CHALLENGES AND ADVANCES IN POULTRY WELFARE

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Worldwide, the production and industrialization of poultry meat and eggs are increasing to meet the continually growing global demand for food. Concurrently, there is increased focus on agricultural sustainability and increasing public interest in animal welfare. Public interest has, in part, lead to changes in poultry housing and management, which impact agricultural sustainability and animal welfare. The resulting changes in housing and management lead to both poultry welfare challenges and opportunities. Some of these challenges, such as heat stress and disease are not new, but are becoming increasingly problematic as world production and climate change, while other challenges related to evolving housing systems, such as parasites and abnormal behavior, present new management challenges. Recent advances in technology and animal welfare science show great promise for monitoring and identifying poultry welfare challenges. In this presentation, the main welfare issues of poultry will be discussed as well as examples of how current research is addressing these issues using various technological approaches. Implications for the future of poultry welfare will also be discussed.

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