

Public Perceptions of Farm Animal Cloning

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Knowledge about public perceptions

Available studies

- Limited number of studies
- No European studies has farm animal cloning as their main or sole interest
- Few studies include cloning as a part of the biotechnology issue

Nature of studies

- Quantitative studies: who and how many?
- Qualitative studies: what?

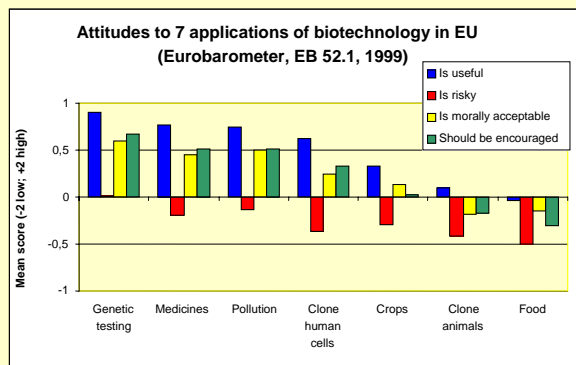
Eurobarometer questions about different applications of biotechnology

Respondents were asked to what extent each of the following applications is useful, risky, morally acceptable and should be encouraged:

1. Using genetic testing to detect inheritable diseases such as cystic fibrosis
2. Introducing human genes into bacteria to produce medicines or vaccines, for example to produce insulin for diabetics
3. Taking genes from plant species and transferring them into crop plants to make them more resistant to insect pests
4. Using modern biotechnology in the production of foods, for example to make them higher in protein, keep longer or change in taste
5. Developing genetically modified bacteria to clean up slicks of oil or dangerous chemicals
6. Cloning human cells or tissues to replace a patient's diseased cells that are not functioning properly
7. Cloning animals such as sheep to get milk which can be used to make medicines and vaccines

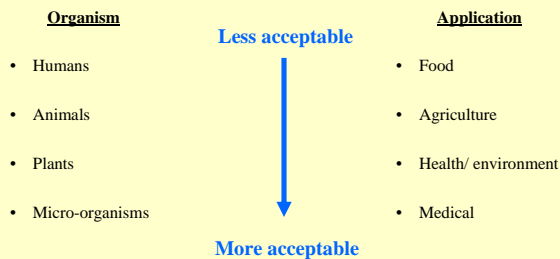
EB52.1

Attitudes to 7 applications of biotechnology in EU
 (Eurobarometer, EB 52.1, 1999)

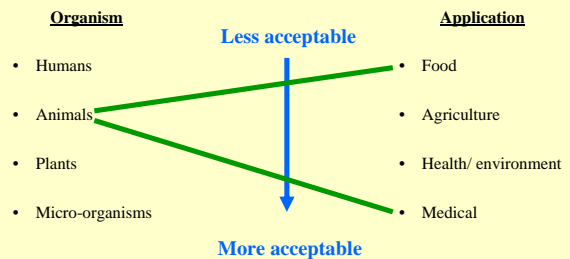


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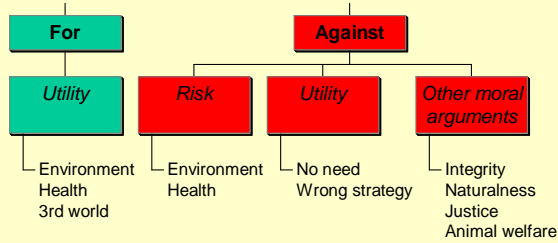
Scales of acceptance



Scales of acceptance



Arguments for and against gene technology



Animal cloning and unnaturalness

Judgements in 15 EU countries, 1999

"Now let's talk about cloning animals, for instance to get milk which can be used to make medicines and vaccines. From now on I am going to call this cloning."	%					D K
	strongly agree	somewhat agree	neither agree nor disagree	somewhat disagree	strongly disagree	
Cloning animals threatens the natural order of things	44	30	11	6	3	6
Even if cloning animals has benefits it is fundamentally unnatural	51	26	9	5	3	6

EBS2.1

Arguments about the naturalness of genetic technologies

- There is a natural (or God-given) order we shouldn't interfere with.

"I think it is unnatural, I do know many other things are too, but the lesson from history tell us that somewhere you have to draw a line and stop fooling around with things. (...) Looking at the scientists, I think they start acting as if they were God, meddling in how all this is made, I don't trust that. Considering how genius it all is constructed - the earth with plants, humans, animals and the like - they will never reach that level!"

Focus group interview in Denmark, 2000

Animal cloning and usefulness

Judgements in 15 EU countries, 1999

"Now let's talk about cloning animals, for instance to get milk which can be used to make medicines and vaccines. From now on I am going to call this cloning."	%					D K
	strongly agree	somewhat agree	neither agree nor disagree	somewhat disagree	strongly disagree	
Cloning animals will bring benefits to a lot of people	6	18	19	22	24	11
Cloning animals is simply not necessary	36	24	16	11	4	9

EBS2.1

Arguments about usefulness of genetic technologies I

- Economic usefulness
 - corporate or private economic gain
- Self-interested usefulness
 - non-economic benefits to the individual

"E: I should happily trample 2½ million mice to death, if it would help me survive (...)
D: Exactly! It's very easy sitting here declaring that you are against all of it. But when they show up and say: 'Tage Andersen, your close relative is going to die from AIDS! But if we give him/her this gene ...' ... By all means, do so (...)."

Focus group interview in Denmark, 2000

Arguments about usefulness of genetic technologies II

- Economic usefulness
 - corporate or private economic gain
- Self-interested usefulness
 - non-economic benefits to the individual
- Societal usefulness
 - avoidance of risks; alleviation of hunger and poverty; elimination of disease

"Yes and no. I feel sorry for the [research] animals, that they have to pay. But if we don't have other possibilities then we have to try it. Apparently there are no other possibilities — then you have to do something to produce these products to help cancer patients and whatever. Then it's OK, but still I believe it's wrong."

Focus group interview in Denmark, 2000

Take home message

- We don't know an awful lot about public perceptions of animal cloning!
- Two scales seem to be important when the public assess cloning: an "organism-scale" and an "application-scale"
- Judged by these scales food-related animal cloning must be seen to be extremely controversial, whereas medical cloning of farm animals is less so.