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EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Nature in Transformation: Ecological Restoration

and the Evolving Role of Livestock Farming

The Nature Restoration Regulation, approved about a year ago, is the first EU regulation that sets binding targets for the restoration of degraded ecosystems, particularly those with the greatest capacity to absorb carbon and prevent natural disasters. It is part of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and responds to the alarming state of nature in Europe, where more than 80% of habitats are in poor condition. Restoring wetlands, forests, grasslands, rivers, and marine ecosystems means not only protecting biodiversity but also safeguarding essential ecosystem services such as water purification, pollination, and flood protection. This regulation also contributes to European resilience and the fight against climate change.

Agricultural and livestock farming activities are directly involved: while they have historically contributed to ecosystem pressure, today they can become part of the solution. Regenerative and sustainable livestock farming can help maintain rural landscapes, preserve grasslands, and support the carbon cycle through smart management of pastures and manure. In this sense, the regulation offers an opportunity to rethink production models, rewarding those that integrate environmental, economic, and social goals.

At the heart of this regulation lie deep reflections on nature, the human role in ecosystems, sustainability, and ecological and democratic literacy. The text embraces an evolutionary and dynamic view of nature: not a fixed entity or an ideal model to blindly imitate, but a system in constant transformation. It calls for moving beyond an anthropocentric perspective, reimagining humans – and with them, livestock farmers – as "positive ecosystem engineers", capable of co-evolving with the environment. Livestock farming, if properly oriented, can support this co-evolution, contributing to the common good.

The regulation is innovative and scientifically grounded, but without real political, economic, and educational commitment, it risks remaining ineffective. Involving the livestock sector in an educational and transformative process will also be essential. Educating decision-makers is necessary not only to protect biodiversity but also to safeguard rural communities – and, regrettably, today such education seems necessary even to secure the future of democracies.

Andrea Rosati

News from EAAP

AI4AS Conference Presentations Now Available for EAAP Members

We are pleased to inform you that the PowerPoint presentations from the 1st EAAP Conference on Artificial Intelligence applied to Animal Science (AI4AS), held in Zurich (Switzerland), are [now available online](#). This exclusive content is accessible to all EAAP individual members and to participants of the conference. This initiative is part of EAAP's ongoing commitment to support knowledge exchange and professional development in the field of animal science. Alongside access to conference materials, EAAP individual members benefit from a wide range of services, including webinars, journals, networking opportunities, and more. If you are not yet an individual member, we encourage you to join our community and take full advantage of these valuable resources.

Join us in Innsbruck for the 76th EAAP Annual Meeting!

We are delighted to invite all animal scientists, professionals, and stakeholders to the 76th EAAP Annual Meeting, which will take place in the beautiful alpine city of Innsbruck, Austria, from 25th to 29th August 2025. This year's meeting promises to be a vibrant and inspiring event, featuring around **1,450 submitted abstracts** and more than **80 scientific sessions** covering the most relevant and innovative topics in animal science. The programme includes an **exciting plenary session**, **interactive poster presentations**, and a variety of **workshops and technical tours**. In addition to the rich scientific content, participants will enjoy a memorable social programme designed to foster networking and collaboration. Austrian researchers and institutions will showcase the country's **diverse and distinctive livestock farming systems**, offering insights into both traditional practices and innovative developments. Set against the stunning backdrop of the Tyrolean Alps, Innsbruck offers the perfect environment to exchange knowledge, meet colleagues from across the globe, and experience the unique cultural and agricultural heritage of Austria. **Registrations are still open**, and more information about the programme, venue, and accommodation is available [on the website](#). We warmly invite you to join us in

Innsbruck and contribute to the continued advancement of animal science. **We look forward to seeing you there!**

Call for Applications – Open Positions in EAAP Study Commissions

EAAP members are reminded that several positions are currently open within EAAP Study Commissions. This is a valuable opportunity to become actively involved in EAAP's scientific activities, contribute to shaping the future of animal science, and strengthen your international network within our vibrant community. [Full details of the available roles can be found here](#), and [the application form is available here](#). We warmly encourage all members – especially early-career scientists and those wishing to play a more active role in EAAP – to apply. To apply, please send your completed form by email to eleonora@eaap.org.

The deadline to apply is **20 July 2025**. Be part of the conversation. Be part of the change.

Join the EAAP German Newsletter translation!

EAAP Newsletter counts more than 2000 readers in Europe and abroad. Our community is constantly growing thanks also to the translation and dissemination activity of our volunteers in ten different languages. EAAP is looking for a German-speaking volunteer to join the activity of Newsletter translation. As volunteer you will benefit of a free registration to the EAAP Annual Meeting and visibility. If interested, please contact federica@eaap.org

Supervision & Work-Life Balance: Your Voice Matters!

Es every year, YoungEAAP is organising a session at the EAAP annual meeting, this year in Innsbruck. This year's session is dedicated to the topic of supervision and work-life balance. And we need your help!

