

Valeria Barahona  
Alison Bixby Stone School  
Zamorano, Honduras  
Sweden, Animal Health and Animal Agriculture

### **Sweden: Innovation for the future.**

Sweden in many ways has been acknowledged as a country that goes beyond reality. This amazing country is a role model for many other countries, because they care about the welfare of their citizens, animals, nature, etc. Sweden is made of its capital Stockholm and 25 provinces, according to studies in the country there is a population of 10.4 million people being a 0.13 percentage of the world's population and having an area of 450,295 sq km. Is known as the fifth largest country in Europe and seemingly it's the same size as California. 63% of its land is for forest, 7% for agricultural land, 9% for lakes and rivers, and 3% of urban land and factories. Although just 7% of the land is used for agriculture purposes there is room to improve Sweden's animal health and animal agriculture. (Sverige, 2021) By discovering a way that these changes can be made sustainably and always work towards creating a positive impact we can improve the quality of the animals' lives and the products that they create

This country has around 50,000 species of plants and animals. It has around 32% of the species found in Europe. Sweden's climate is temperate, and can be divided into three regions: subarctic, continental, and oceanic climate. In this country we can find great biodiversity.

Family life in Sweden is important and this is because its culture makes it this way. Typical family structures in this country vary making the lifestyles and beliefs different from one family to another. Taking an average Swedish family most of the time the two parents work, and when we talk of house chores mainly, they are divided by age or gender, this means everyone does something on these homes. It's not common to see "a stay-at-home mom" unless the mother has a parental leave but, in these cases, the parental leave is split between the two parents. They do this activity called a "Fredagsmys" or in other words, we can say a cozy Friday, mainly to watch movies and have snacks. Most of the time Swedish families during free time like to go and spend their time outdoors at the forest, lake or sea, and enjoy doing a lot of outdoor activities. (AFS, 2018)

A dwelling in Sweden varies from 3- 4 bedrooms and houses around 4 people in a house. Families like to spend their money on really nutritious food and the food they eat is locally produced. Education in this country is mandatory till 15 years old. I really like this country's health care; it has an exceptional standard of living. I read on many sources that Sweden's health care is a role model to many others. They used around 9 percent of its GDP on healthcare and this has helped them to have high life expectancy and low children mortality rates.

The diet of the country is amazing and it has been categorized as the number one most popular diet in the world for people who are wanting to lose weight. This contains some carbohydrates, then we have a big amount of quality fat and protein. Around 50 to 55 kilos of meat are eaten and produced in Sweden including beef, lamb, pork and chicken. Around 123,777 tons of seafood in 2019 were consumed. We can see this country has a lot of variety in the way they eat and that they consume a lot of products that come from animals.

Since a large portion of the food comes from animals it means that Sweden is a country of action and has taught a lot of countries around the world the importance of taking care of our environment. Animals are a vital piece of our world in many ways, they contribute a lot to the

environment. Some of animals are the ones who produce some products we eat, others help us with loneliness and they are our partners in many Sweden has been recognized as an animal welfare international leader, but there is still room for improvement.

### **Problems**

Taking care of our domestic animals is crucial, Sweden has been a country that stands out. Sweden's penal code has an API that was published in 2014 and then it was modified from the main animal welfare legislation and called The Animal Welfare Act 2018:1192, mainly for domestic animals, which are the ones that are used for scientific purposes and some animals are for production. This act goes beyond and above the EU law. The animals in Sweden are well treated because this code has requirements specifically for all animals and makes sure they are. (Index, 2020)

This country is rated the best in many aspects, but not everything is the best in this country. The act hasn't completely banned the use of some animals for entertainment, or allowing wild animals be capture for experiments. For example, on the topic of animals used for entertainment it has banned a list of 12 animals that cannot be use for this, like elephants and sea lions. Even though this list exists they are animals used for entertainment and maybe a lot of them in really bad conditions. Let's remember these animals have natural habitats and being taken out of them can cause a lot of traumas for them and they can have trouble to adapt to new habitats and living conditions. Imagine animals taken from their habitat to a place where they are treated horribly is even worst.

