



**EAAP**

European Federation  
of Animal Science

*flash eNews*

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## EDITORIAL

### EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

#### Companion Animals and Livestock Science: A Subtle Difference

*The organisation of the first EAAP workshop dedicated to companion animals provides a significant opportunity to reflect on the growing convergence between the pet sector and traditional livestock science. While these domains were once considered distinct in terms of purpose, methodology, and target species, the gap between them is narrowing—at least from a scientific standpoint. The knowledge and technologies developed within the context of companion animals increasingly offer innovative insights and practical applications for animal production. At the same time, the scientific legacy of livestock research is making substantial contributions to the advancement of pet science.*

*Key areas such as genetics, animal welfare and nutrition clearly illustrate this two-way exchange. Behavioural monitoring techniques using sensors, as well as the development of functional feeds, often originate or are first implemented in the pet sector, where high-value solutions can be tested rapidly. Once validated, these innovations are successfully adapted to meet the needs of livestock farming. Conversely, the high level of expertise accumulated in the field of livestock science—particularly in quantitative genetics and precision nutrition—has greatly facilitated the adoption and refinement of scientific approaches within the pet sector.*

*Another important point of convergence is the “One Health” approach, which recognises the interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health. Research on gut microbiota, antimicrobial resistance, and zoonotic disease prevention now encompasses both companion and farmed animal species, helping to overcome outdated disciplinary differences.*

*In terms of education, the shared veterinary practices across the two sectors provide common ground that is essential for training the next generation of professionals. Experience with companion animals often constitutes students’ first practical exposure to veterinary medicine, but it also offers a valuable foundation for understanding health management and welfare in productive settings.*

*The role of industry, particularly the pet food sector, is no less significant. Thanks to its larger profit margins, it often serves as a testing ground for technological innovation. Solutions developed in this context—from personalised nutrition to the valorisation of by-products and sustainable supply chains—offer replicable models for livestock production as well, driving an evolution towards higher quality, traceability, and product differentiation.*

*In a scientific and production landscape that is continuously evolving, where sectoral boundaries are increasingly permeable, fostering dialogue between livestock science and pet science is not merely an opportunity—it is a necessity. Only through such integration can we effectively address future challenges with a more holistic, efficient, and sustainable perspective.*

**Andrea Rosati**

## News from EAAP

### EAAP Management Meetings in Rome: Strategic Discussions and Planning for the Future

Last week, EAAP held a series of important management meetings in Rome, bringing together key decision-makers to shape the organisation's strategy and future direction. These included the Council meeting, the Scientific Committee meeting, and the annual joint meeting between these two important groups. Throughout these sessions, engaging discussions took place on various topics crucial to EAAP's development. Significant decisions were made to define by the Council for the organisation of the strategic priorities and to plan the next steps for the upcoming EAAP Annual Meeting, which will be held in late August in Innsbruck. The Scientific Committee worked to prepare the scientific program of the Annual Meeting following the large number of abstracts that we received even this year. They are preparing another conference with four full days of animal science. EAAP appreciates and wishes to thank all participants of the Rome meetings for their valuable time, expertise, and dedication to EAAP. Their contributions are helpful in ensuring the continued success of our organisation and its mission to advance animal science. We look forward to sharing more updates as we prepare for another successful Annual Meeting.



### Register Now for the 1st EAAP Artificial Intelligence for Animal Science Conference

Do not miss the opportunity to register at a discounted rate for the **1st EAAP Artificial Intelligence for Animal Science Conference**, taking place in Zurich from **4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025**. The **early-bird registration deadline is approaching fast—Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April**. This conference will bring together world leading experts in artificial intelligence applied to animal science and the livestock industry. Participants will gain valuable insights, exchange knowledge, and contribute to shaping the future of AI in this field. The event provides a dedicated forum for researchers in animal science to explore mechanisation in livestock science and industry. Discussions will focus on the exciting research and innovative approaches to AI development and application. Be sure to register now and benefit from the early-bird discount. For further details and registration, please [visit the official conference website](#).

