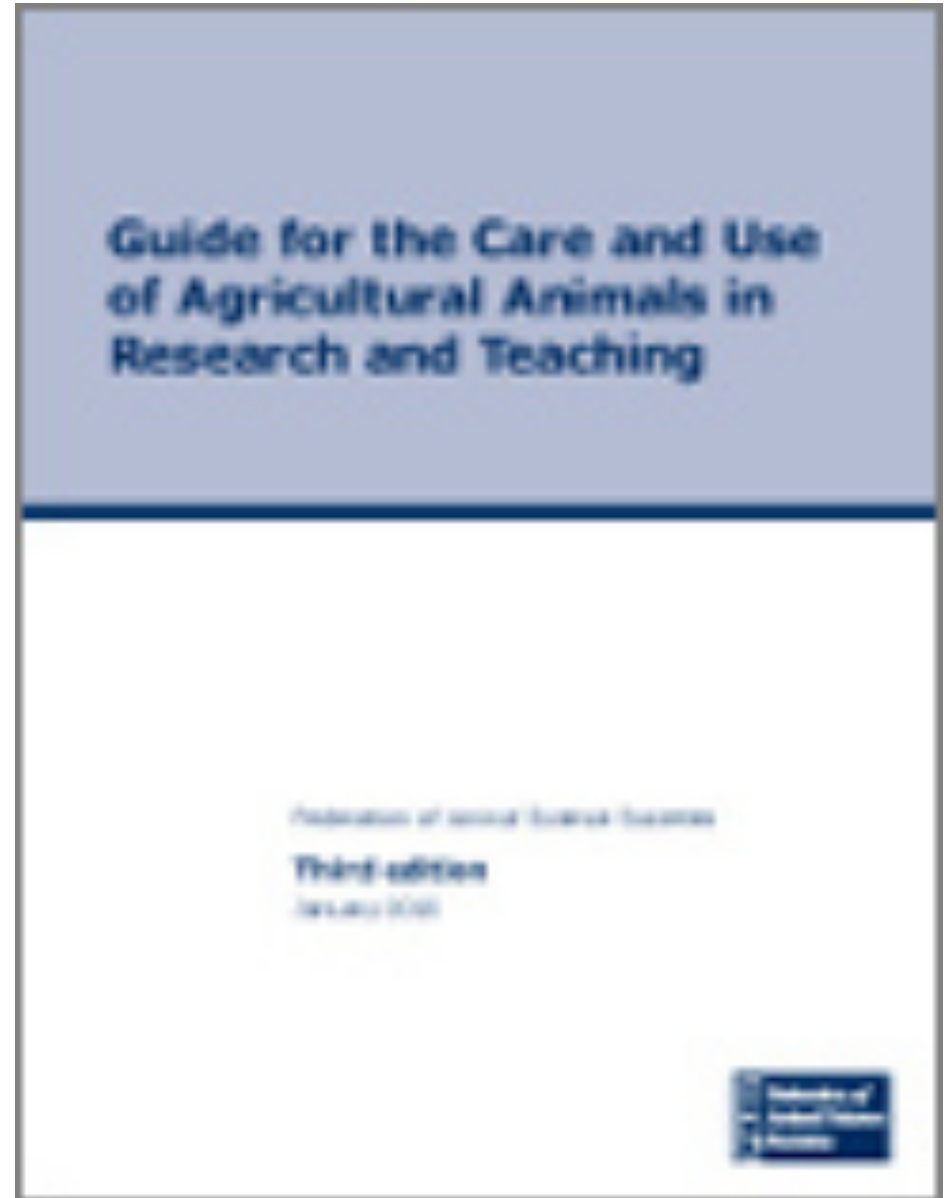


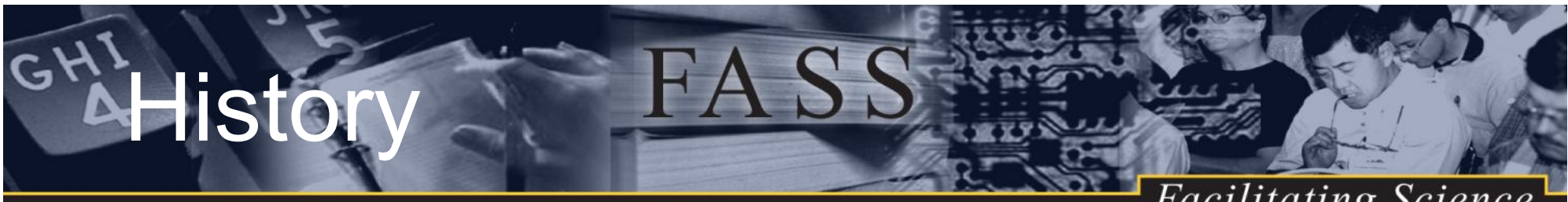




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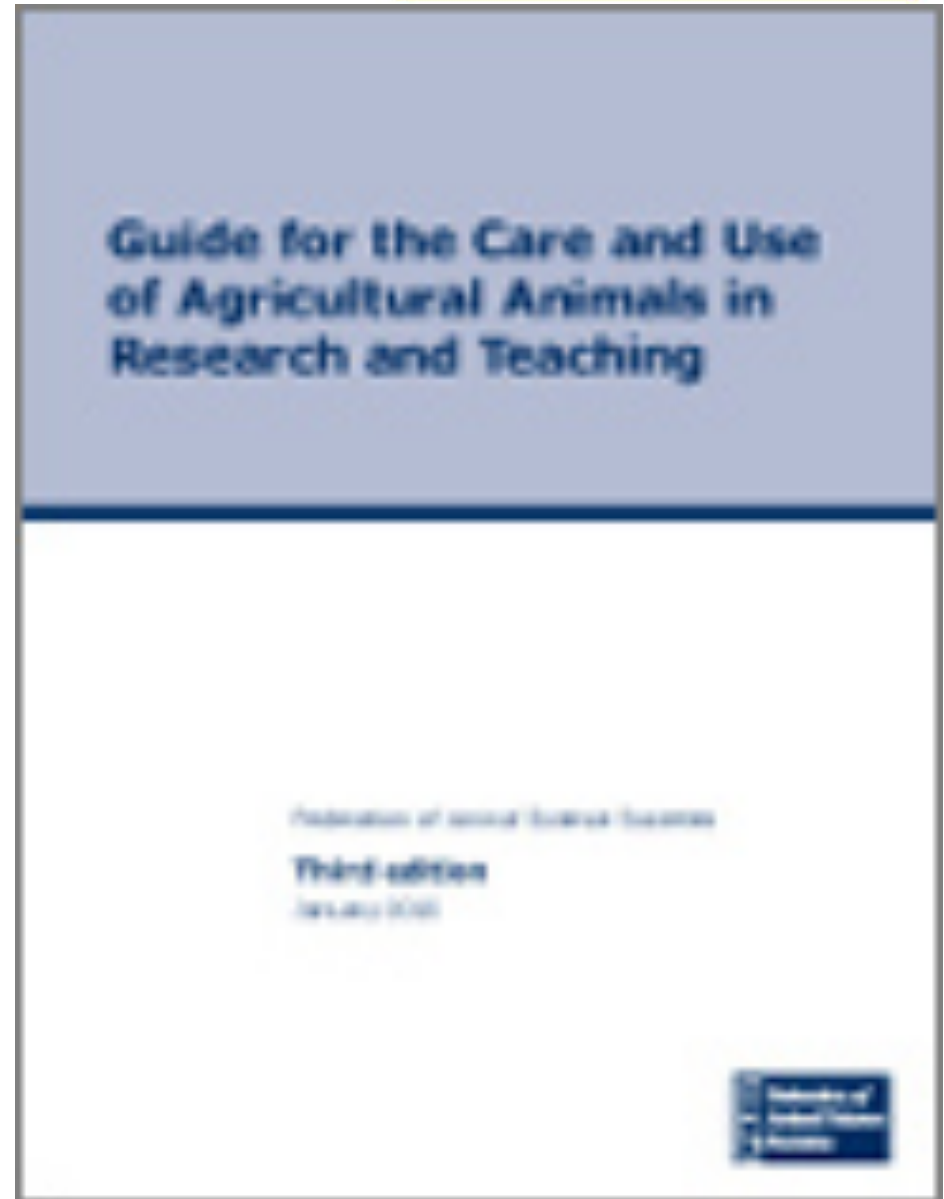
- Farm animals at universities, government labs and some pharmaceutical companies had only the lab animal guide – which was not suited to farm animals

