

Participative monitoring of the welfare of veal calves

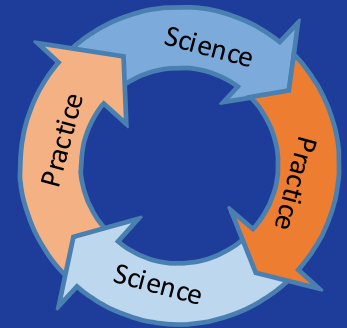
Vincent Pompe,

Marko Ruis.

Animal Welfare Group,

VHL University of Applied Sciences

EAAP 2015

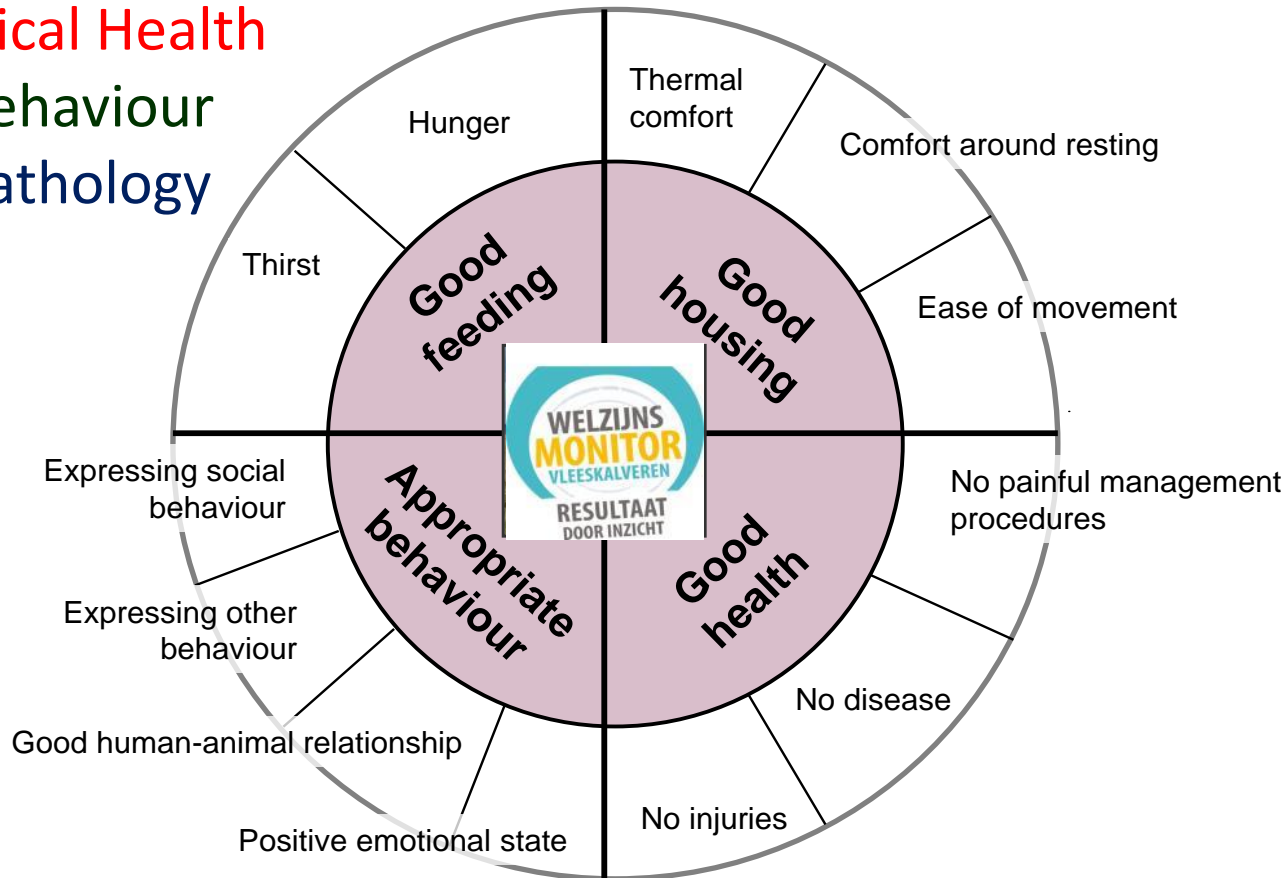


Welfare Quality Veal Calves

Clinical Health

Behaviour

Pathology

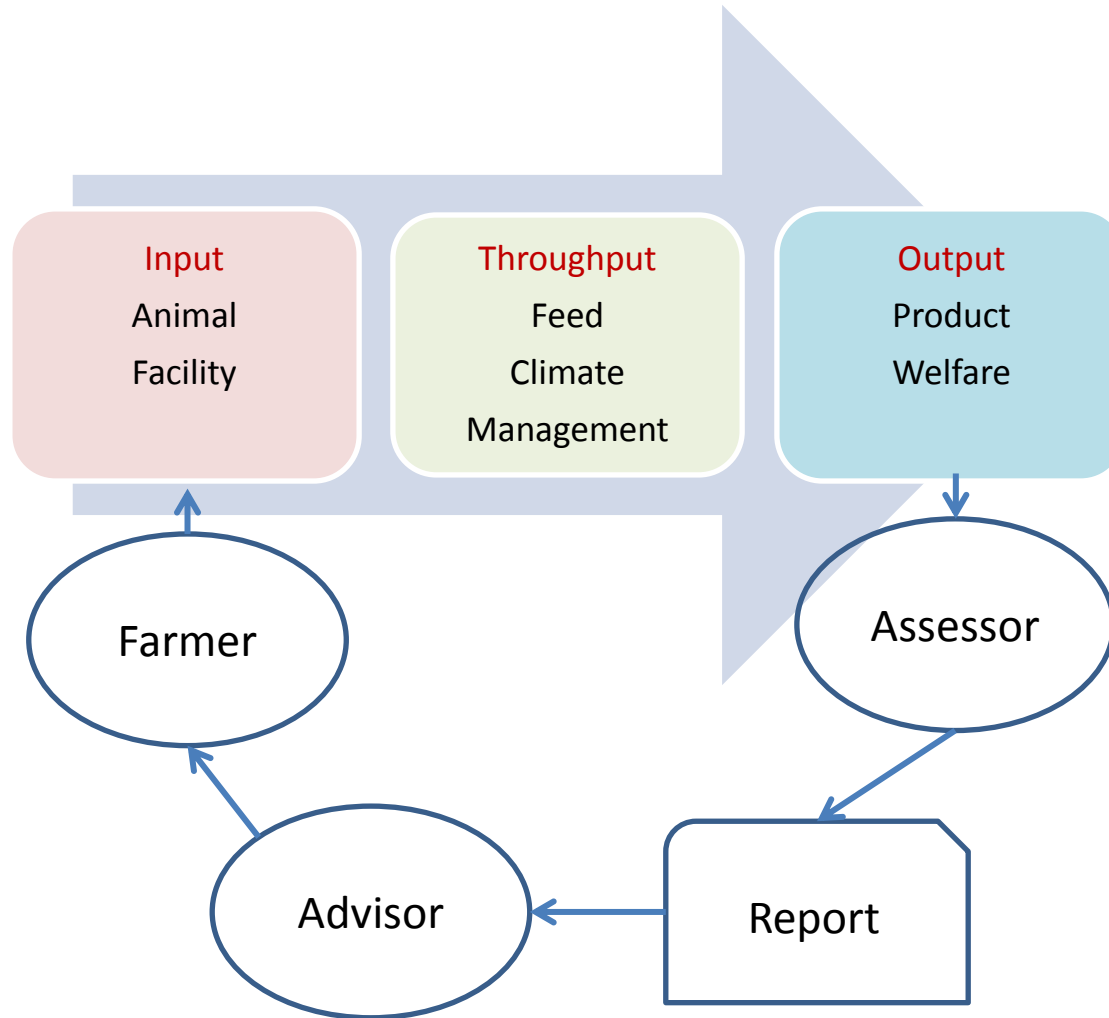


Animal based
Welfare Monitoring
Veal calves

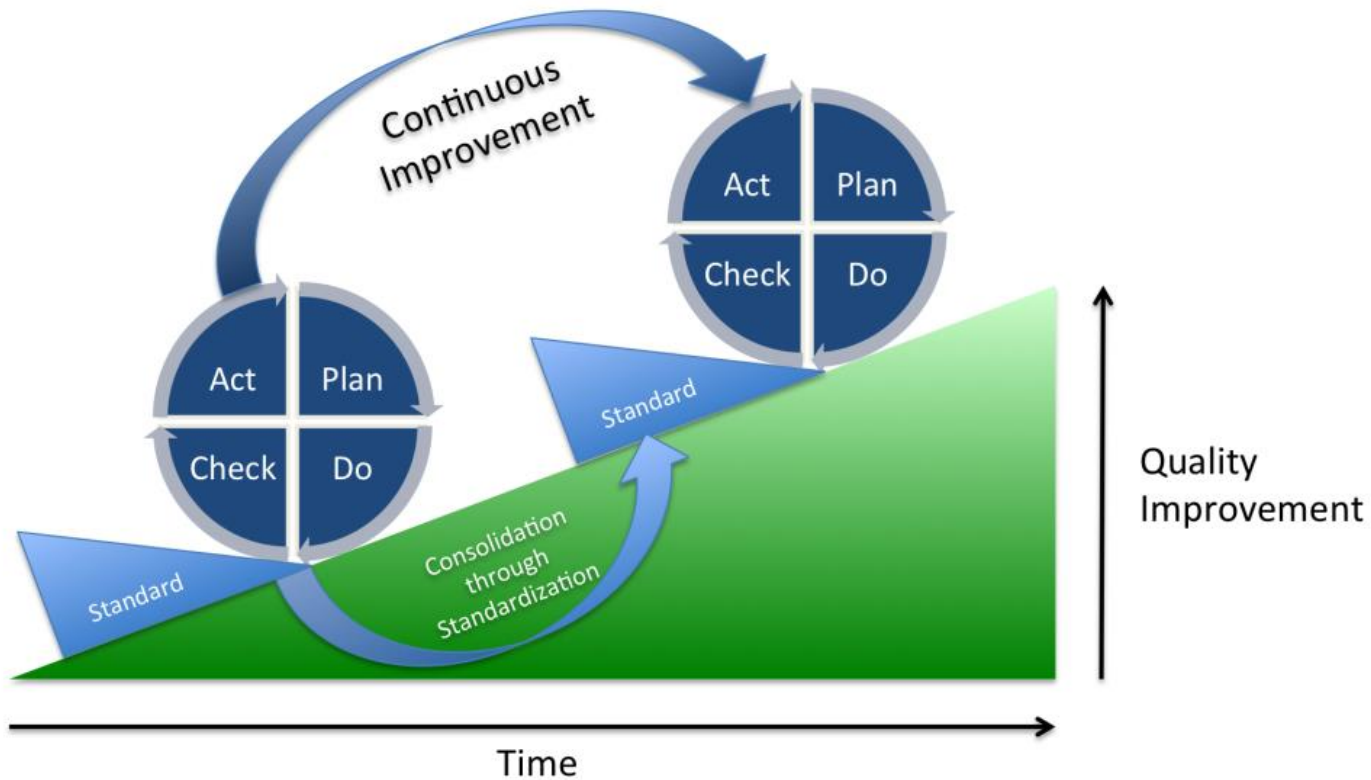
Health +
Behaviour
On the farm

Pathology
Slaughter house

Tested on 65 farms for improvement



Still in progress



The Issue

- Survey amongst veal calves farmers shows
 - the implementation of Welfare Quality counters mixed opinions



Onderzoeksrapport

*Luisterend naar de praktijk:
Keukentafelgesprekken
rondom kwaliteit en
acceptatie Welzijnsmonitor
Vleeskalveren*

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General conclusion survey

- The survey (21 in-depth interviews) indicates
 - Sector
 - There is overall positive expectations of the welfare monitor for the veal sector: **transparency**
 - Farm
 - There are reservations about the success at farm level. Business revenues are not in view: **financially and practically**
 - Audit & Science
 - Farmers' doubt about some audit criteria, specially regarding the behaviour. In some aspects science appears to be too remote, hard to follow: **reliability and validity**