### EAAP Lands on Bluesky!

After launching several social media platforms such as [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [Threads](#), EAAP is now also on Bluesky! The new Bluesky account represents another step forward in our commitment to staying connected with the scientific community, professionals, and enthusiasts in the field of animal science. Through this platform, we aim to share updates, insights, events, and opportunities. Follow us on [Bluesky](#) to stay up to date with our latest news and join the conversations – we look forward to connecting with you!

### Watch the Recording of the Webinar “Applications of Genomics in Animal Breeding”

If you missed the webinar *Applications of Genomics in Animal Breeding*, organized in collaboration with Neogen on March 11, 2025, [you can now watch the recording here](#). The event attracted **200 participants** and provided valuable insights into the latest genomic applications in animal breeding, featuring expert speakers and discussions on cutting-edge technologies. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this success!

## EAAP People Portrait

### Peadar Lawlor



Peadar, the eldest child from a family of four children, grew up on a typical beef and sheep family farm in Co. Offaly in Ireland. A farmer at heart, Peadar was always destined for a career in agriculture. After secondary school, he studied for a B.Agr.Sc at University College Dublin (UCD) and while there he had the opportunity to complete work experience on a modern high-performing pig unit. There, the use of technology, the importance of KPIs and the level of performance left a lasting impression. He quickly realised that it was in pig production that his future lay and he has not looked back since. On graduation from UCD in 1991, Peadar was offered the opportunity to undertake an M.Agr.Sc by research with Dr Brendan Lynch at the Pig Production Department at Teagasc Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork. This reaffirmed in him the desire to work in pig production. Since graduating with his Masters in 1993, he has worked for Teagasc, completing his PhD there in 2001 and working there predominantly as a Research Officer in the Pig Production Department,

but with periods also as a pig enterprise advisor and as a college lecturer. He is very fortunate to have a job he enjoys with colleagues, students, and collaborators who help to bring out the best in his work. [Read the complete profile here.](#)

## Science and Innovation

### Genome-wide association study dissects the genetic architecture of progesterone content in Persian walnut leaves (*Juglans regia* L.)

Progesterone (P4) is a key hormone in ovulation and pregnancy regulation in animals and is commonly used in sheep and goats for synchronised oestrus. In humans, synthetic P4 is used to treat peri-menopausal disorders, but its environmental impact, prohibition in organic farming, and consumer preference for natural products have prompted interest in plant-derived alternatives. This study investigated P4 content in 170 accessions of *Juglans regia* (walnut) from the INRAE Prunus-Juglans Biological Resources Centre. Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) identified seven significant marker-trait associations across multiple chromosomes and a candidate gene involved in sterol metabolism, which may regulate P4 levels. P4 content varied significantly, ranging from 34.1 to 287.5 mg/kg dry weight source of P4, offering a sustainable alternative for pharmaceutical applications and aligning with the growing demand for natural compounds in animal and human health. [Read the full article on BMC Genomics.](#)



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## Transference of passive immunity and growth in dairy calves born to dams with high or low somatic cell counts at dry-off and fed colostrum from cows with high or low somatic cell counts at dry-off

This study assessed the transfer of passive immunity (TPI) and growth of calves born to cows with low or high somatic cell count (SCC) at dry-off and fed colostrum from cows with low or high SCC. Forty Holstein cows were classified into low-SCC (L-cow) and high-SCC (H-cow) groups, with their calves (L-calf, H-calf) receiving colostrum from either group (L-col, H-col) in a 2 × 2 factorial design. Colostrum from L-cow had lower SCC, higher protein yield, and 24% more IgG than H-cow colostrum. TPI was not influenced by colostrum type, but L-calf achieved higher TPI (28.8 vs. 22.8 g IgG/L) and apparent IgG absorption efficiency (30.0% vs. 24.5%) than H-calf. Growth parameters (body weight, heart girth, withers height) were unaffected by SCC or colostrum type. Despite lower IgG absorption in H-calf, colostrum type did not impact feed intake, growth, or development. [Read the full article on Journal of Dairy Science.](#)

