What is it?
An educational tool for enhancing understanding and awareness of welfare issues affecting animals used for human purposes (e.g., agriculture, research, companionship). The contest teaches ethical reasoning, encourages objective assessment of animal welfare on the basis of scientific theory and data, promotes critical thinking, and improves communication skills.

Students interested in animal welfare are afforded a structured opportunity to practice their assessment skills and present their findings to an expert panel of scientists and veterinarians in a logical and persuasive manner.

Who may participate?
Three divisions of the contest are offered: undergraduate, veterinary and graduate students.

What goes on?
Students analyze the welfare of various types of animals as presented in comparative scenarios…
…determine whether the welfare of animals in one scenario is better or worse than in the other...
…and present reasons for their decision orally to the judges. A live/on-site problem is also assessed.

How do I prepare?
- Solicit a team of interested individuals (3 to 5 students per team). Some previous coursework in animal welfare is helpful.
- Identify a faculty coach. Coaches should meet with students to review relevant background material.*
- Discuss current animal care practices across a variety of animal uses. Allow students to debate potential welfare concerns and benefits of different approaches to housing, husbandry, and transport.
- Evaluate different scenarios using flash drives*, video tapes, hypothetical data, and other useful media. Students should be encouraged to integrate a variety of physiologic, health, and behavioral indicators of well-being into their assessment of welfare.
- Practice providing oral reasons.*
- Put skills learned to the test in the next Intercollegiate Contest.

* A suggested reading list, practice scenarios, and example oral reasons are available on flash drives.

Traveling trophies
Awarded to the highest placing team in each Division, the trophies feature original artwork by Lynne Millman.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Friday, November 22**
**Morning**
- Seminars from contest judges
- Student posters and talks
**Afternoon**
- Team scenario assessment & reasons
**Evening**
- Social event

**Saturday, November 22**
**Morning**
- Individual scenario assessments & reasons
**Afternoon**
- Awards reception

APPLY BY **OCTOBER 10, 2014**

For more information, contact
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(Left) Swine and cattle photographs by Scott Bauer / ARS. (Right) AWJAC 1st place Team Winners, University College Dublin photograph by Michelle Hunniford / CCSAW.