EAAP
European Federation of Animal Science

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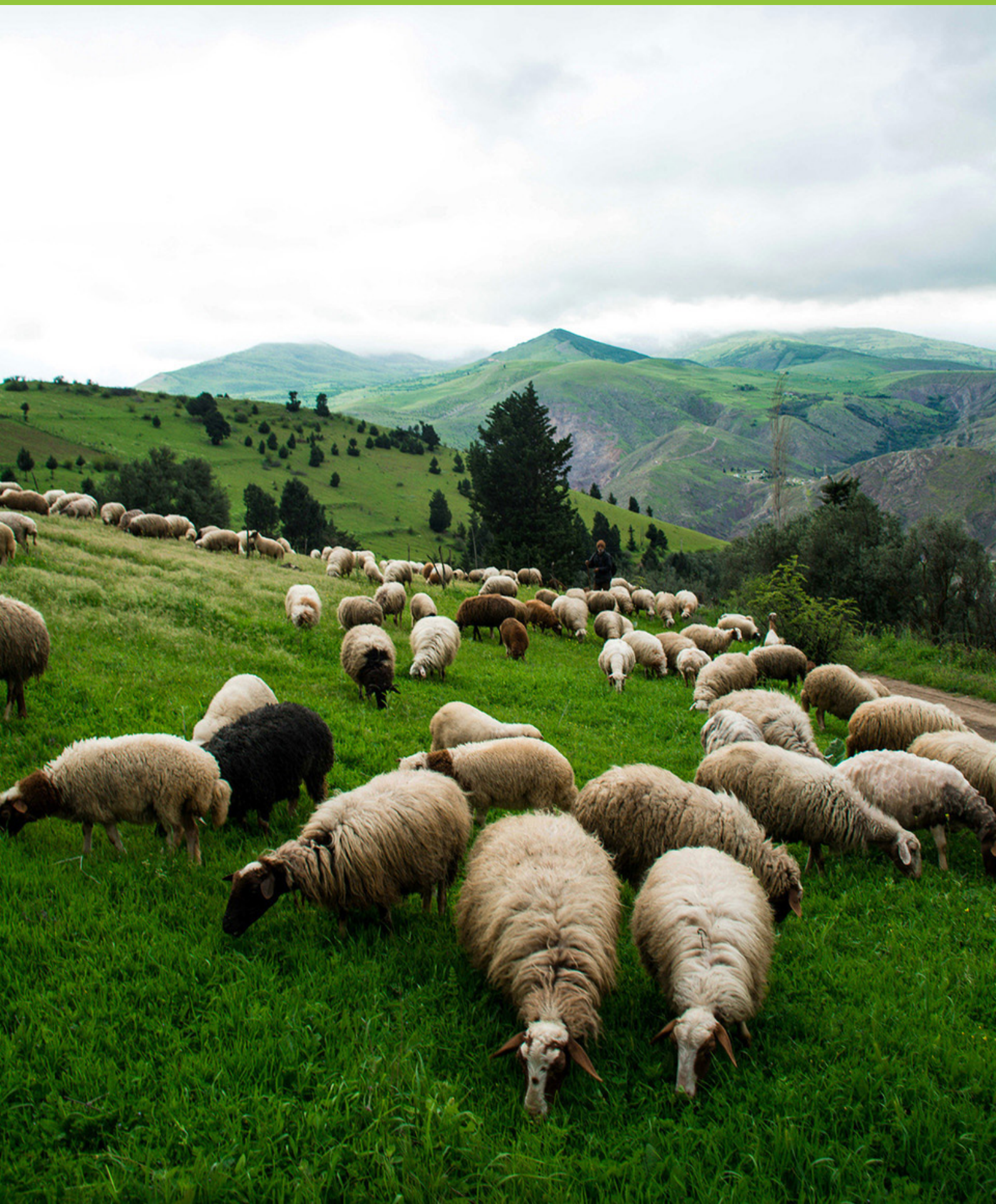

Main Topics

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Scientific Progress and Ethical Responsibility

Recently scientists have increasingly been held responsible for a range of environmental issues linked to emerging technologies. Animal scientists, in particular, often find themselves subject to criticism that far exceeds their actual responsibility. This growing disapproval raises an important question: are present criticisms rooted in a historical lack of ethical responsibility among scientists? And if so, to what extent are today's consequences the result of past scientific decisions made without adequate foresight or ethical consideration?