## Changes in feeding behaviour, milk yield, serum indexes, and metabolites of dairy cows in three weeks postpartum

This article investigates the relationship between feeding behaviour, milk yield, and metabolic changes in postpartum dairy cows. Monitoring feeding behaviour can provide insights into cows' physiological and metabolic status during the early postpartum period. Researchers analysed data from 178 multiparous Holstein cows, tracking feeding time (FT), feeding frequency (FF), and average feeding time (AFT) using neck collar devices. A subset of cows was further examined for serum metabolites at weeks 1, 2, and 3 postpartum. Results revealed that FT and AFT significantly increased after week 1 and were positively correlated with milk yield. Serum analysis showed increased total protein, cholesterol, and IgA, alongside a decline in β-hydroxybutyric acid, malondialdehyde, interleukin-6, and leptin. Metabolomics identified significant changes in glycerophospholipids linked to energy metabolism. The study suggests that feeding behaviour, particularly FT and AFT, can serve as reliable indicators of metabolic status in postpartum dairy cows. [Read the full article on Nature.](#)

## ILLUMINA WEBINAR

From genotypes to impact  
– using genetic information to  
breed better, more sustainable  
animals and plants



### Evaluation of genomic selection models using whole genome sequence data and functional annotation in Belgian Blue cattle

This study explored the use of whole-genome sequence (WGS) data and functional annotation to improve genomic selection (GS) accuracy in Belgian Blue Cattle (BBC). Data from 16,508 cows with phenotypes for five muscular traits were analysed using different GS models. The study compared a polygenic approach (GBLUP) and a Bayesian mixture model (BayesRR-RC) at high marker density, observing slight improvements in reliability (0.016 for GBLUP and 0.018 for BayesRR-RC) compared to medium-density GBLUP. Incorporating functional annotation increased reliability in GBLUP but reduced it in BayesRR-RC. Additional models (BayesC $\pi$  and Bayesian Sparse Linear Mixed Model, BSLMM) were tested using functionally selected variants or linkage disequilibrium-pruned panels, with BSLMM achieving the highest reliability. Overall, using large functional variant panels improved GS accuracy, though the gains were modest, highlighting the need for further refinement in functional annotation for BBC genomic evaluations. [Read the full article on Genetics Selection Evolution.](#)





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## News From EU

**The 13th TechCare newsletter is now available!**

Enjoy your reading [here!](#)

For receiving the future issues please [sign up here.](#)



### CoCo Press release: Bern Convention's downgraded protection status of wolves comes into force

The **Bern Convention's** decision to downgrade the **protection status of wolves** come into force on March 7, moving them from "strictly protected" to "protected." This change, to be mirrored by the EU's Habitat Directive, allows for measures such as culling problematic wolves and introducing hunting quotas.

**Purpose of change:** This shift follows extensive lobbying by rural groups but remains controversial. It provides an additional tool for managing wildlife but requires

careful handling. Member states must make significant investment in monitoring and institutional structures to ensure sustainable use.

**Recovery of Wildlife:** Over the past 30 to 40 years large carnivores such as brown bears and wolves have made remarkable comebacks. This is partly thanks to conservation laws such as the Bern Convention and Habitats Directive which have also supported recovery of their prey such as deer and wild boar. This is a significant (and rare) conservation success story. [Read the full press release here.](#)