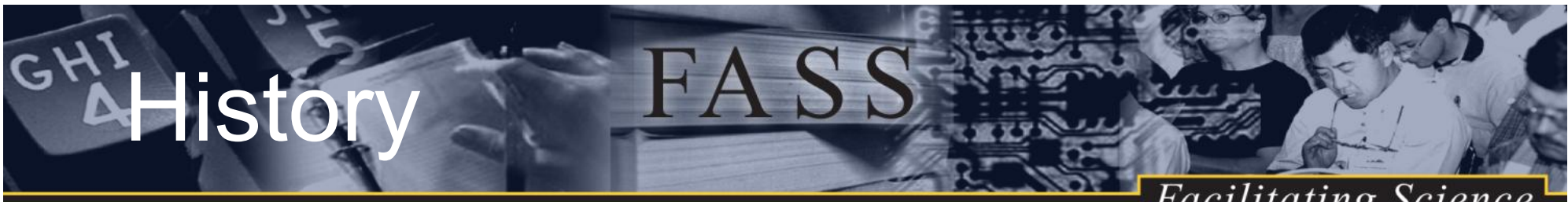




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- On-farm guides were not available in 1988
- Some farm animal guides were developed using the FASS Ag Guide as a starting point
- There is no logical reason for requirements to differ on farms and in labs





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## 2010 *Ag Guide*

- 64 authors – all specialists in their species or areas
- Science-based animal care

**Guide for the Care and Use  
of Agricultural Animals in  
Research and Teaching**

Federation of Animal Science Societies

**Third edition**

January 2010



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## Subcommittee Chairs

## Topic

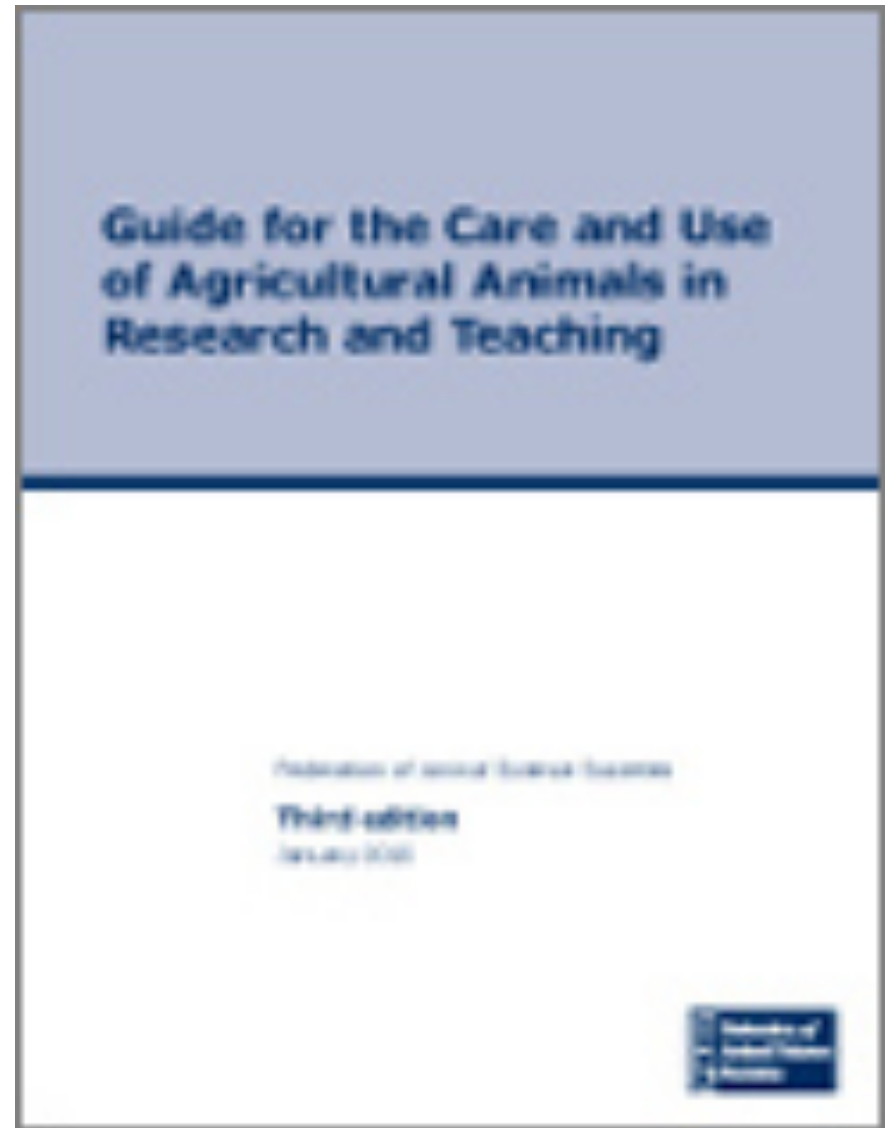
- Steven Ford, PhD
- Wendy Underwood, DVM
- Frank Mitloehner, PhD
- Joy Mench, PhD
- Temple Grandin, PhD
- Terry Mader, PhD
- Pamela Ruegg, DVM
- Carolyn Stull, PhD
- Patricia Hester, PhD
- Greg Lewis, PhD
- Janeen Salak-Johnson, PhD
- Institutional Policies
- Agricultural Animal Health Care
- Husbandry, Housing & Biosecurity
- Environmental Enrichment
- Transportation & Handling
- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Horses
- Poultry
- Sheep & Goats
- Swine



