

Genetically modified animals killed in stock

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Animals killed in stock does not only imply surplus animals from genetic modification projects: approximately 25% of the animals killed before the procedure are non-genetically modified animals. The substantial increase of animals killed in stock is primarily due to experiments with zebrafish and mice. The main reason for killing these animals is that they have an unsuitable genetic composition. Other reasons include age, weight, or incorrect gender for the research purposes.

The advisory report 'Genetically modified animals killed in stock' was drawn up by the Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad)

at the request of the Minister for Agriculture. The report focuses primarily on reducing the number of genetically modified (GM) animals that 'died or killed in stock', especially fish and mice. However, the NCad also draws attention to other aspects that it considers relevant to the dynamics of the numbers and species of GM animals used. It also places the issue of the number of animals killed in stock in a broader perspective.

Recent years have seen the development of 'genome editing', a new and innovative technology that can be used to create genetically modified animals. Genome editing is increasingly replacing traditional transgenic technology. This new technology is expected to make it possible to create a genetically altered animal that is tailor-made for a given experiment while using fewer animals in the process than has hitherto been the case. The advisory report builds on previous initiatives by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and was published in December 2015. This poster will give an overview of the advisory report by the NCad and the actions taken by the stakeholders ever since.

Reference

<https://www.ncadierproevenbeleid.nl/documenten/rapport/2015/11/26/advise-stock-animals>