For much of human history, the ethical implications of scientific actions were limited in scope, because the technologies available had equally limited spatial and temporal impact. Consequently, the divergence between individual (micro) ethics and broader societal (macro) ethics posed little threat. The effects of scientific advancements were generally contained, and the moral scope guiding them was proportional to the scale of their outcomes.

However, the last decades have seen a profound change. The potential reach of scientific and technological interventions has expanded dramatically, often producing long-term effects across vast geographical and generational boundaries. But humanity's moral development has not kept pace with this expansion. As a result, scientists now exercise tools with immense transformative power yet often lack the ethical framework or predictive capacity to fully grasp their broader consequences. The outcomes of scientific activities can now go over the limits of human imagination and moral preparedness, challenging our ability to exert responsible control over them.

At the same time, the collective sense of moral responsibility has not evolved to address these new realities. And the forces that have enhanced humanity's technological power—namely the spirit of unbounded scientific innovation—have also undermined the philosophical foundations upon which ethical norms could be built. The main attitude within science and technology tends to reject external constraints, with the capacity to act often seen as justification enough for action, irrespective of long-term effects. In this context, a new ethical framework is urgently needed—one capable of accounting for the power and impact of modern science, such as the "Heuristics of Fear" proposed by the German philosopher, Hans Jonas.

The challenge is even greater in animal production, for scientific advancement is closely tied not only to economic pressures but also the imperative to feed a growing population. Yet, it is precisely these forces that often impede the development and application of such an ethics, dismissing any attempt to question the progression of science and technology. Without addressing this ethical gap, humanity feels to allow its own advancements to outpace its capacity for responsible management and, inevitably, this opens the door to criticism—often directed at the scientists themselves including those of us working in animal science.

Andrea Rosati

EAAP
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News from EAAP

The Scientific Programme of the 1st EAAP Companion Animals Workshop is now available!

The scientific programme of the 1st EAAP Workshop on Companion Animals is now available on the official website and includes several talks from international experts on many aspects of companion animal science. The event will take place in Milan from 14th to 16th May 2025. This workshop provides a dedicated forum for researchers in animal and veterinary science to explore the diverse aspects of the human-animal bond. Participants will engage in discussions on the latest research, innovative approaches to improving companion animal welfare, nutrition topics and the application of population management tools in pet breeding as well as discussing about pet legislations and much more. For more details and registrations visit the workshop website. Don't miss this opportunity!

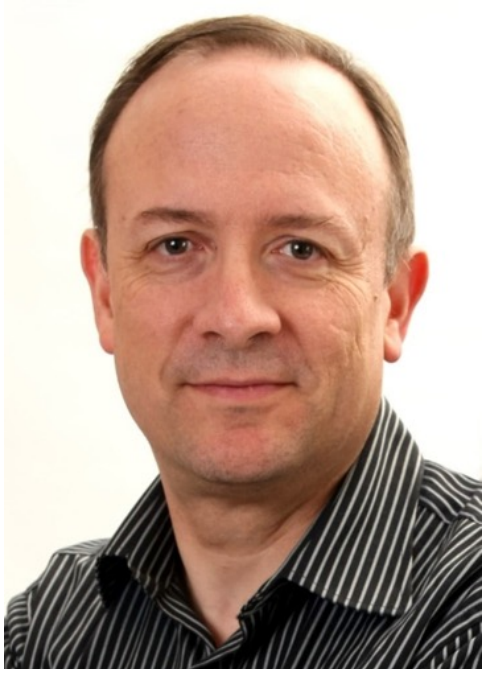
EAAP and ASAS Prepare Joint Conference in the Azores

Jim Sartin, Chief Executive Officer of ASAS, and Andrea Rosati, Secretary General of EAAP, recently visited Terceira Island in the Azores (Portugal) to meet with local scientists at the University of the Azores and to explore facilities in preparation for an exciting upcoming event: the first-ever joint EAAP/ASAS conference, in collaboration with the local University of the Azores. The conference, titled "Environmental Impact of Animal Farming", will be held in Angra do Heroísmo on 19–21 April 2026. This collaborative event will bring together experts from both sides of the Atlantic to discuss one of the most pressing challenges facing livestock production today. The choice of Terceira Island is both strategic and symbolic. Situated in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, it perfectly represents the bridge between Europe and North America. But more than that, it offers an iconic setting for a conference on environmental sustainability. Terceira's main business is dairy farming, with green pastures and a temperate climate ideal for milk production. It's not unusual to see cows grazing freely across the landscape. The island also thrives on tourism, making it a welcoming and vibrant location for international delegates. This will be a truly unique event — the first time EAAP and ASAS join forces for a scientific conference. We encourage all those interested in the future of sustainable livestock systems to mark 19–21 April 2026 in your calendars. Stay tuned with EAAP as we will share more details in the coming weeks!