SBK | Stichting
Brancheorganisatie
Kalvesector

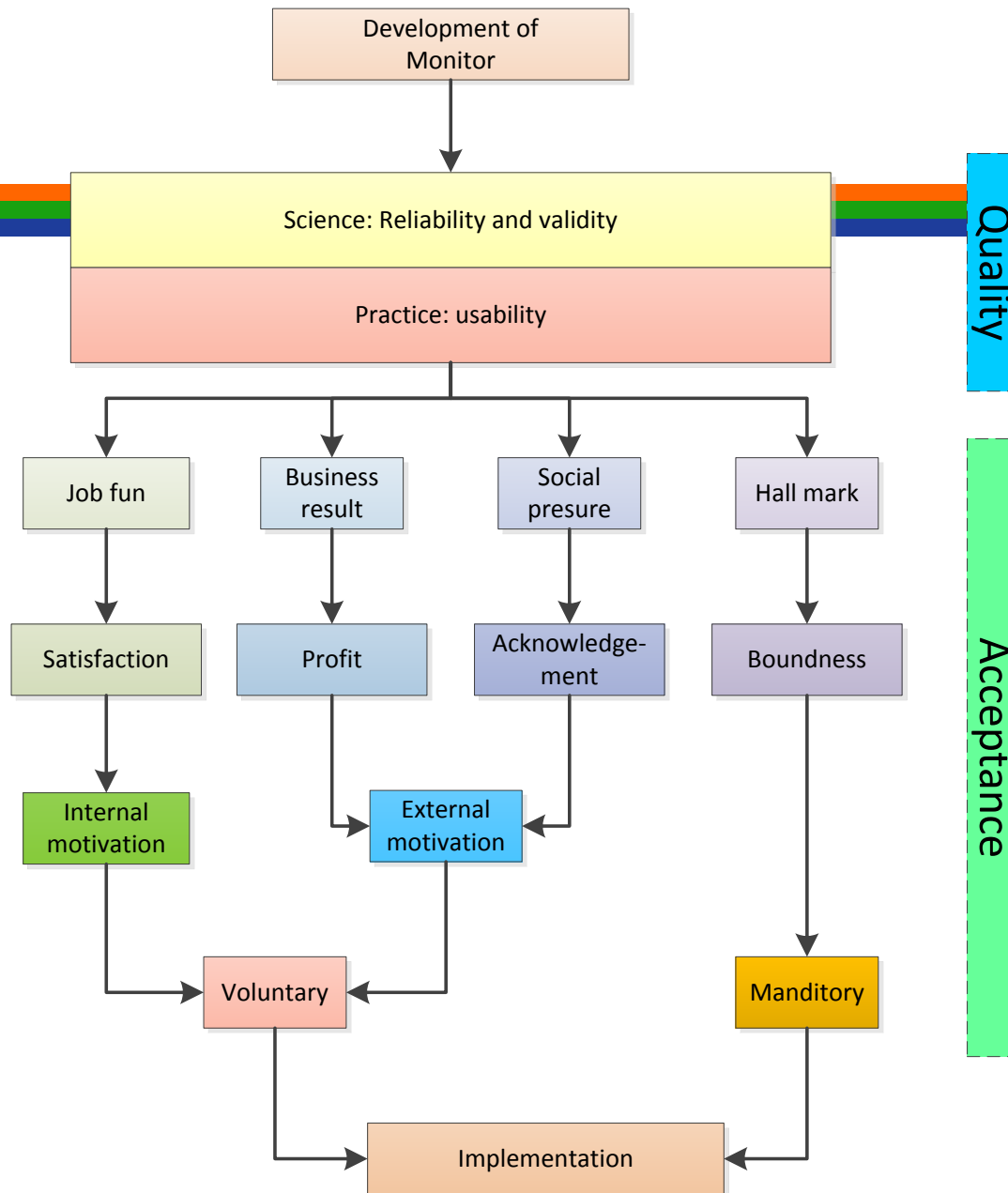


Key is $E=Q*A$

- Effect = Quality (science) * Acceptance (farmers)
- $E=Q*A$ means
 - understanding the roles of the farmer: entrepreneur, livestock keeper and stockman
 - understanding the dialectic of science – practice: methodological thoroughness vs practical relevance