Animal testing has been a controversial topic all around the world and Sweden has worked really hard to make this stop. The Swedish legislation is even stricter than the EU and have been regulated since the act mentioned before. It's true animals are really biologically similar to humans and this is why they are used for testing. Now in this generation this is not well received. There are many ways they experiment with animals that cause them suffering and even death just for the creation of a product that will be sold for money. Animal testing on Sweden is illegal, but there is another way they could experiment with animal in Sweden. The project must be approved by an ethics committee. This is a committee that decides whether their participants project is accepted but it depends on what it is. This is a transparent process. There are many ways these animals are used, including killing them for their tissues, organs or cells. (Experiments, 2022)

As we all know, animals are a source of food too, and these animals suffer a lot as well. We consume dairy, meat, chicken, seafood, sausage and more. We can classify these animals that as production, but humans are taking advantage of the food chain and eating animals to point of extinction. Around 50 to 55 kilograms of beef are consumed on Sweden per year. This country has passed several bans due to illnesses attacking animals for production. This leads to their death and no quality products. On the other hand, we have bans cause by antibiotics that were infecting animals and also infecting humans. A lot of these antibiotics were banned. This happens due to poor practice and not supporting companies that offer better products, organic or non-organic, but all of good quality. (Mark Casewell, 2003)

### **Solutions**

Basically, the Sweden main animal health and animal agriculture problems are:

- Animals that are in entertainment

- Animals are still used for testing
- Bans on production animals due to antibiotics problems and bad quality products do to this
- Plant-based meals occasionally

My idea for solving the two first problems is basically working harder with the animal care institutions of Sweden to make sure these laws only allow animal testing and having them for entertainment are being monitored and there could be an inspection campaigns for these two specific topics.

Plant based meals is something a lot of countries are working with, including Sweden. The idea isn't to make people stop eating meat and it is to make them understand the importance of plant-based meals and the benefits they have in many areas. In my class, we will work with this and with this organization call the Ideal Burger Challenge from the Wageningen University & Research. Our school in Honduras has a youth institute and we can start implementing these challenges in schools everywhere for spreading our message about delicious plant-based meals positively. This will be worked on with the organization mention before, such as: universities, high schools, students, teachers in education. To we will work for other organizations will do this stuff working with education.

Now comes the problem that I would like to focus on, especially because this relates to some really important areas like animal health, animal production, human health and food security. These bans have occurred several times in this country. Let's recognize that some bans that occur have been bans that are important, but don't have as much impact as others or can lead to problems affecting an entire country. For example, we have the cage ban in Honduras that was basically banning cages for hens to have their eggs.

My idea is working and introducing "ORGANIC". I know it will be hard because some farmers and even animal production companies will not be in agreement with the meaning of organic. They think that working with organic products is more expensive. They cost more to grow than those that are produced naturally and let's remember we are used to working with products with high amounts of chemicals that work fast. Sometimes something that is faster isn't always the best solution.

However, there are some really good products that are non-organic but are effective and safe. So, on the way of implementing an organic diet that will be for animals of production and will help them to have a high-quality product to sell. We can create a concentrate that is something cows' diet includes every day and every ingredient is organic. If it's corn or a supplement that they have in their diet the product needs to be organic or have some non-organic product that isn't harmful. We will work with farms, the country agriculture department, and people interested in the topic for the start of introducing this to every company that works with animal production. Campaigns for everyone to know the importance of organic products could be developed to promote organically raised crops for livestock to benefit the planet, quality of the animal products, and ultimately increase the yields of the products in a predictable way leading to increased food security.

Continuing with this topic I will like to work on the introduction of companies that already exist and work to create sustainable products either for human health and animal health. Kemin Industry is a global manufacturer company that works for the creation of sustainable ingredients for the creation of better-quality life. One of its areas is animal nutrition and health. They like to

give their customers services that provide their animals optimal nutrition, pathogen control, feed quality and gut health. We will work with this company, vets, animal health departments, farmers. In order to introduce this initiative, we can make manuals to help understand the problems animal owners have with their animals. Then with the Kemin company we will create the products to solve those problems. (Kemin, 2023)

Sweden is a country full of opportunities and it was hard to find problems to improve food security. My idea is not to solve these problems, but to improve the way they are being solved. My idea is to improve the way that animals are managed in order to improve the quality of the animals' lives and also to improve the products that are meant for human consumption. I will always work to benefit everyone involved in this in a positive way and mainly to keep your animals healthy and in good condition.

I would love to work with this country because I can see they love their country and there is nothing better than people who love their country and will fight for it to be continually better than yesterday. We will implement new ideas and new technology in the best way to make this country even better than it is. Sweden will fight for its' animals and will improve its' animal health, animal production and food security even more than it is. We will work really hard to see this country succeed and become the best version of itself in the coming years.

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