

# **The costs and benefits of animal welfare**

**What is animal welfare?**

**What do we mean by costs?**

**What do we mean by benefits?**

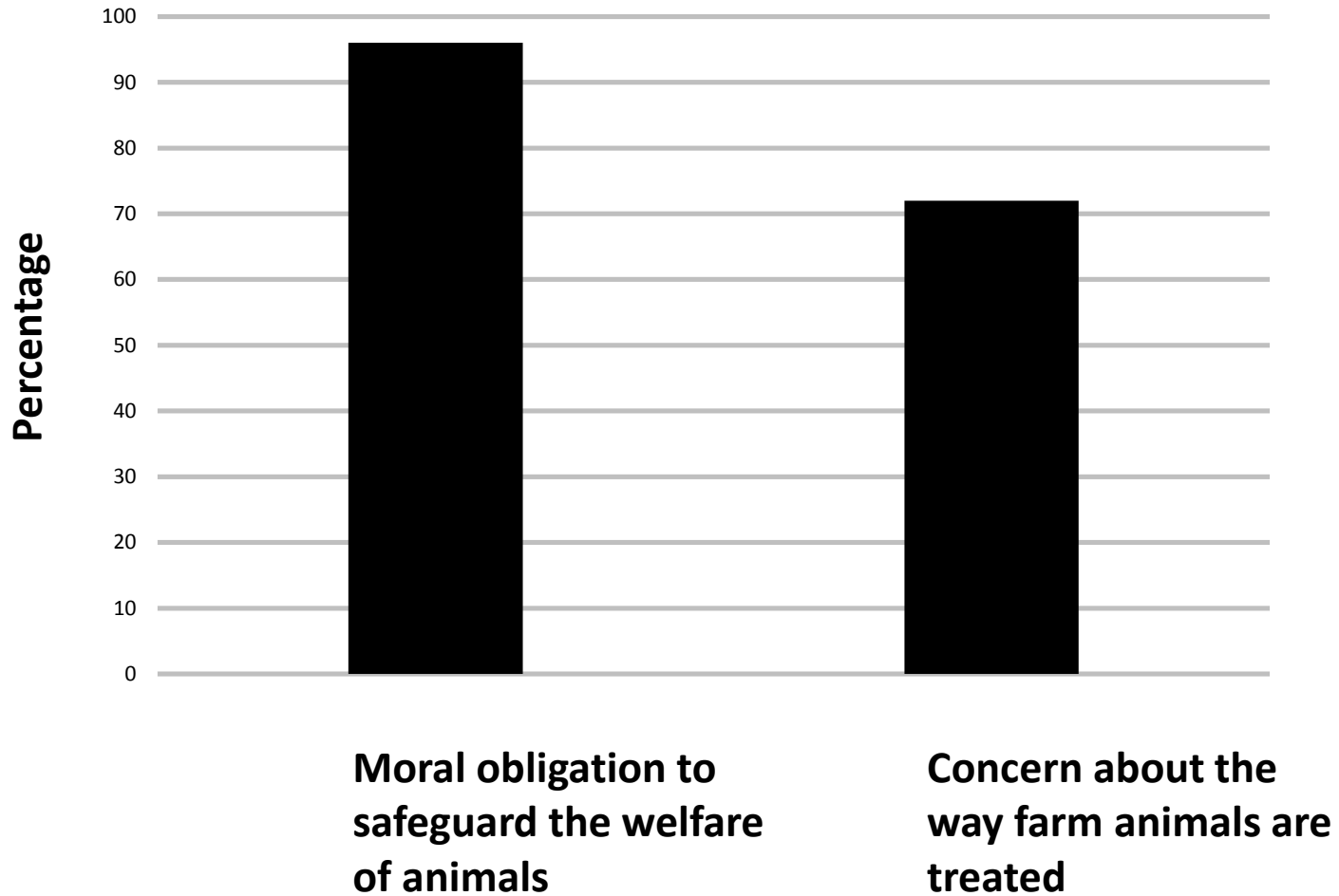


# Conceptual Frameworks for Animal Welfare

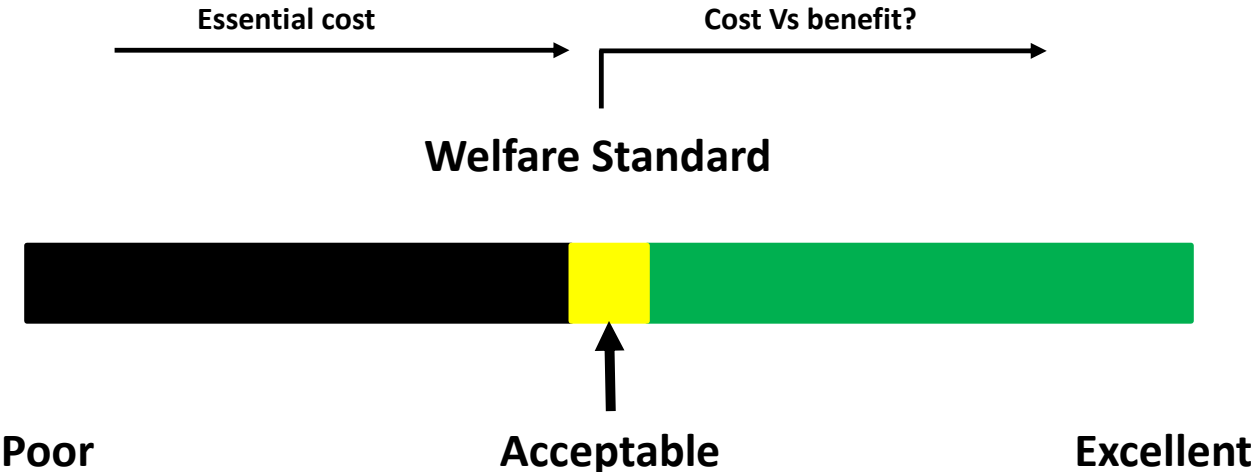
**Naturalness – expression of normal or “natural” behaviours**