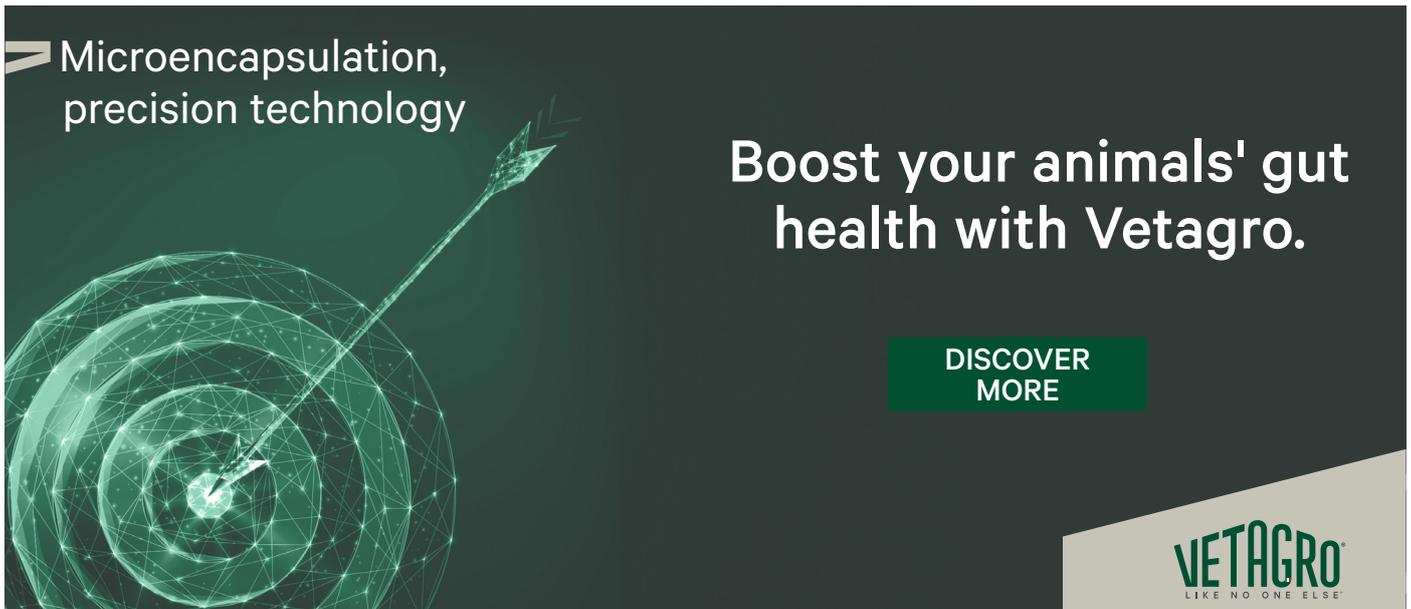
### A NEW ERA FOR COEXISTENCE

Will policy changes increase conflict or improve coexistence with large carnivores?

## Job Offers

### Two Postdoctoral positions at Aarhus University, Denmark

1. A Postdoctoral position in genetic modelling and validation of novel livestock phenotypes and phenotyping tools is available at the [Center for Quantitative Genetics and Genomics \(QGG\)](#). A PhD in Animal Breeding/ Genetics, Quantitative Genetics, Statistical Genetics, or related fields is required. Start date: 1 June 2025 (or as soon as possible thereafter). Duration: 2 years. Application deadline: **31 March 2025**. For more details [visit the webpage.](#)



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2. A Postdoctoral position Quantifying animal welfare during transport is available at [the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences](#). The successful candidate is at PhD level, with a background in biology, animal science, veterinary medicine or similar and especially interested in animal transport and animal welfare across the species typically transported as part of the production of meat, dairy and eggs. Start date: 15 August 2025 (or as soon as possible thereafter). Duration: 2 years. Application deadline: **3 April 2025**. For more details [visit the webpage](#).

### Two positions at FAO, Rome, Italy

The [FAO](#) is looking for:

1. [An Animal Breeding Specialist](#). Minimum requirements: 1) Advanced university degree in animal breeding and genetics, or a relevant field; 2) at least two years of relevant experience in livestock sector development. Deadline: **2 April 2025**.
2. [An Animal Production Officer in Feed and Feeding System](#). Minimum requirements: 1) Advanced university degree in agriculture or animal science/production or any related field, with particular emphasis on animal nutrition or feed production, including pasture management; 2) Seven years of relevant experience in animal nutrition and feed production. Deadline: **3 April 2025**.

### Three Fellowship opportunities at Newcastle University, United Kingdom

[Newcastle University](#) is currently advertising three fellowships in Agriculture to work with our [NUFarms](#). One fellowship will focus on animal science, one on agriculture and one on applied social science/ policy. Anyone interested in animal science, wanting to have an informal discussion about these roles, please contact Fritha Langford, [fritha.langford@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:fritha.langford@newcastle.ac.uk). Deadline: **6 April 2025**. [Click here](#) for more information and details of how to apply.

