

Biosecurity Benefits Animal Welfare

Dr. Lotta Berg, Associate Professor with the Swedish Animal Welfare Agency, was the keynote speaker at the February 27, 2006 Alberta Chicken Producers Conference, *The Science of Broiler Welfare*. She reinforced:

“**Biosecurity** is certainly an animal welfare issue, as animal health is an important aspect of animal welfare.

Animal welfare is basically about giving the animals what they need, such as feed, water, enough space and social contact with their own kind. Animal welfare is also about protecting the animals by not exposing them to predators, adverse weather conditions or disease in order to avoid unnecessary pain or suffering.

When seen from this perspective, it is obvious that protecting the birds from infectious diseases is definitely an animal welfare issue.

Good biosecurity routines will prevent the chance of birds becoming exposed to infections. Infections may either directly — by causing clinical disease in the flock, or indirectly — by being potentially dangerous to human health and therefore leading to premature culling, be detrimental to bird welfare.” ■



Dr. Berg with Conference & AFAC Chair, David Hyink