$$E=Q*A$$

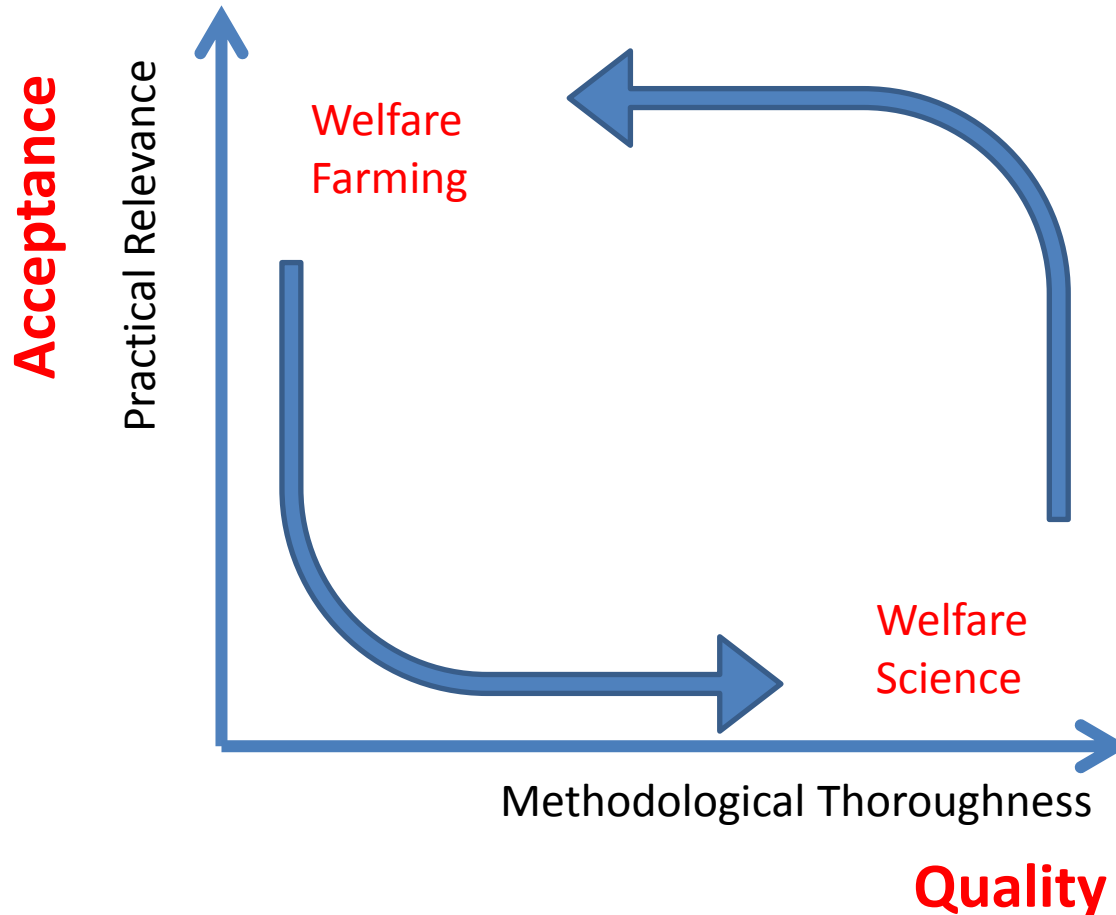
Effect =
Quality * Acceptance



Better understanding of the roles of the farmer

Based on:
N. Aarts,
C. Van Woerkum,
2010

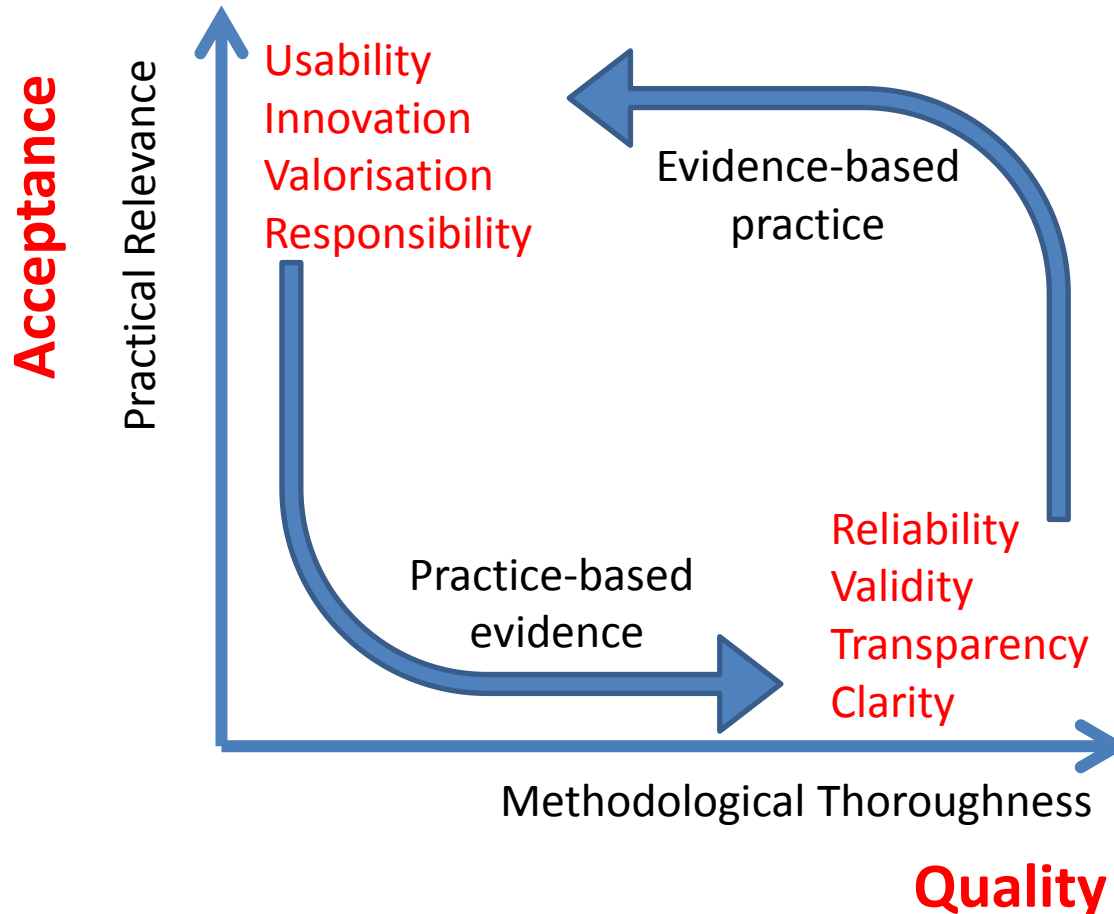
Dialectic of science - practice



Flow of
implementation

*Based on:
Andriessen (2014)*

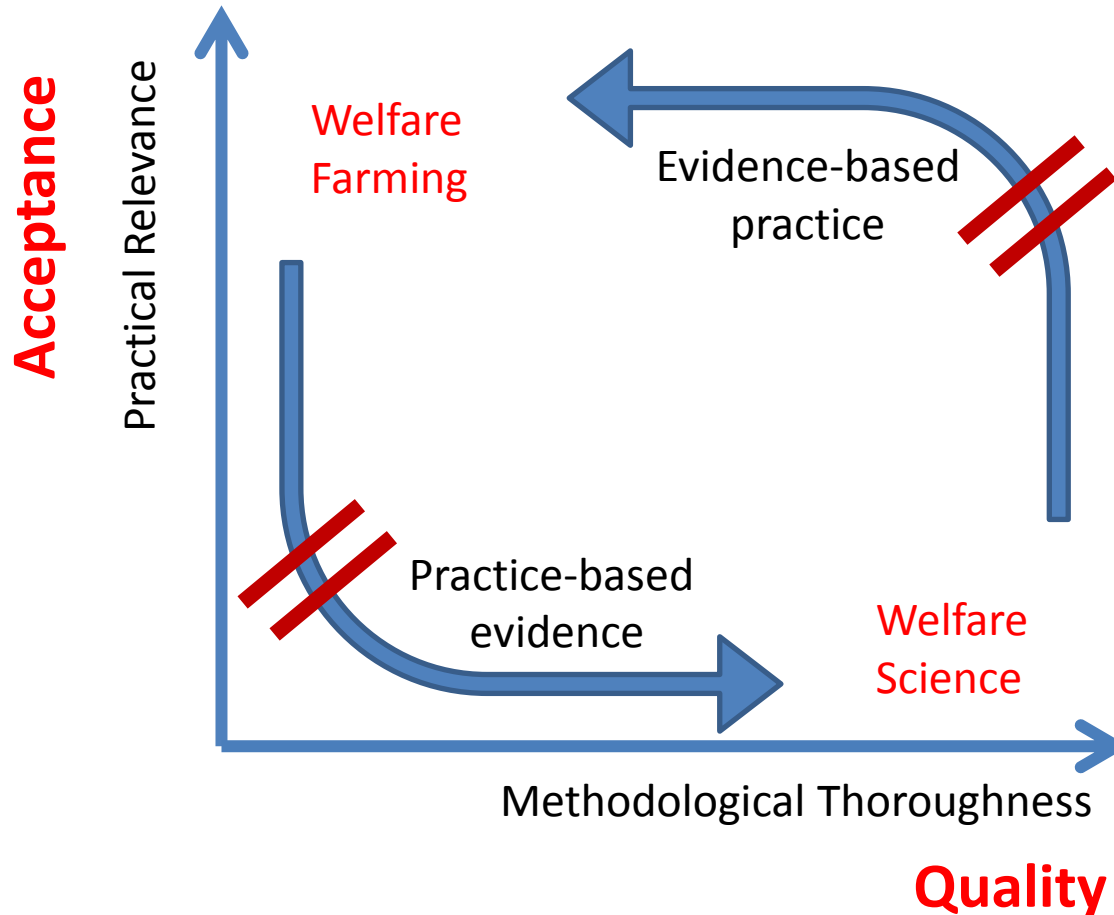
Dialectic of science - practice



Science aims at
knowledge
Empirical
Cycle

Practice aims at
change
PDCA

Dialectic of science - practice



The flow of
Welfare Quality
is problematic

EBP
Clinical proof
Efficacy

PBE
Success
Effectiveness

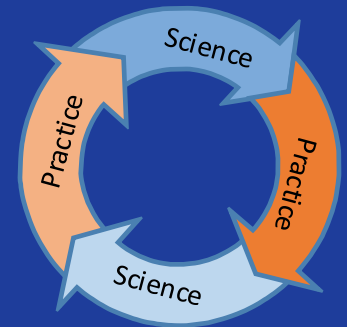
Conclusion Dialectic

- Welfare science: too focused on methodology, not always seeing the relevance
- Welfare farming: too focused on relevance, underestimating the generic power of science
- **It is a common in most animal sectors (if not all)**