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**AAALAC, Intl  
&  
USDA  
APPROVED**

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## Floor Space Requirements for Groups of Growing Pigs

Pig Wt, lb	square feet per pig "required"		
	Ag Guide, FASS 2010*	SCH, NPB 2003	ILAR, 2010
30	2.0	2.5	6
101	4.6	5	15
280 (127 kg)	9.1 (0.85 m <sup>2</sup> )	8 (0.75 m <sup>2</sup> )	48 (4.5 m <sup>2</sup> )

\* From the general formula:  $area = 0.033 BW^{0.67}$



# Philosophy of Farm Animal Care

- Animals should have certain science-based requirements that don't change with the type of animal use (Ag research, Biomedical research, teaching or commercial farm)



# Philosophy of Farm Animal Care

- Commercial slaughter plants in the USA require animal welfare audits by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Commercial farms voluntarily use animal welfare audits by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Universities and companies that do research can voluntarily use AAALAC International as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party accreditation body



# AAALAC Vs. Commercial Audits

## AAALAC International

- Accreditation process
- Once per 3 years
- IACUC provides required continuous oversight (internal audits)
- View all the animals each 3 years
- Site visitors are typically DVMs and PhDs
- Peer reviewed

## Commercial Farm/Plant Audits

- Audit process
- Once per year at a minimum
- Internal audits recommended, but not required
- View a sample of animals each year (ex., 10%)
- Professional auditors (often B.S.; DVM or PhD not required)
- Usually not peer-reviewed





- We know of many ways to oversee farm animal care
- Universities and research companies have expensive, low-volume animals that are suited to accreditation by high-level people
- Many commercial farm animals can't be feasibly visited by DVMs and PhDs (because of cost and availability of professionals)



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- Clearly farm animals in the USA (and around the world) may be subjected to a number of guidelines or laws – they need harmonization
- Oversight mechanisms need to be based on the best available science – for farm animals, this is the FASS Ag Guide



- The most comprehensive program of animal oversight is the IACUC model with AAALAC Accreditation. In this model:
  - Every use of animals is justified before animal use
  - Staff, including veterinarians, animal care specialists the IACUC and investigators understands and continually inspect animals on site.
  - Because of continuous oversight, the highest credentialed people site visit just once each 3 years
  - Too expensive for commercial farms



## For Commercial Farms

Random animal welfare audits would be more reasonable for commercial farms, but:

- Against what standard?
  - A science-based standard would be best (FASS Ag Guide)
- What type of audit frequency?
  - Annually, or more frequent for slaughter houses, less frequent for breeding herds?
- Level of auditors?
  - DVM/PhD or B.S.?



To download a free copy of the entire Ag  
Guide or any chapter:

<http://www.fass.org/page.asp?pageID=216>







## The End or The Beginning

<http://www.fass.org/page.asp?pageID=216>





**Thank You**

**Questions**