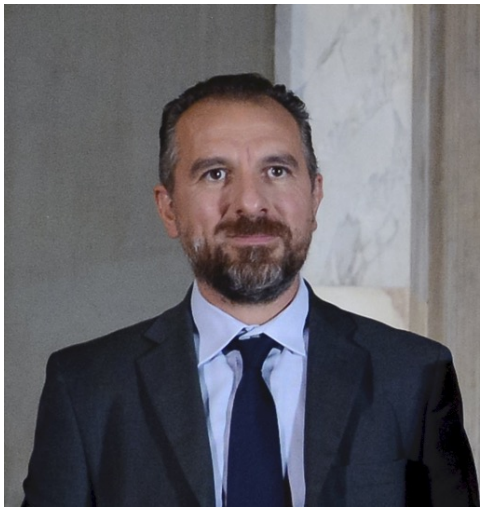
Celebrating the 2025 EAAP Distinguished Service Awardees

EAAP is proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 EAAP Distinguished Service Awards: Isabel Casasús (Spain), Marcello Mele (Italy), and Jean-François Hocquette (France). These prestigious awards are granted by the EAAP Council to honour senior individuals for their exceptional careers and dedicated service to the livestock sector and to EAAP itself. Each of the 2025 awardees has made a permanent impact on animal science through their leadership, scientific excellence, and long-standing commitment to collaboration across Europe and beyond. Their work has significantly contributed to the services that EAAP offers to its members and to animal science in general. EAAP is honoured to celebrate their achievements and grateful for their unwavering support of our scientific community. We extend our warmest congratulations to Isabel, Marcello, and Jean-François for this well-deserved recognition.

Isabel Casasús



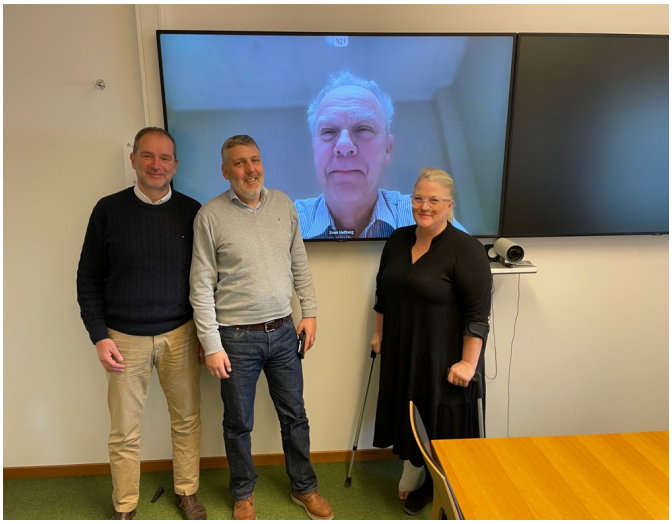
Jean-François Hocquette



Marcello Mele

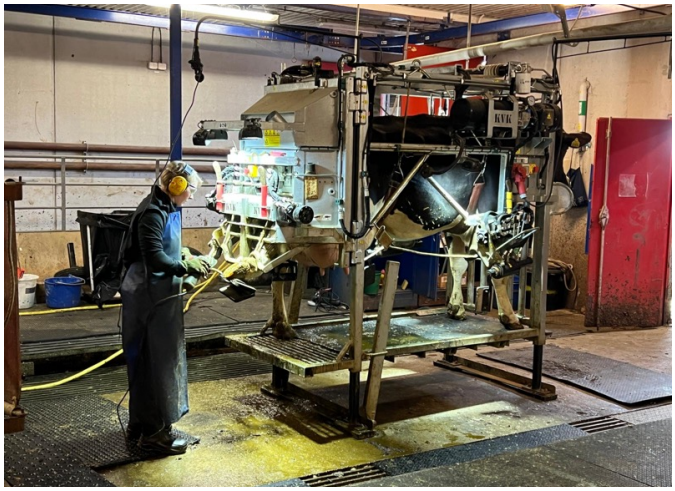
EAAP visiting SLU, Sweden and SustAinimal