**Biological functioning**

**Affective states - mental functioning**



# What is the current standard of farm animal welfare?



# **Benefits**

**The welfare of the animal**

**Productivity**

# The welfare of the animal

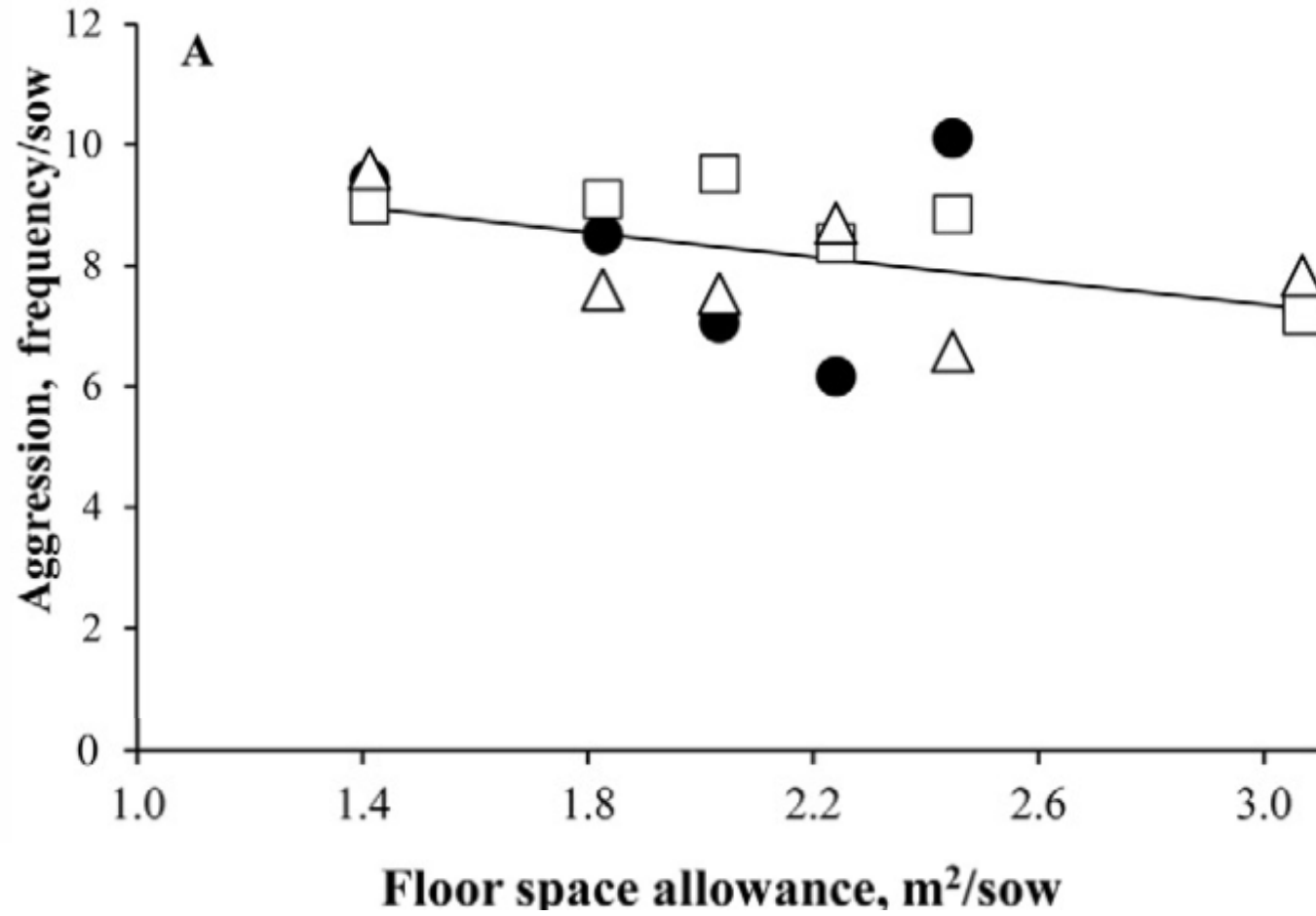




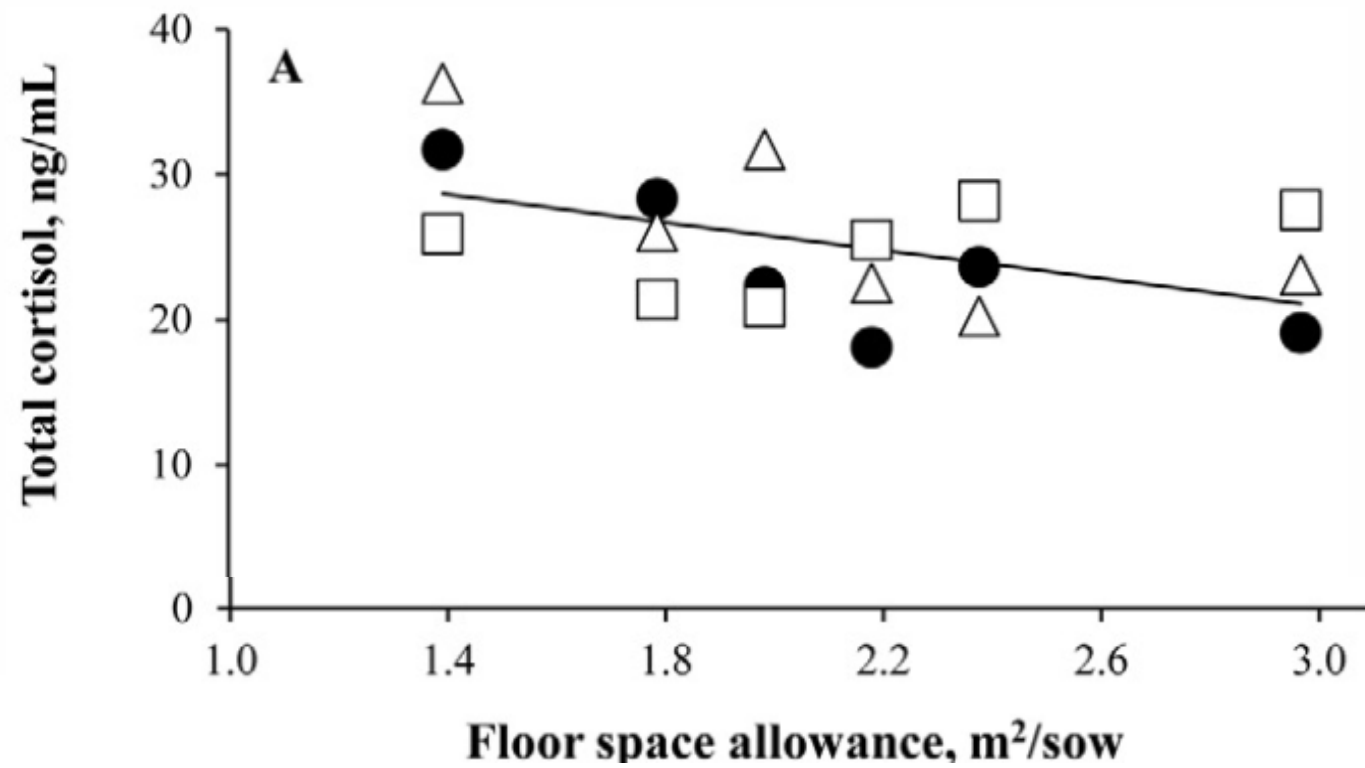


**Increase the floor space per sow**

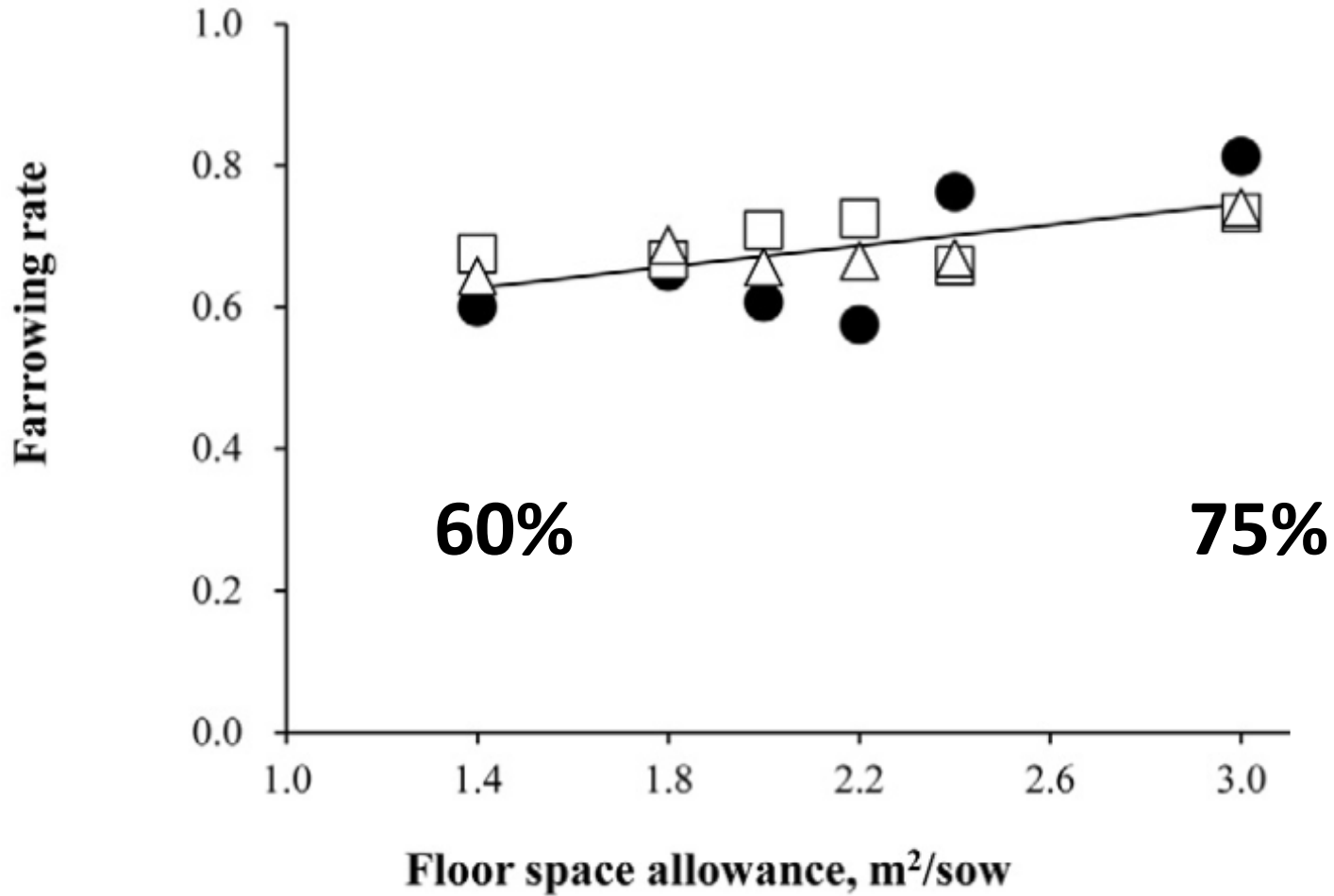
**1.4 m<sup>2</sup>/sow —————> 3.0 m<sup>2</sup>/sow**