We decided to address the topic of supervision since we believe for such a crucial part of a researcher's carrier, it is not talked about enough. We have probably all experienced (or know someone) that experienced improper supervision, or on the other hand had a wonderful supervisor that really helped them jump off their carrier! That is why we are launching a survey, and we want to hear about everything - good and bad experiences with supervisors or types of supervision, lack of proper supervision, being left high and dry; but also about the good stuff, happy moments, and support you've received. We also want to hear how you, as a young scientist yourself, have approached supervising

young colleagues - whether you've received any training, what are the struggles here etc. With this, we want to expose the problem of improper supervision but also offer some solutions and share approaches that work. The survey is anonymous - and feel free to share it with your colleagues and fellow young scientists. The results will be presented at our session in Innsbruck on the 27th of August 2025. [Here the link to the survey!](#) Learn more about the [Young EAAP Club](#) and follow us on [LinkedIn!](#)

EAAP People Portrait

Enrico Sturaro



Enrico Sturaro grew up in a little town close to Verona, in the north of Italy. At the high school he studied chemistry, but after the diploma he decided to change direction, and he moved to Padova to study Veterinarian medicine. During the internship for master thesis, Enrico focus his interest on livestock and he applied and was selected for a PhD in Animal Breeding and genetics at the University of Padova. Now Enrico is full professor of Animal Science at the University of Padova, where he works on research, teaching and extension activities focusing on sustainable development of livestock farming systems. His researches are oriented to the definition and implementation of indicators to analyse the relationships between livestock farming systems and agroecosystems. It is a complex interaction, and it requires a multidisciplinary approach. For this reason, Enrico is always open to new collaboration, with colleagues of the same area or from different disciplines. [Read the complete profile here.](#)

Science and Innovation

The genomic comparison between autochthonous and cosmopolitan cows reveals structural variants involved in environmental adaptation

Copy Number Variants (CNVs) are structural genomic variations influencing genetic diversity and phenotypic traits. This study used CNVs to explore the relationship between genomic variability and environmental adaptation in four Alpine dual-purpose cattle breeds (Aosta cattle: Aosta Red Pied – ARP; Aosta Black Pied/Chestnut – ABC and Mixed Chestnut-Héren – ACH) and Oropa Red Pied (ORO) and the intensively farmed Holstein (HOL). Using data from over 5,600 animals, researchers identified 160,798 CNVs. Principal Component Analysis showed clear clustering: Aosta breeds formed two groups, partly overlapping with ORO, while Holstein remained distinct. A total of 526 CNV regions were present in at least 2% of animals. Functional analyses linked CNVs to production, health, and adaptation traits. Key findings included genes related to muscle-endurance trade-offs in Aosta breeds and milk efficiency in Holsteins. Reproductive genes also reflected different selection pressures, highlighting CNVs as markers of adaptation to natural versus artificial farming environments. [Read the full article on Nature.](#)

Use of a priority lane to increase voluntary visits to a milking robot in dairy cows

In automatic milking systems, cow motivation to visit the robot is essential, yet lame or low-ranking cows often have reduced access due to competition, affecting welfare and productivity. This study tested whether a priority lane—providing exclusive robot access—could improve outcomes for such cows. Twenty-four cows (lame or low-ranking) were paired and split between priority and control treatments, with additional cows added to heighten competition. Data on training time, robot visits, lying behaviour, and hair cortisol were collected over 15 weeks across four phases. Priority cows showed more lying bouts and higher milking robot visit rates, but no differences in training duration, hair cortisol, lying time, or milking interval variability. In phase two, cows gaining priority access increased successful visits, while those losing it did not decrease visits. Overall, priority access improved visit frequency but showed limited effects on welfare indicators. [Read the full article on Journal of Dairy Science.](#)

Farmers' experiences of implementing cow-calf-contact systems on organic dairy farms

Most people are unaware that dairy calves are usually separated from their mothers shortly after birth, and tend to view the practice negatively when informed. In response, some farms are adopting cow-calf-contact (CCC) systems, allowing calves to remain with their mothers for longer, better reflecting natural behaviour. This study explored CCC implementation on 19 dairy farms in southern Germany, each of which had used such systems for at least two years. Using standardised interviews, researchers found diverse approaches across farms. Key motivations included improved animal welfare and reduced workload. However, farmers also reported challenges, particularly related to calf separation and space limitations. Long-term success with CCC systems appeared to depend on the farmer's personal commitment, adaptability, and management skills. The study highlights the importance of aligning calf-rearing practices with growing societal expectations for animal welfare. [Read the full article on Animal.](#)



Genomic analyses of Asiatic Mouflon in Iran provide insights into the domestication and evolution of sheep

