

Table 2 Median values (25% – 75% quartile range) for Welfare Quality (WQ) criterion and principle scores in Year 0 and Year 1, as well as the respective change in Year 1 (difference Year 0 and Year 1) in Austrian dairy farms (n = 34)

Variable ¹	Description	Year 0		Year 1		Difference Year 0 – Year 1	
		Median	25% - 75% quartile	Median	25% - 75% quartile	Median	25% - 75% quartile
C1	Absence of prolonged hunger	78	62 - 100	80	68 - 100	0	-18 - 23
C2	Absence of prolonged thirst	100	3: 4 farms, 32: 4 farms, 60: 4 farms, 100: 20 farms	100	3: 5 farms 20: 1 farm 32: 4 farms 60: 3 farms 100: 21 farms	0	-68: 1 farm, -57: 1 farm, -40: 2 farms, 0: 29 farms, 68: 1 farm
C3	Comfort around resting	30	16 - 32	32	22 - 43	1	-4 - 18
C4	Thermal comfort ^{2,3}	100	-	100	-	0	-
C5	Ease of movement ³	100	-	100	-	0	-
C6	Absence of injuries	35	23 - 41	36	30 - 43	5	-4 - 13
C7	Absence of disease	43	37 - 57	50	40 - 57	0	-8 - 16
C8	Absence of pain induced by management procedures	52	20: 1 farm, 28: 15 farms, 52: 18 farms	52	20: 1 farm 28: 15 farms 52: 18 farms	0	-
C9	Expression of social behaviours	64	46 - 81	64	52 - 78	1	-15 - 13
C10	Expression of other behaviours ³	0	-	0	-	0	-
C11	Good human-animal relationship	64	56 - 74	69	61 - 76	3	-5 - 15
C12	Positive emotional state	25	16 - 36	30	13 - 40	-1	-10 - 16
P1 (C1-2)	Good feeding	71	45 - 100	72	37 - 92	0	-14 - 4

P2 (C3-5)	Good housing	56	47 - 57	57	51 - 64	1	-3 - 12
P3 (C6-8)	Good health	34	30 - 39	34	32 - 42	2	-2 - 7
P4 (C9-12)	Appropriate behaviour	19	15 - 24	24	19 - 30	0	-4 - 6

¹ C: Welfare Quality Criterion; P: Welfare Quality Principle

² As yet, no measure has been developed

³ No between-farm variation regarding these criteria