# Productivity



# FEATHER PECKING



# FEATHER PECKING

Pain

Threats

Poor feathering → ↓ Feed conversion

Cost of egg production ↑ 7-12%

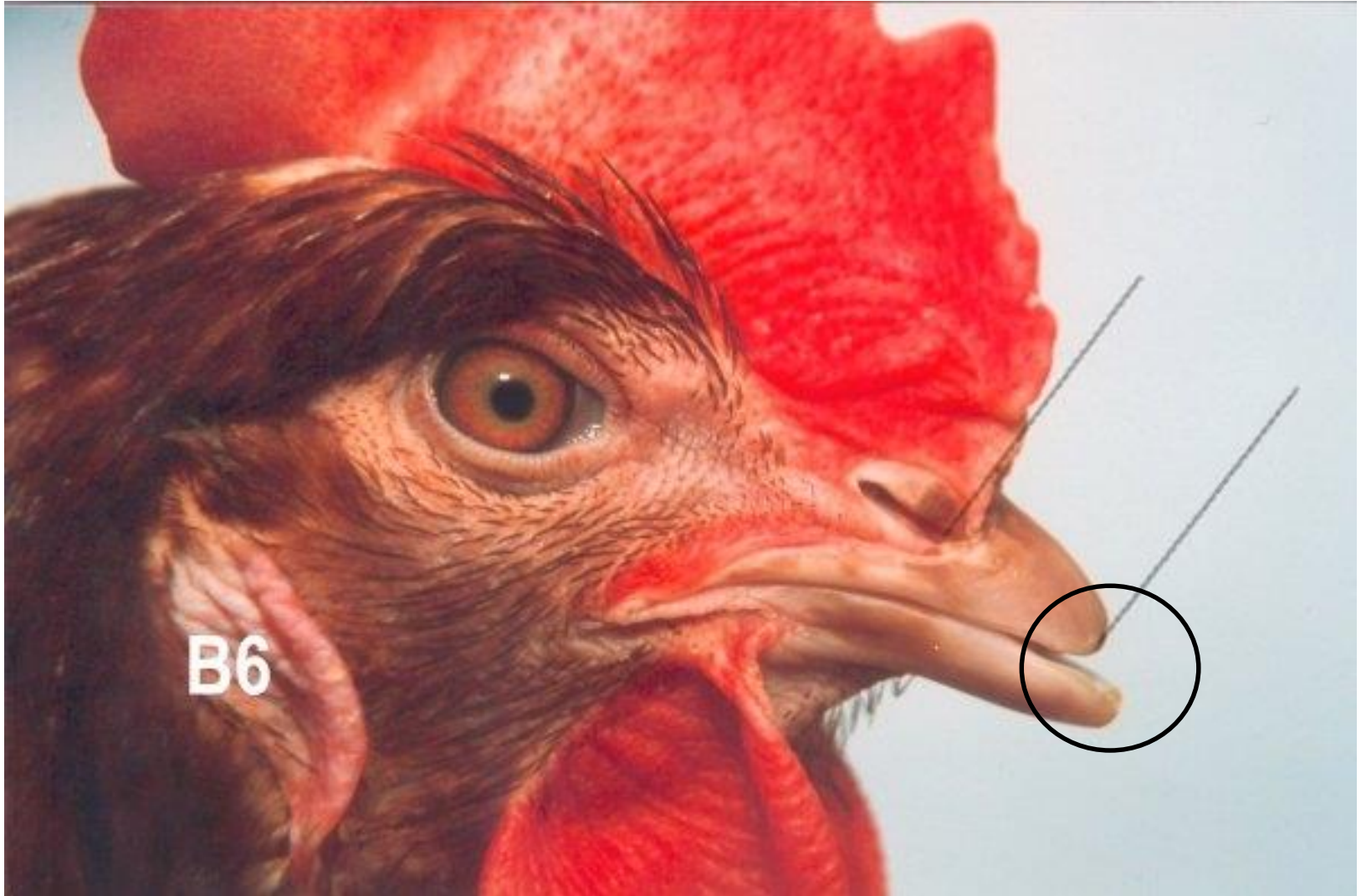
Cannibalism → Mortality  
25-30% of flock



