

Online Survey

PhD Project: Animal Activism & the Farmed Agricultural Sector in BC

1. On a scale ranging from 1 (lowest level) to 5 (highest level), how much of a priority is animal welfare for you?
1 2 3 4 5
2. When it comes to animal rights activism, what has been your experience?
 - a. Negative
 - b. Somewhat negative
 - c. Somewhat positive
 - d. Positive
3. How many direct encounters have you had with animal activists?
 - a. None
 - b. A handful (1 to 5)
 - c. Several (6 to 10)
 - d. A lot (over 10)
4. How many indirect encounters have you had with animal activists?
 - a. None
 - b. A handful (1 to 5)
 - c. Several (6 to 10)
 - d. A lot (over 10)
5. Have you taken measures to help reduce the threat of animal activism?
 - a. No
 - b. Yes
6. Over time, has your perspective on animal rights activism changed?
 - a. Certainly, in a negative way
 - b. Somewhat, in a negative way
 - c. Has not changed
 - d. Somewhat, in a positive way
 - e. Certainly, in a positive way
7. What can be done practically to address your concerns about animal rights activism?
8. Given that individuals have the right to free speech, how do you feel about indirect activities of animal rights activists against your industry (e.g., petitions and/or boycotts)?
9. Given that everyone has a right to protest, what generally constitutes as “acceptable action”?
10. How accurate is the depiction of your industry by animal activists?
 - a. Not at all accurate
 - b. Somewhat inaccurate
 - c. Somewhat accurate
 - d. Accurate
11. What do you consider to be the main depiction of your industry that is inaccurate from animal activists, if any (N/A if none)?
12. How accurate is the portrayal of your industry by mainstream media?
 - a. Inaccurate
 - b. Somewhat inaccurate
 - c. Somewhat accurate
 - d. Accurate

13. What do you consider to be the main portrayal of your industry that is inaccurate from the media, if any (N/A if none)?
14. Do you feel the media tends to be supportive or adversarial toward your industry?
- Adversarial
 - Somewhat adversarial
 - Somewhat supportive
 - Supportive
15. In their public pronouncements and materials, animal activists have made a number of demands on the Farmed Agricultural Sector. On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 1 being “Completely unreasonable” and 4 being “Completely reasonable”), how would you characterize the following demands? ...
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| i. Regulations on animal welfare | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ii. Increase pen size | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| iii. Stopping the use of electric prods | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| iv. Timely treatment of injury & disease | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| v. Reducing transport times | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| vi. Eliminate unnatural ¹ conditions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| vii. End farmed animal agriculture | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| viii. End speciesism ² | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
16. *Bill 35* was created following the protest at Excelsior Hog Farm in 2019. Effectively, it amended the word “premises” under the *Trespass Act* (2018) to protect BC’s farmed agricultural industry by making it an offence to enter land and buildings (permanent or portable) designed/used for, or that shelters, livestock without authorization. In your opinion, how effective has *Bill 35* been?
- Not at all
 - Rarely
 - Somewhat
 - Extremely
17. How, if at all, has *Bill 35* been effective?
18. In your opinion, what are the main risks with animal rights activists trespassing on your property or interfering with your operation?
19. Are there potentially negative effects on the farm animals?
- Never
 - Sometimes
 - Usually
 - Always
20. Are there any concerns about disease transmission?
- Never
 - Sometimes
 - Usually
 - Always

¹ This has been defined as intensive confinement systems that animals of basic behavioural and physical needs (Winnipeg Humane Society, 2021).

² According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (2021), this is a human-supremacist worldview. It “enables the unjust mass torture and killing of nonhuman animals and the blatant disregard for their home and habit – our planet” (Direct Action Everywhere, 2020, para. 3).

21. Are there concerns about agroterrorism (i.e., intentional introduction of foreign pathogens to cause disease and devastate the agricultural sector)?

- a. No
- b. Yes

Please note any additional comments about animal rights activism:

Background information – please select all that apply

Industry:	<input type="checkbox"/> Beef	<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy	<input type="checkbox"/> Goat
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Poultry	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheep
Stage:	<input type="checkbox"/> Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Abattoir
For the Producers – In your opinion, what is the size of your farm?			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Small	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Large
			<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Region:	<input type="checkbox"/> Vancouver Island-Coast	<input type="checkbox"/> Lower Mainland-Southwest	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Thompson-Okanagan	<input type="checkbox"/> Kootenay	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cariboo-Central	<input type="checkbox"/> North Coast	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Peace River North East	<input type="checkbox"/> Nechako	
# of years in the industry:	<input type="checkbox"/> less than 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 to 15
			<input type="checkbox"/> over 15

Thank you for your time.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please feel free to contact me at edith_wu@sfu.ca

References

- Direct Action Everywhere. (2020). Until every animal is free. Retrieved January 28, 2021, from: <https://www.directactioneverywhere.com/>
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. (2021). About PETA. Retrieved January 30, 2021, from: <https://www.peta.org/about-peta/>
- Trespass Act*, RSBC 2018, c. 3.
- Winnipeg Humane Society. (2021). Farm animal welfare. Retrieved January 28, 2021, from: <https://www.winnipeghumanesociety.ca/animal-issues/farm-animal-welfare/>