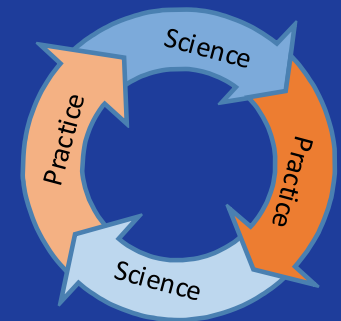
Smarter transfer science ↔ practice

- Search for **Room for Manoeuvre**
 - Challenge the common pattern
 - Co-create the new
- Participatory monitoring is a way to close the gap
 - Methodology – Relevance
 - Quality – Acceptance

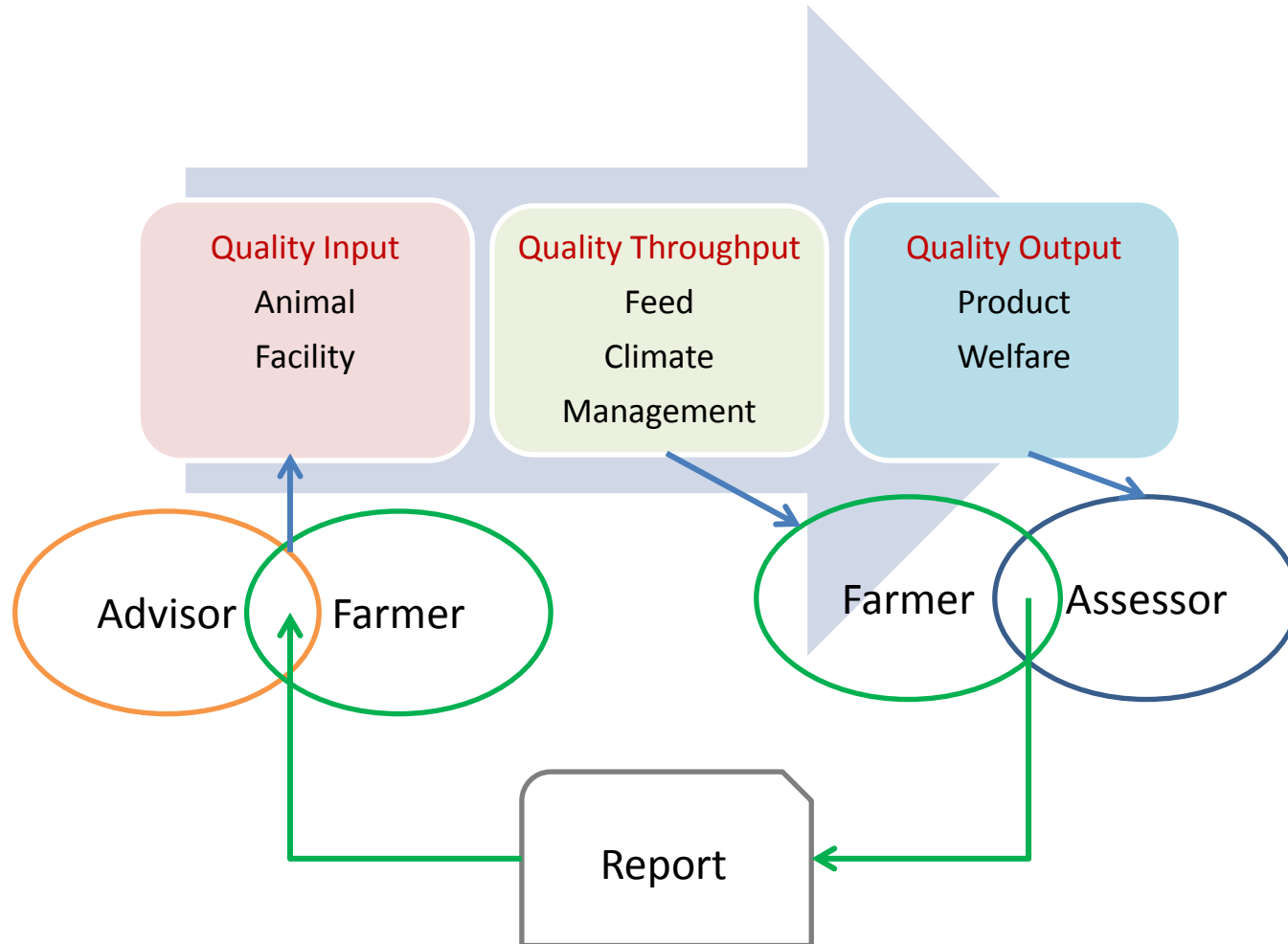


Participatory Model

- Basics
 - Farmers' participation in defining welfare aspect
 - Coexistence of the farmer's observation with that of the welfare assessor (science).
- Benefits
 - Farmers will get more involved in science: **learning in methodology**
 - Science will be encourage to enrich, refine or reduce welfare indicators: **learning in relevance**.



