

Farmyard research under the radar: are the 3Rs being used?

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Research with farm animals

- Intensive experiments with few animals
- Large scale farm-situation-like experiments
- Field research on farms



Norwegian University of Life Sciences

The university farm runs herds of:

Dairy cows

Dairy goats

Sheep

Pigs

Fur animals

In addition: A limited number of horses

Fields of research

- Animal breeding and genetics
 - The dairy cow herd is a selection experiment
 - Two lines: High protein yield and low mastitis frequency
 - Most research based on records from national data bases

Fields of research

- Nutrition and feeding
 - Intensive experiments with fistulated cows and horses



- Medium and large scale feeding experiments







Fistulated horses



Cows with outfit for recording of methane



Fields of research

- Ethology
 - Observations of behaviour both indoors and outdoors
 - Testing of alternative ways of keeping animals
 - Measurements as indicators of welfare



CT used to estimate body composition of live animals

Some examples:



Our attitude to the 3Rs?



No, it is more like this!





Thank you!