

## **Keynote Address**

*Lawrence Andres*

In an increasingly competitive and profit driven organic marketplace, farmers have to be careful not to lose sight of the very essentials of responsible animal husbandry. So often we improve our quality of life at the expense of our domestic animals. Housing systems that infringe on an animal's natural behaviors will cause unreasonable stress and subsequent disease.

Furthermore, when you push the animals to the limits of their natural abilities, it becomes a moral-ethical issue. By recognizing your animal's behavioral needs and understanding the hierarchical-social system in your herd, you can expect dramatic improvements in health, vigor and longevity.

Most farmers, to some degree, have the ability to sense the needs of their animals. Then next step is to develop true responsibility, love, respect and compassion towards your animals, assuring their well-being and quality of life.