



ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITMENTS

Innovafeed is committed to animal welfare, and we create optimal conditions for our insects to ensure their wellbeing

While there is little scientific evidence that insects experience the same feelings as vertebrates (pain, fear, etc...), Innovafeed applies the **precautionary principle**. This means we look after our insects with a certain level of care and ensure we respect animal welfare standards ... just in case they do.

We apply the framework of Brambell's Five Freedoms for animals formulated by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC,2009) and have deployed special measures so that our insects are:

- (1) **free from hunger and thirst;**
- (2) **free from discomfort;**
- (3) **free from injuries, pain and diseases;**
- (4) **free from fear ad distress;** and
- (5) **free to express their natural behaviour.**

For centuries people have cared for insects, like for instance looking after bees.

At Innovafeed our efforts are geared towards having **environmental conditions mirror natural conditions as closely as possible** to safeguard welfare standards.

In order to test its ingredients, Innovafeed conducts feeding trials which consist of introducing our ingredients into the diets of animals and evaluating their nutritional performance. Innovafeed conducts these trials in partnership with professional partners whom have expert knowledge of the care and welfare of animals and **respect the strictest standards in line with the Nation Ethics Committee on Animal Testing Charter**.

Innovafeed is committed to **opting for alternatives to animal testing whenever possible** (eg: in vitro trials). When conducting trials, we are committed to **opting for non-invasive methods that do not cause injury or harm to animals**, unless for the purpose of contributing knowledge that could lead to improvement in the health and welfare of animals.

CREATING OPTIMAL CONDITIONS FOR OUR INSECTS TO ENSURE THEIR WELLBEING

1. Ensuring our insects feel at home

For our insects to be comfortable throughout their lifecycle we create optimal environmental conditions which **mimic their natural habitat**.

Our insect is the Black Soldier Fly (*Hermetia illucens*), which starts as an egg, grows into a larva and transforms into a fly. We recreate the **right level of temperature and of humidity** for each of these life stages.

Larvae naturally aggregate in high density. In order to let them express their natural behavior we therefore **let them grow in large colonies**. When they become flies, they like to live a peaceful life of mating. All our flies evolve in **vast aviaries exposed to natural light**.

2. Looking after our insects' health and wellbeing

For our insects to be healthy and strong we feed them with **the right diet** and ensure they are **not exposed to diseases**.

Our larvae are fed with **agricultural co-products containing all the essential nutritional components**. Their carefully elaborated feed is of **100% vegetal origin** and composed of a mix of beet and wheat co-products.

To avoid sicknesses, we **minimize our insects' exposure to potential sources of diseases** and closely monitor all entrants to our sites

3. Providing a stress-free life

For our insects to be stress-free and harm-free, we **minimize the level of human interactions**.

We leave them to feed and grow with the strict minimum human handling to ensure they are not bothered or harmed. We provide our larvae with **ample amount of feed** and **closely monitor their living conditions** through sensors to eliminate any stress factor. Our insect caretakers are experts and have a **no-tolerance policy for cruelty**.