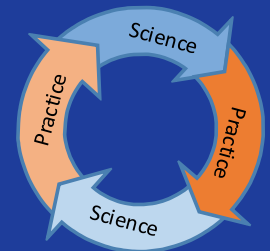
Participatory Assessment



Interactive

Interpretative

Objective+
Subjective



Participative monitoring

- WQ assessment protocol stays formal and objective
- Farmer's observation and opinion will be taken into report
- Science can see when observations and interpretations are challenged and take actions
 - Explaining further the meaning of the protocol
 - Modifying the protocol

Not debating
on the farm

but

taking notice
of ones
perspective

New Move in WQ implementation

- Effect = Quality * Acceptance
 - more interactive / less sequential
- Science is part of the PDCA
 - Farmers' ownership of welfare monitoring
 - Science's continuation in data valorisation and new data gathering
- Special manager/director to guard the flow

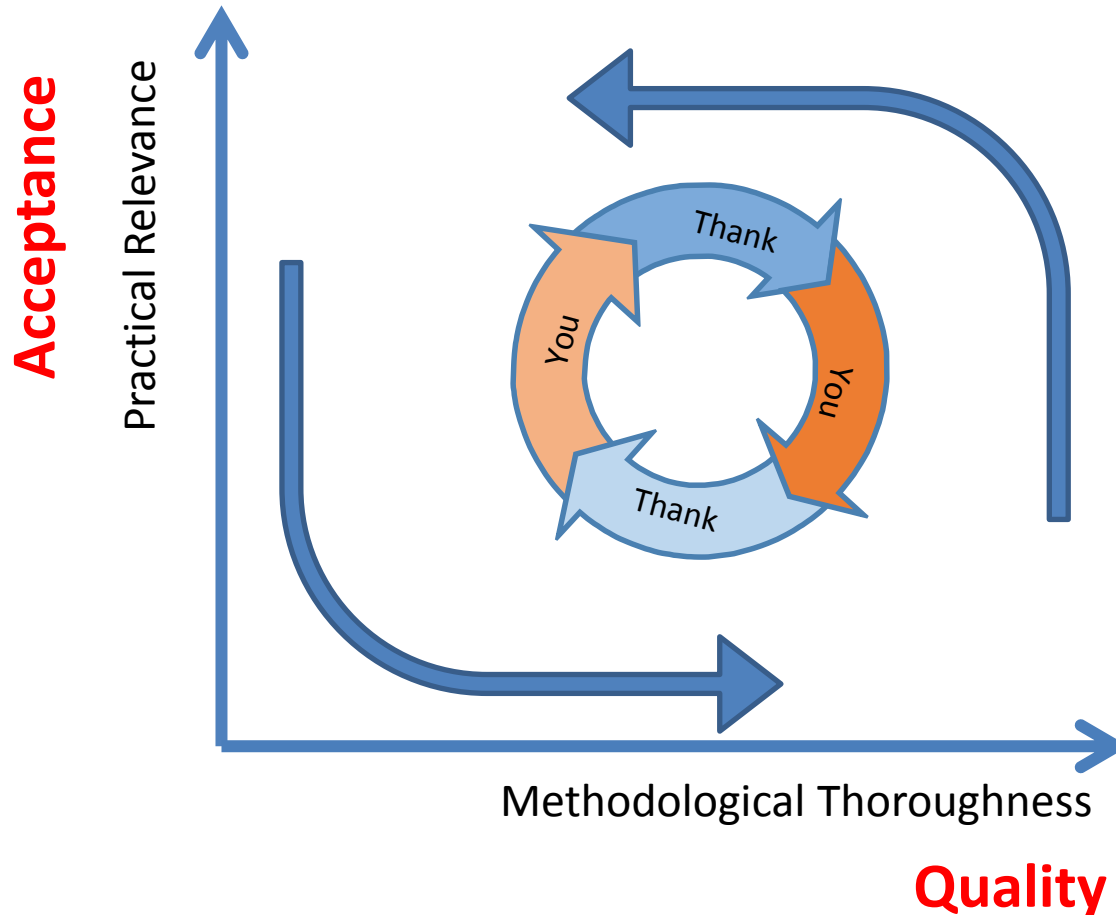


Next step for science

- More awareness and discussion about smarter interaction science- practice
- Creating 'labs' to experiment
 - Young farmers and young scientist
 - No fixed protocols on animal based welfare



Participative monitoring of the welfare



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