In early April 2025, the Secretary General of EAAP, Andrea Rosati, visited the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), following an invitation from Mårten Hetta, Vice-Dean of SLU for External Cooperation. The visit included two of SLU's campuses, in Uppsala and Umeå. The Uppsala part of the visit focused on meetings with the Dean and colleagues from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. Colleagues at SLU expressed great appreciation for EAAP as a vital platform for scientific exchange, communication, and networking. Sweden currently has 219 individual EAAP members, with a substantial number affiliated with SLU and related organisations. Read the full article here.



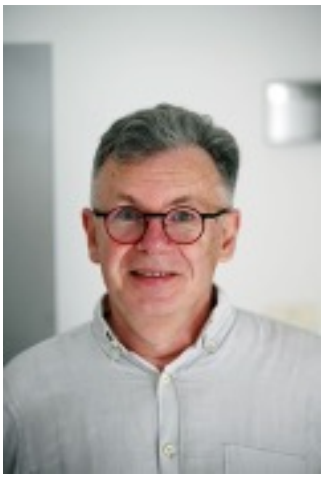
From left to right: Andrea Rosati, Mårten Hetta, Sven Hellberg and Sigrid Agenäs

From left to right: Mats Perhrsson, Mårten Hetta and Andrea Rosati



EAAP People Portrait

Slaven Zjalic

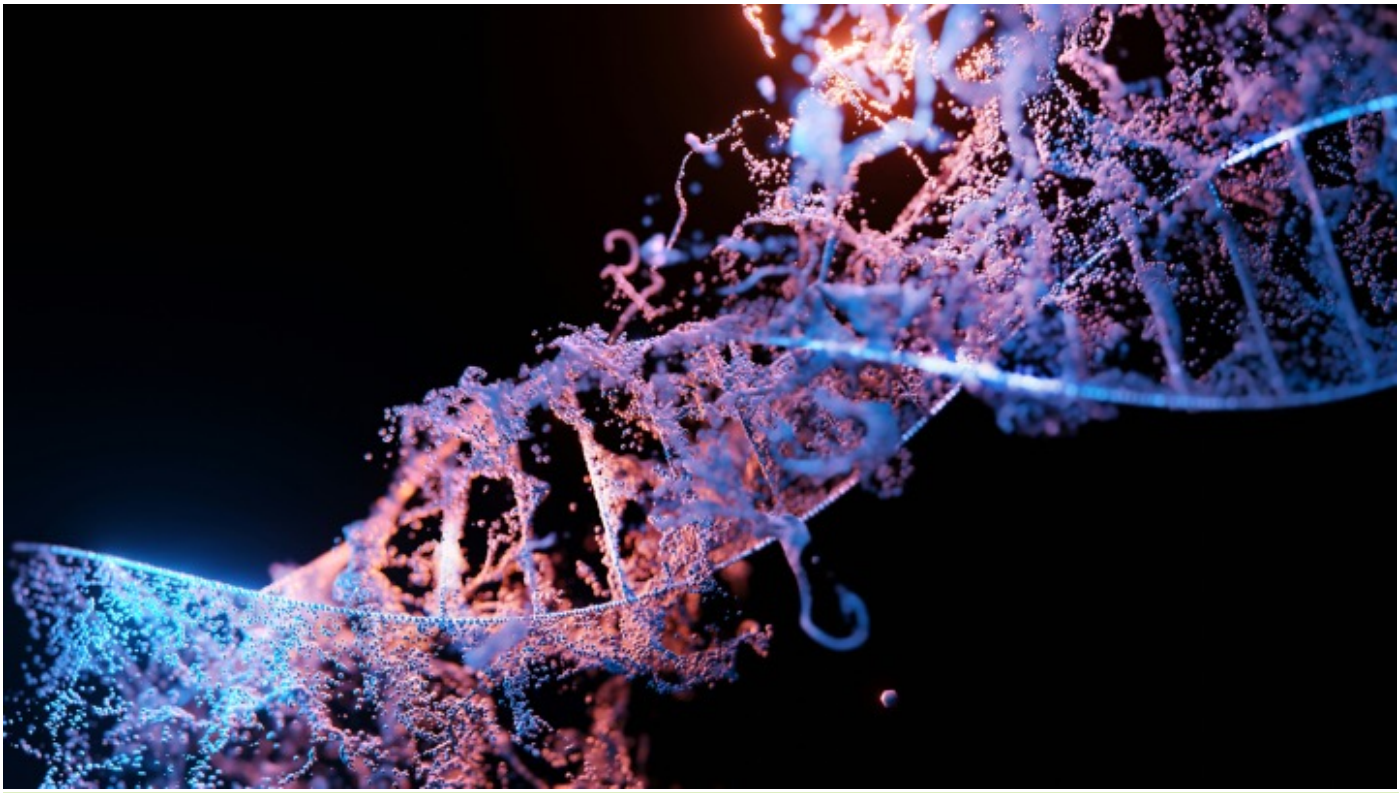


Slaven Zjalic was born in Zagreb, but moved to Rome, Italy, with his family as a teenager. He graduated in biology with a major in biotechnology from the Sapienza University of Rome. After graduation, he remained as collaborator at the Laboratory of Mycology and Plant Pathology Laboratory of the Department of Environmental Sciences at the Sapienza University of Rome and obtained his doctorate in Botanical Sciences at the same university. Already at the beginning of his scientific career he was interested in mushrooms and fungi, and soon he focused on the control of mycotoxin production and occurrence in food and animal feed. His research focuses on more environmentally friendly methods to control the presence of mycotoxins in animal feed. During his PhD, he is helping to clarify the mechanism of control of the synthesis of aflatoxins, the most toxic mycotoxins, and the role of oxidative stress in fungal cells as a trigger for their production. The research work for the doctorate has shown that the polysaccharides produced by higher fungi could be an effective means of controlling aflatoxin synthesis. Read the complete profile here.

Science and Innovation

Multitrait genome-wide association best linear unbiased prediction of genetic values

