WP 8
Ethical issues and societal engagement

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Introduction

The BovReg research is done in a context in which livestock practices are challenged,

1) by wider societal questions such as animal welfare, climate change, biodiversity, and how we produce our food.
2) And questions about the evaluation of (new) technologies and what role (if any) livestock genomics can play in dealing with current societal challenges.

Work in WP8 takes this wider context as a starting point and combines it with (underlying) values and beliefs in science and society. It aims to promote a responsible innovation approach to livestock genomics that:

- demonstrates an awareness and responsiveness to the societal challenges involved,
- acts an example of science for and with society

The following graph illustrates the conceptual outline of work planned:

The work is organized into three tasks with seven milestones and related deliverables.

Task 8.1: Mapping of societal context of livestock genomics: an ethical analysis

The first part will be based on desk study and a limited number of semi-structured interviews with professionals in livestock breeding, legal experts, representatives from NGO's. The aim is to map key features of the societal context: a) what is new about the knowledge this project plans to generate, b) how scientists and breeders view its promise and economic opportunity, c) the legal and

regulatory landscape, d) lessons from previous public debates on breeding and agricultural biotechnology. This analysis will draw upon existing collaborations with Genome Canada, research projects on application of genomics to accelerate breeding including gene editing, contacts via EAAP, and the network of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics.

This task will provide essential input for the Democs game (8.2) and for the ethical framework (8.3).

Task 8.2 Public engagement of and societal perception of new breeding technologies

This task will commence a process of public engagement to explore perspectives from civil society and selected stakeholders on animal breeding technologies by creating and using a Democs card game. Democs is a proven tool for grassroots engagement (18 y) on many issues from cloning to climate change

In short Democs encompasses:

1) Group discussion for 6-8 people, using cards
2) To learn and discuss new technologies/ ethical issues
3) Story, Info and Issue cards (see graph)

The Democs game is planned to be played with lay persons in the UK and Finland. It is open to be used in other countries after consultation with **Donald Bruce**

Task 8.3 Synthesizing the analysis into framework(s) for stakeholder organisations

This task will integrate the findings of tasks 8.1 and 8.2 into an interactive framework that is adaptable for application in the science community, breeding companies and (inter)national policy makers. The aim is to enable professionals to reflect upon and address the societal dimensions of livestock breeding at a practical level. Building reflexivity to societal concerns into the process of breeding innovations in livestock will aid the responsible development of the technology in ways that help embed future applications in society. It will build upon existing tools.