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WELL-BEING, WORK AND VITAL TRAJECTORIES IN RURAL AREAS

**QUALITY OF LIFE VALUATIONS OF LIVESTOCK FARMING FAMILIES IN
THREE COMMUNITIES IN PATAGONIA (ARGENTINA)**

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For several decades, quality of life has been the focus of research in different social sciences. This research has sought to analyse the material conditions of life and habitat, as well as the assessments and practices of social agents. Nonetheless, rural areas have received comparatively less scholarly attention, despite their highly organised and dynamic agricultural activities, along with the profound transformations undergone by such regions as a consequence of productive, ecological, political and economic shifts. Similarly, as family production integrates the domestic and productive units, a comprehensive approach to quality of life also involves analysing socio-productive conditions.

This work, which is part of a line of research that combines contributions from agrarian social studies and multidimensional analysis of quality of life, seeks to understand how quality of life is defined by livestock-producing families in Argentine Patagonia. Specifically, it aims to describe the characteristics and socio-productive conditions; identify the dimensions of quality of life that are relevant to these families; and compare subjective valuations between case studies. To this end, three rural places were selected: Coyuco-Cochico (Neuquén), Mamuel Choique Community (Río Negro), and Aldea Las Pampas (Chubut), where interviews and group workshops were conducted with farming families and key informants. These small villages share some factors that condition their quality of life, such as isolation, complications in accessing the areas and fields, and the effects of climate change. They also share an appreciation for their locations, linked to nature, tranquility, and community issues. However, valuations differ in terms of the importance they assign to other dimensions of quality of life, which may be influenced by the socio-productive characteristics and public policies implemented in each area.

Palavras-chave: patagonia; quality of life; livestock-producing families; agrarian structure; public policies.