This study extends the multitrait GWABLUP (Genome-Wide Association based Best Linear Unbiased Prediction) method by introducing trait-specific SNP weights, improving upon the original approach which assumed uniform SNP weights across traits. Using a three-trait dairy cattle dataset, SNP effects and their standard errors from multitrait GWAS were converted into trait-specific likelihood ratios and posterior probabilities. These informed the construction of trait-specific prior (co)variance matrices for each SNP, which were then used in a SNP-BLUP model for genomic prediction, implemented via the APEX linear model suite. In a validation population, applying trait-specific SNP weights enhanced prediction reliability for all traits. The greatest improvement was observed for somatic cell count, which is weakly correlated with the other traits and was poorly predicted using shared SNP weights. Overall, the use of trait-specific SNP weights led to up to 13% higher reliability compared to unweighted SNP-BLUP, demonstrating clear advantages in genomic prediction accuracy across traits. Read the full article on Genetics Selection Evolution.



Fibre-rich ingredients differing in physicochemical properties modulate digesta transit and digestion kinetics in pigs

This study investigated how different insoluble fibres and pectin supplementation affect digesta transit and nutrient digestion in pigs. Boars were fed diets containing wheat straw (WS), softwood flour (WF), or sunflower seed hulls (SF), with or without added pectin (WSP). Tracer-supplemented diets allowed measurement of mean retention time (MRT) for digesta fractions throughout the gastrointestinal tract (GIT). WF and SF, compared with coarse WS, shortened MRT of fine solids and fibrous particles in the stomach and reduced gastric segregation, particularly in the distal stomach. Pectin addition to WS also reduced separation between fine solids and liquids, increased starch digestibility in the mid-small intestine, but lowered total tract nitrogen digestibility. In the large intestine, WS led to faster digesta passage than WF and SF. Fermentation of insoluble fibres was poor (≤19%), while pectin was fully fermented without affecting WS fermentation. Overall, fibre type and pectin significantly influenced digestive dynamics and nutrient utilisation. Read the full article on Animal.