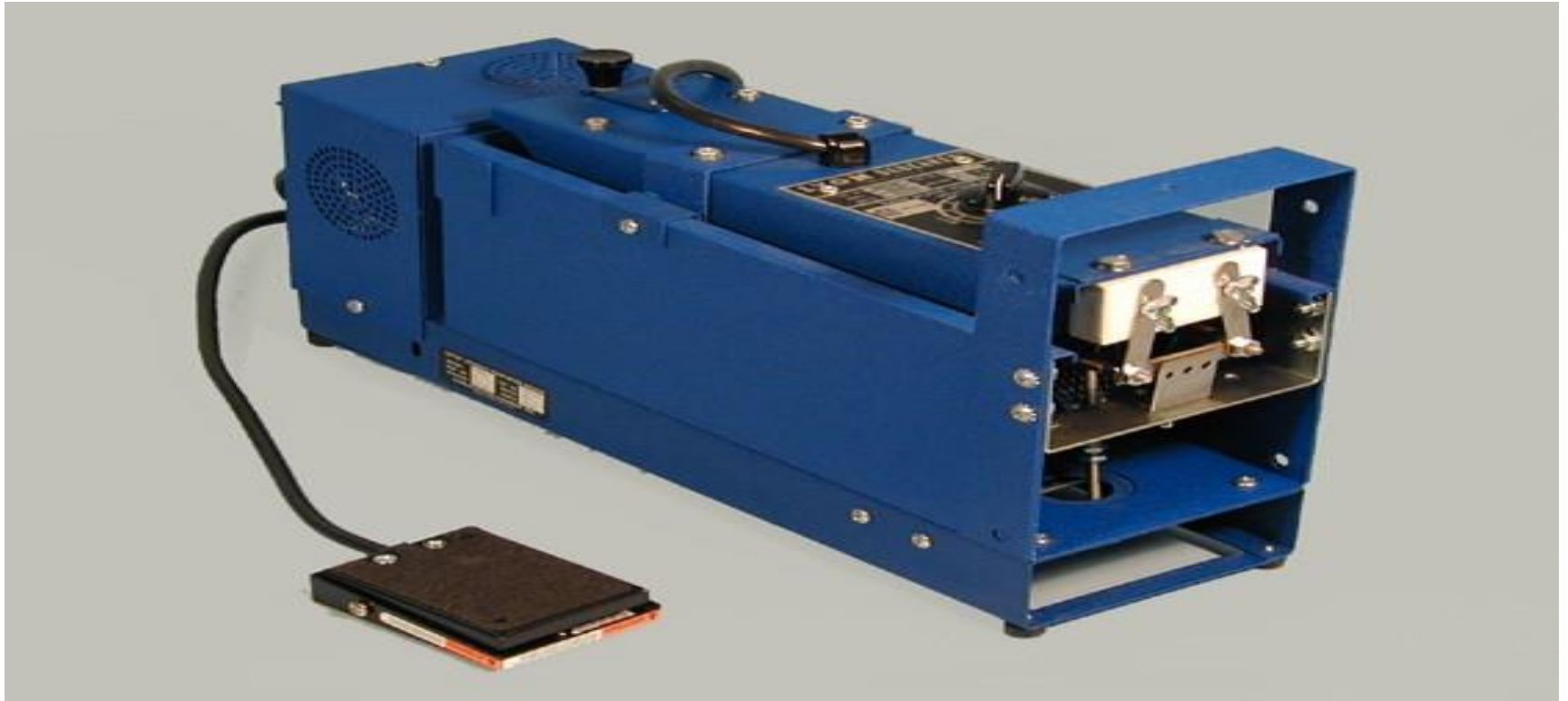
# CANNIBALISM



# Beak trimming/tipping



# HOT BLADE BEAK TRIMMING





# Nova-Tech infrared



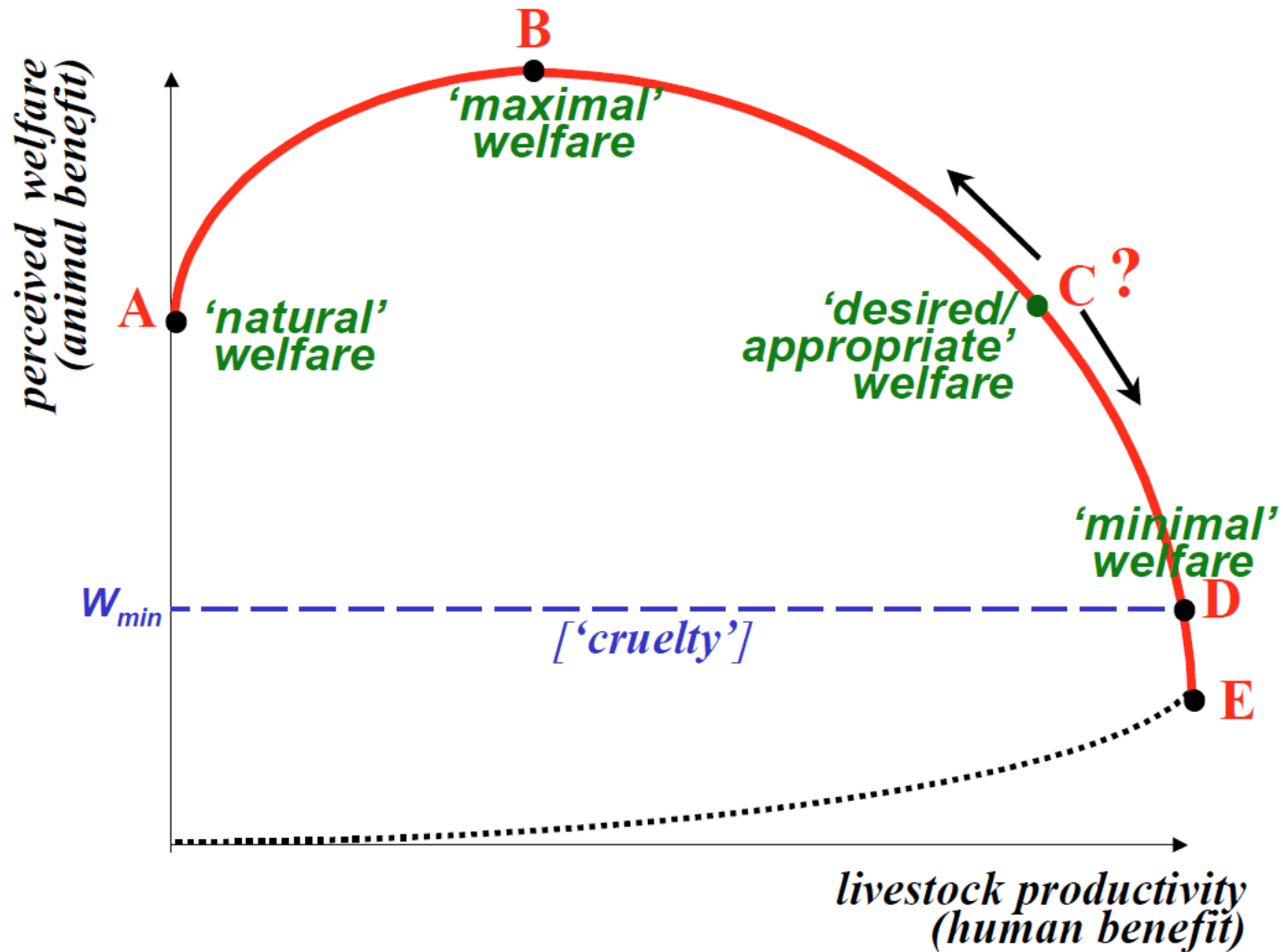
**FEATHER PECKING**

**CANNIBALISM**

**100,000 birds**

**\$240,000 saved**

# Conflicts between animal welfare and productivity



**Table 1. Estimated impacts on final food prices of selected policy changes which have an animal welfare impact**

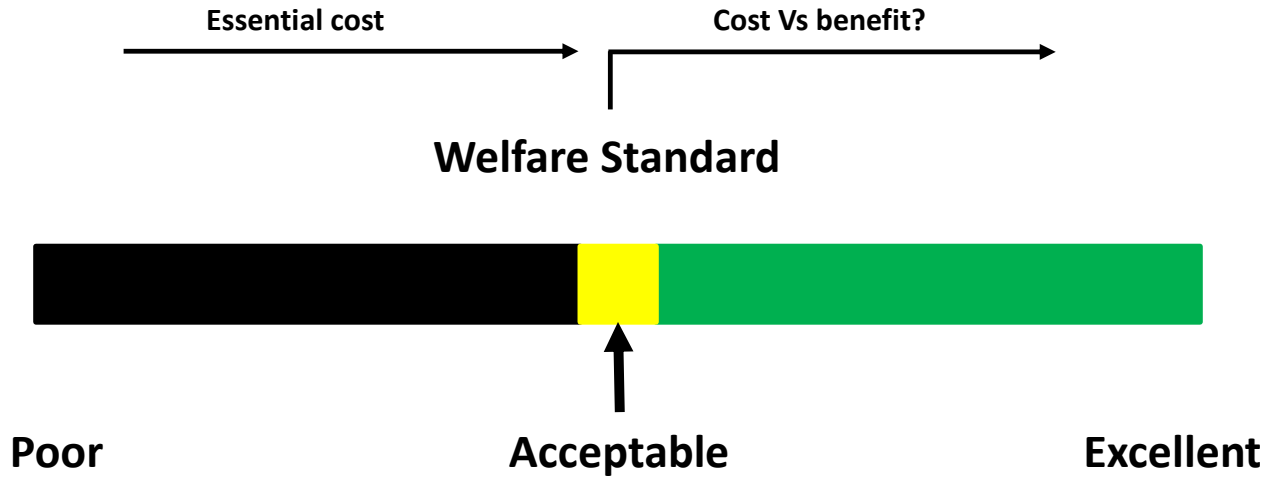
WELFARE CHANGE	Estimated effect on livestock production costs (%)	Effect at retail level		Impact on weekly food expenditures	
		Commodity	Price change (%)	Pence per person	% of total food budget
Introduce BST	-8	Liquid milk	-2.56	-2.27	-0.17
		Cheese	-1.92	+0.27	+0.02
Ban hormones	+4	Beef	+1.44	-0.57	-0.04
Limit transport times to 8 hours	+3	All carcass meat	+1.14	-0.47	-0.04
Ban sow tethers and crates	+5	Pork	+1.9	-0.43	-0.03
		Bacon & ham	+1.3	+0.06	-
Ban broiler systems	+30	Poultry meat	+13.2	+3.6	+0.27
Ban battery cages	+28	Eggs	+17.9	+2.87	+0.22

Any percentage rise in production cost at the farm → 0.25% rise in retail food prices

