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Animal health & welfare: a solution from the Industry
90' minutes conference, Brussels, 18 February 2009
17h30 – 19h00

Lime contributes to improved animal health and welfare. Treatment with lime greatly improves the bio security at farm level by elevating the pH of surfaces and material to a level which inactivates most diseases. As a result lime treatments help prevent the arrival of diseases on farms – such as avian flu, foot and mouth disease, African swine fever etc. If diseases are already present, it minimises the risk of them spreading elsewhere. This treatment is environmentally friendly as lime is transformed into calcium carbonate (substance naturally present in the earth) by recapturing atmospheric carbon dioxide after its disinfection action.

A scientific study presented by Institut Pasteur de Lille at Bangkok in 2008 shows that H5N1 virus is inactivated by lime within 5 minutes.

This quick inactivation of H5N1 virus by lime and the rapid global availability of this disinfectant will help in the fight against avian influenza epidemics and therefore prevent them from becoming pandemics.

To contribute to these objectives and for the improvement of animal and human health, a group of EuLA experts have summarized in the Practical Guidelines manual the existing scientific and field experiences on the application of lime in animal hygiene.

A discussion should start to get further information about practical and scientific experiences in different countries so that the manual can be continuously improved.

In order to achieve this target, EuLA asks all stakeholders concerned in animal health and welfare for their support in implementing the lime practical guidelines, so that the Animal Health Strategy of the EU-Commission can be supported actively and a fast and correct reaction can take place in the case of an epidemic outbreak.

EuLA would therefore welcome for this scientific information and Guidelines to be incorporated onto the websites of the European and global organisations.