The future of antibiotic use in livestock

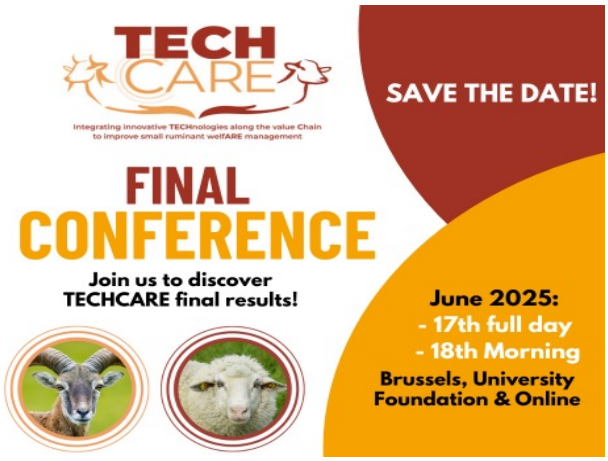
Governments have committed to significantly reducing antimicrobial use (AMU) in agrifood systems by 2030, with 47 countries pledging a 30–50% reduction under the Muscat Manifesto. However, rising livestock biomass (LBIO) due to population growth presents challenges. This article projects global livestock antibiotic use (AMUQ) through 2040, introducing a novel Livestock Biomass Conversion (LBC) method to address limitations in current metrics. Unlike the traditional PCU approach, LBC incorporates detailed species- and system-specific liveweight data for more accurate LBIO estimates. Using this method, global AMUQ was estimated at ~110,777 tons in 2019, compared to ~99,414 tons via PCU. Under a business-as-usual scenario, AMUQ may rise to ~143,481 tons by 2040, a 29.5% increase, though projections vary widely depending on changes in LBIO and AMU intensity (AMUI). These findings underscore the need for integrated strategies addressing both LBIO and AMUI to achieve global AMU reduction targets. Read the full article on Nature.

Genetic parameters for image-based estimations of swine feet and leg conformation traits

This study developed and assessed a novel image-based algorithm to extract structural conformation traits from pigs and estimate their genetic parameters in relation to growth and herd retention. Using an Intel RealSense D435i camera, side-view RGB images of 846 purebred Duroc pigs at 156 days old were captured. Images were selected when the front, back, or both left legs were clearly visible, with feet flat on the ground. Apple's image segmentation algorithm isolated the pig from the background, after which a new algorithm identified the leg(s) and extracted 21 skeletal conformation traits. User guidance improved accuracy in leg detection. The algorithm successfully identified front and back legs in 99.9% and 98.0% of cases, respectively. Heritability estimates ranged from 0.01 to 0.33. Some conformation traits showed weak to moderate genetic correlations with growth and feed efficiency. Notably, certain leg traits were associated with longer herd retention in boars and gilts, offering potential for selection based on structural soundness. Read the full article on Journal of Animal Science.

News From EU

TechCare final conference - Save the Date!



The TechCare final conference "Integrating innovative TECHnologies along the value Chain to improve small ruminant welfARE management" will take place at the University Foundation in Brussels on 17th and 18th June 2025. TechCare (2020-2025) aimed to demonstrate innovative approaches to monitor animal-based welfare indicators and improve welfare management in small ruminants (SR) systems using precision livestock farming (PLF) technologies along the whole production chain, enabling all stakeholders, from farmers to consumers and regulators to choose animal welfare friendly products. TechCare tackled the challenge of using innovative and low-cost technologies, adapted to small ruminant systems across the EU.

The 1.5-day final conference will kick off with interventions from sisters' projects and will showcase the project's main results in terms of welfare assessments and their priorities as well as the activities carried out within the project's pilot and large-scale phases. Moreover, the developed online tools, alongside promising prototypes, will be presented. The conference will end with a panel discussion on welfare and innovations with the participation of prominent stakeholders. Registrations will be open soon. Stay tuned on TechCare website!

Job Offers

Postdoctoral Researcher, at IRTA, Caldes de Montbui, Spain

IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated Postdoctoral Researcher with a PhD related to Nutrition, Health and Welfare to join the Ruminant Production Program. We invite applications from ambitious candidates with relevant research experience and passion to conduct research and innovation activities focused on improving the sustainability through nutrition, health and management practices of dairy production. Deadline: **16 April 2025**. For more information read the job vacancy.

Two PhD positions at Wageningen University, The Netherlands

Wageningen University is looking for two PhD candidates:

1. PhD in genomics of behavioural traits in pigs and chickens. A master's degree in a relevant biological field (Quantitative Genetics, Statistical Genetics, Animal Breeding, or something related) is required.

2. PhD in quantitative genetics of behavioural traits in pigs and chickens. A master's degree in a relevant biological field (Animal Breeding and Genomics, Bioinformatics, Molecular Biology) with affinity for the topic is required.