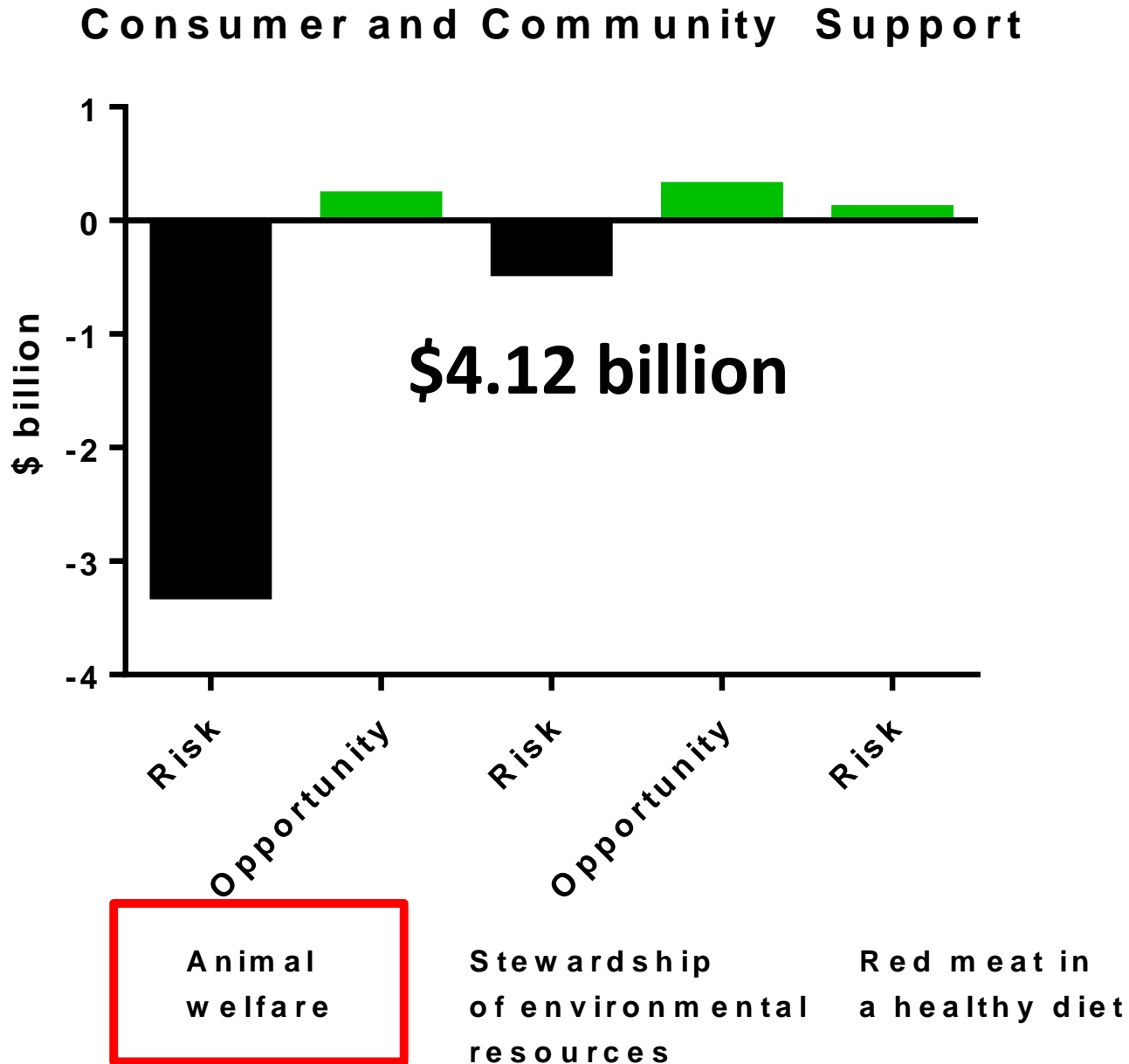
**Table 2 Mean ( $\pm$  SD) WTP for a one point increase in welfare (£).**

	<b>Increase in monthly meat expenditure</b>	<b>Increase in annual meat expenditure</b>
Beef/cattle welfare	0.437 ( $\pm$ 0.652)	5.24
Pork/pig welfare	0.381 ( $\pm$ 0.479)	4.57
Chicken/ chicken welfare	0.425 ( $\pm$ 0.527)	5.10