## Publications

• **Animal consortium (EAAP, INRAE, BSAS) – Elsevier**

[Animal: Volume 19 - Issue 3 – March 2025](#)

Article of the month: [“Applying recursive modeling to assess the role of the host genome and the gut microbiome on feed efficiency in Iberian pigs”](#).

## Animal Science Podcasts

The Poultry Podcast Show: [“Networking and Mentorship in Poultry”](#), speaker Dr. Teresa Morishita



## Other News

### Discover Beeology – A Course Bridging Honeybee Science and Practice

*Beeology: Honeybee Science from Theory to Practice* is a course offered by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and led by Professor **Gerardo Caja**. Combining scientific insights with hands-on experience, this course offers a unique opportunity to explore bee biology, apicultural practices, and the latest research in the field. Whether you are a student, researcher, or bee enthusiast, this course is designed to enrich your knowledge and connect you with a vibrant community of experts. To learn more and join the buzz [visit the webpage](#).



### RIVM/FAO International Workshop on Feed Risk Assessment – Chemical Safety

To know more about the RIVM/FAO International Workshop on Feed Risk Assessment – Chemical Safety event, its key discussions and findings, its conclusions and recommendations read [here](#).

## **IRTA seminar: Enhancing Dairy Farm Profitability and Advancing Dairy-Beef through cross-breeding**

Next [IRTA](#) online seminar “Enhancing Dairy Farm Profitability and Advancing Dairy-Beef through cross-breeding” will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025. The seminar is free with limited seats. If interested please subscribe to [this link](#). The passcode: CODABE-IRTA. In case you may have any trouble, contact Javier Tobal ([Javier.tobal@irta.cat](mailto:Javier.tobal@irta.cat)).



## Conferences & Workshops

EAAP invites you to check the validity of the dates for every single event **published below and in the Calendar of the website.**

### EAAP Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
3 <sup>rd</sup> EAAP Regional Meeting	9 - 11 April 2025	Krakow, Poland	<a href="#">Website</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> EAAP Companion Animals Workshop	14 - 16 May 2025	Milan, Italy	<a href="#">Website</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> EAAP Artificial Intelligence 4 Animal Science Workshop	4 - 6 June 2025	Zurich, Switzerland	<a href="#">Website</a>
76 <sup>th</sup> EAAP Annual Meeting	25 - 29 August 2025	Innsbruck, Austria	<a href="#">Website</a>
8 <sup>th</sup> EAAP International Symposium on Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition	15 - 18 September 2025	Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany	<a href="#">Website</a>

### Other Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
BSAS Conference 2025	8 - 10 April 2025	Galway, Ireland	<a href="#">Website</a>
XXI AIDA Conference on Animal Production 2025	3 - 4 June 2025	Zaragoza, Spain	<a href="#">Website</a>
71st ICoMST-International Congress of Meat Science and Technology	3 - 8 August 2025	Girona, Spain	<a href="#">Website</a>

More conferences and workshops [are available on EAAP website.](#)



*“If you’re going through hell, keep going.”*

*(Winston Churchill)*

### **Become EAAP Members is easy!**

Become EAAP individual member to receive the EAAP newsletter and discover the many other benefits!  
Please also remember that individual membership is for free for residents in EAAP countries.

[Click here to check and register!](#)

### **Opportunities to advertise your company through the EAAP Newsletter in 2025!**

Presently, the English version of the Newsletter reaches nearly 6000 animal scientists, boasting an average of certified readers ranging from 2200 to 2500 per issue. EAAP gives to industries a great opportunity to increase visibility and create a wider network!

[Learn more about the special opportunities here.](#)

The **Flash-e-News** is the Official EAAP Newsletter. This interesting update about activities of the European animal science community, presents information on leading research institutions in Europe and also informs on developments in the industry sector related to animal science and production. The Newsletter is sent to all EAAP Members and supporters. You are all invited to submit information for the newsletter. Please send information, news, text, photos and logo to: [marlene@eaap.org](mailto:marlene@eaap.org).

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