Deadline for both position: **21 April 2025.**

Full professor position at SLU, Uppsala, Sweden

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science is looking for a full Professor focusing on the role of animal welfare for the food system as a whole. The applicant must have successfully completed a doctoral degree or have the equivalent academic qualifications, as well as hold the qualifications required for appointment as a docent within a subject relevant to the position. Deadline: **28 April 2025**. For more information read the job vacancy.

PhD position at INRAE, France

INRAE is hiring a PhD student, who's thesis will aim to propose selection criteria for improving animal resilience based on longitudinal laying behaviours data. This thesis is based on a public-private partnership between INRAE and NOVOGEN, a breeding company of laying hens (Plédran, France). Deadline: **30 May 2025**. For more information read the job vacancy.

Animal Science Podcasts

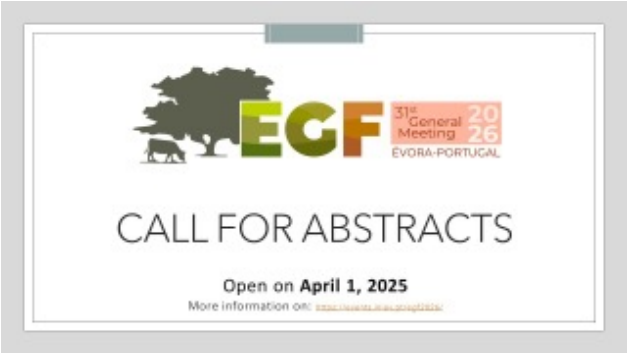
American Sheep Industry Association Podcast: "*A Look into AI and Embryo Transfers*", speaker Tad Thompson.

Other News

31st EGF General Meeting - Call for abstracts

The Portuguese Society of Grasslands and Forages (SPPF), in collaboration with the National Institute of Agricultural and Veterinary Research, IP (INIAV) and the

Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development (MED), is honoured to organise the 31st General Meeting of the European Grassland Federation (EGF), from 13 to 16 April 2026 in Évora, Portugal. The organising committee welcomes the submission of papers presenting new research findings on "**Challenges and Innovations for Grasslands Resilience**".



Abstracts should be submitted through the OASES system. The title is allowed to be a maximum 100 keystrokes. The abstract in total is allowed to be a maximum 2500 keystrokes. The body of the abstract is allowed to be maximum 200 words. The deadline is **15 May 2025**. The Scientific Committee will select the oral papers and the posters. Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to write a full paper (three pages) with a deadline of **29 July 2025**. The papers will be subject to a further review. All accepted papers will be published in Grassland Science in Europe. The Meeting will be preceded by a Masterclass and two working group meetings. Additionally, a post-conference tour to the Azores Islands will take place. Further information can be found on the website and read the attachment.

18th International Symposium of Animal Biology and Nutrition

The 18th International Symposium of Animal Biology and Nutrition will take place on the 26th of September 2025 in Romania. The event is organized by the National Institute for Research and Development for Biology and Animal Nutrition – IBNA Balotești and will be held at the institute's headquarters. For more details visit the website.