# What is the standard of farm animal welfare?



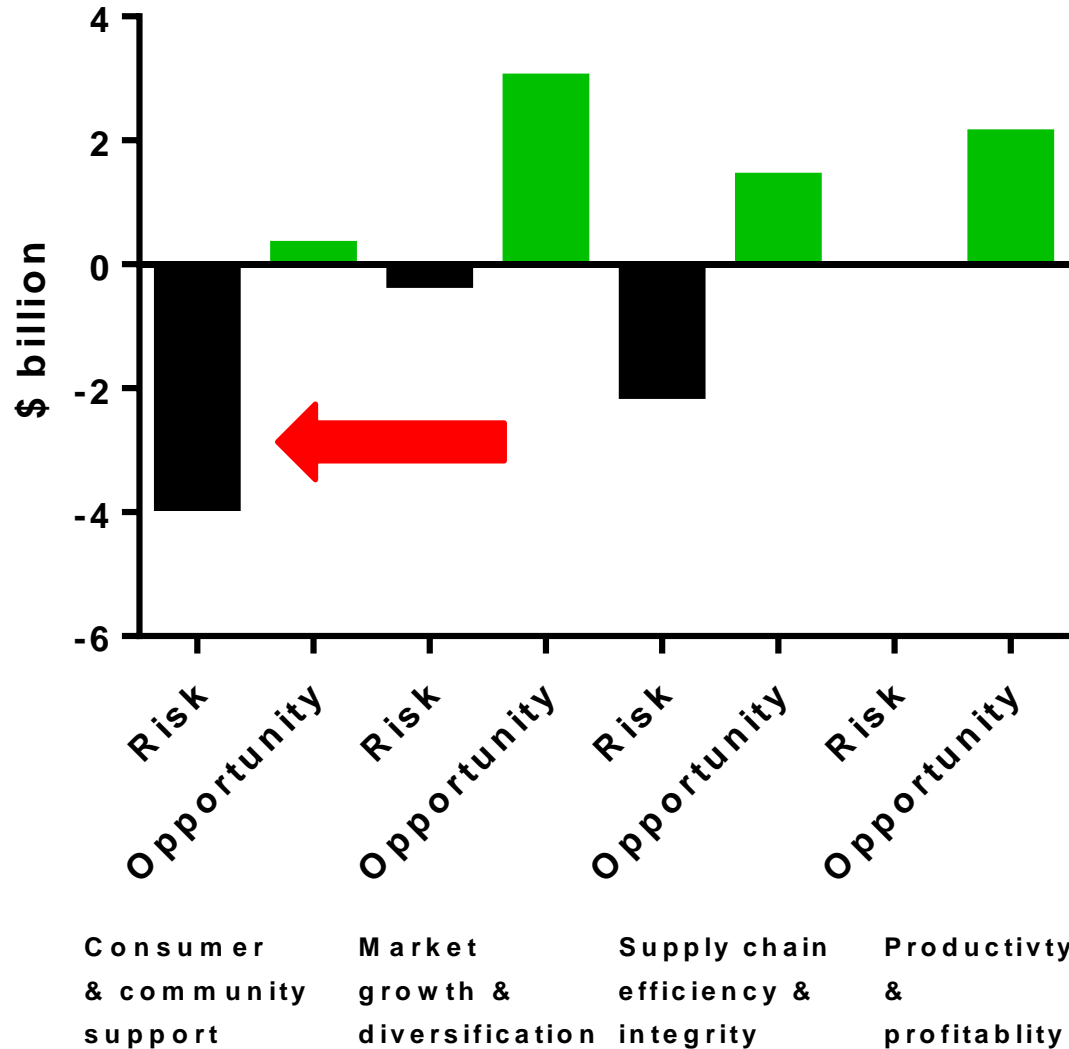
# Australian Red Meat Industry risks and opportunities to 2030



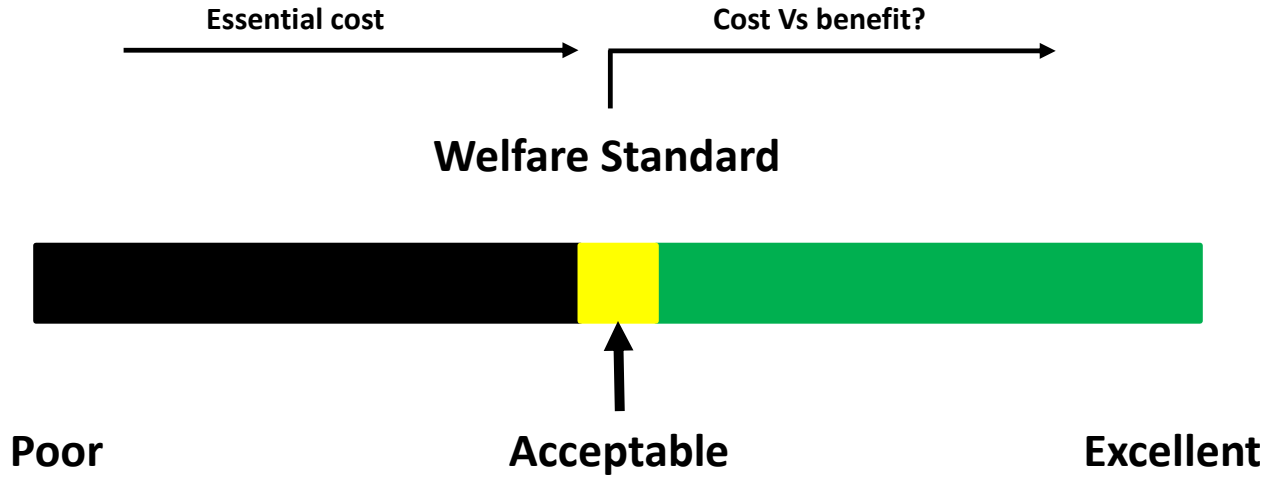


# Australian Red Meat Industry

Forecast value of risks and opportunities to 2030



# What is the standard of farm animal welfare?



# **Australian National Animal Welfare Research, Development and Extension Strategy**

- **Beef**
- **Chicken meat**
- **Dairy**
- **Eggs**
- **Live export**
- **Pork**
- **Processing**
- **Sheep meat**
- **Wool**

# **Australian National Animal Welfare Research, Development and Extension Steering Committee**

## **Research Funders**

- **Australian Egg Corporation Ltd**
- **Australian Pork Limited**
- **Australian Meat Processor Corporation**
- **Australian Wool Innovation**
- **Dairy Australia**
- **Livecorp**
- **Meat & Livestock Australia**
- **Rural Industries R&D Corporation Chicken meat**

## **Research Providers**

- **CSIRO**
- **DAFF Queensland**
- **Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Victoria**
- **Murdoch University**
- **South Australian Research and Development Institute**
- **The University of Adelaide**
- **The University of Melbourne**
- **The University of Queensland**
- **The University of Western Australia**

# Benefits to South Australia of high quality animal welfare

Premium food and wine from our clean environment:

- Ethical production of high quality safe food
- Increased consumer recognition
- Market protection
- Food industry growth
  
- *Build our brand*
- *Grow our capacity*
- *Secure production*