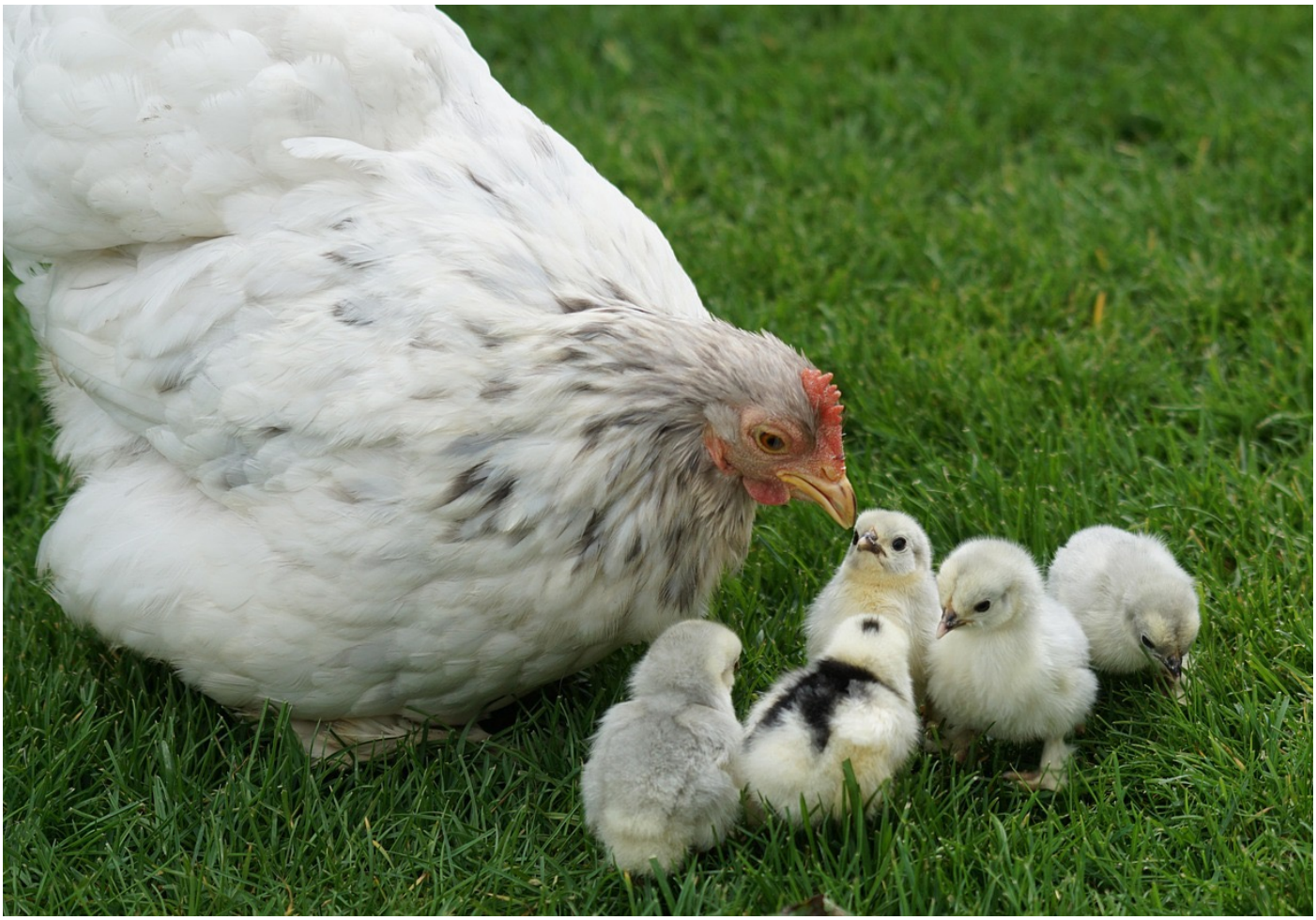
Multispecies swards enhance animal performance in a co-grazing cattle and sheep production system

Co-grazing cattle and sheep on multispecies swards significantly improved growth performance compared to traditional pastures, with higher average daily gains and carcass yields. The 6-species sward (6SP) delivered the best results for both heifers and lambs. These systems required lower nitrogen input, enhancing both productivity and sustainability. Read the article here.

Study: Behaviour differences linked to broiler growth rates

Slow-growing chickens displayed behaviours more closely associated with positive welfare when compared with conventional broiler breeds. Research carried out at the University of Arkansas explored the impacts of genetic strain, stocking density and the comparison of physiological versus chronological age between 2 genetic strains on

broiler behaviour. The researchers reviewed video recordings of the birds at specific intervals to track behaviours, such as walking, standing and preening, which are signs of positive animal welfare. Read the full article on PoultryWorld.



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
1st EAAP Companion Animals Workshop	14 – 16 May 2025	Milan, Italy	Website
1st EAAP Artificial Intelligence 4 Animal Science Workshop	4 – 6 June 2025	Zurich, Switzerland	Website
76th EAAP Annual Meeting	25 – 29 August 2025	Innsbruck, Austria	Website
8th EAAP International Symposium on Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition	15 -18 September 2025	Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany	Website

Other Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
16th European Symposium of Porcine Health Management	21 -23 May 2025	Bern, Switzerland	Website
XXI AIDA Conference on Animal Production 2025	3 – 4 June 2025	Zaragoza, Spain	Website
2025 ADSA Annual Meeting	22 – 25 June 2025	Louisville, Kentucky, USA	Website
71st ICoMST-International Congress of Meat Science and Technology	3 – 8 August 2025	Girona, Spain	Website

More conferences and workshops are available on EAAP website.

"Yes, I deserve a spring–I owe nobody nothing."

(Wirginia Woolf)

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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.

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