This study explores the genetic structure and contribution of Iranian Asiatic mouflon (*Ovis gmelini*) to domestic sheep. Using 788 whole-genome sequences, 1,104 mitogenomes, and 239 Y chromosomes, researchers identified two mouflon subpopulations: *O. gmelini*_1, widespread across Iran, and *O. gmelini*_2, isolated on Kaboodan Island. Phylogenetic analysis showed that both formed monophyletic lineages with domestic sheep, with mitochondrial haplogroups C/E and paternal lineage HY2 likely originating from these mouflons. Significant genetic introgression

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from *O. gmelini_2* into four South and Southeast Asian sheep breeds (e.g. Garut, Nellore) was detected. This introgression appears to have contributed to traits such as body size, fat metabolism, and adaptation to hot, humid environments. These findings clarify mouflon substructure in Iran and suggest a previously underappreciated role of Iranian mouflon in sheep domestication and local adaptation. [Read the full article on Genetics Selection Evolution.](#)



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News From EU

TechCare Final conference in Brussels!

The final conference of the TechCare project took place in Brussels on the 17-18th June 2025. Over 80 people attended the 2 days, both online and in person from over 18 different countries. The event was a great opportunity to take stock after 5 years of exciting research across Europe on the use of innovative technologies for small ruminants welfare management, with proofs of concept, prototypes, pilot trials and large-scale studies to leverage technologies and data to identify useful early indicators for farmers in their management of the welfare of their animals both indoors & outdoors, and also during transportation. The first day was dedicated to the project with an overview from the project coordinator, Claire Morgan-Davies (SRUC), followed by presentations from 4 other EU funded projects ([DECIDE](#), [ClearFarm](#), [Digi4Live](#), [aWISH](#)) to give their experience from their project's perspective. This was followed by presentations from Cathy Dwyer (SRUC) on the work done on welfare assessments and priorities in small ruminant systems. Germain Tesniere (IDELE), with the help of Leticia Riaguas (Oviaragon) presented the work done with the technologies tested in the pilot trials and large-scale

studies, whilst Gerardo Caja (UAB) and Cathy Dwyer (SRUC) showed results of the transportation trials by road and by boat. [Read the full article here.](#)



The 4th RUMIGEN annual meeting!

The fourth annual meeting of the RUMIGEN project was held at the city of Oslo in a meeting room located on the seventh floor of the "Grand Hôtel" from June 17 until the 19, 2025. The meeting attracted 45 participants from the nine work packages (WPs) that make up the project, covering nearly all the partners. Short presentations resumed each of the nine WP ongoing work, achievements and action plan, highlighting results already being or in the process of

being valorised during the final year of RUMIGEN. Five workshops provided an opportunity to further discuss the obtained results and/or allowed for role-playing to illustrate the analyses of the societal aspect, one of the specificities of RUMIGEN, as well as the potential contribution of the different WPs in defining new breeding elements or illustrating those implemented in the breeding programmes used by breeding companies (BC/O). A presentation of the ethics report by Andy Greenfield proposed options for how this report could be structured in the absence of a clear definition of expectations, which must be better defined with our project officer. We also had a discussion on the exploitation of key project results, suggested and organized by IT. [Read the full article here.](#)



CoCo Press Release: From Mountain Pastures to Research

Zuriñe Iglesias González (Madrid, 27) and Angie Ruiz (Reus, 29) represent a new generation of women who are forging connections between modern pastoralism and conservation science. Their diverse backgrounds and shared commitment to finding ways of balancing livestock and wildlife in the same spaces highlight the importance of local knowledge and lived experience in shaping sustainable futures for Europe's rural landscapes. [Read the full press release here.](#)

4th Call for Projects under AgroServ

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the 4th Call for Projects under [AgroServ](#), a Horizon Europe project funded by the European Union. A new opportunity to be part of the AgroServ project and obtain free access to research services on agroecology. This initiative offers researchers, industry leaders, and practitioners from around the world transnational and virtual free access to cutting-edge research services in the field of agroecology.

Eligibility criteria:

- Respect the Transnational rules as in SmartCow
- The project must involve at least 2 different research infrastructures within AgroServ (SmartCow and another among the 12 RI of AgroServ)
- The topic of the project must be related to agroecology

Expected deadline for submissions: **15 October 2025**. For more information [visit the webpage](#).

Experts for project “Improvement of legislation, control and awareness in food safety, animal health and welfare and phytosanitary in Ukraine” (ILCA III)

The project aims to support the government of Ukraine in the adoption of EU acquis in the fields of food safety, animal health and welfare and phytosanitary. It will contribute to raise the capacities of both the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food (MAPF) and the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection (SSUFSCP) in designing and implementing key reforms in these sectors and enhance the functionality of Ukraine’s services, control and infrastructure system in a gradual alignment with relevant EU and other international standards. The project will notably continue supporting the approximation of Ukrainian legislation with EU legislation in sanitary and phytosanitary areas, build the risk assessment and control capacities of competent authority and contribute to the digitalisation of its services. Deadline: **14 July 2025**. For more information and application please contact: birgit.maier-stein@adt.de

Job Offers

Research Scientist at Agroscope, Zurich, Switzerland

[Agroscope](#) is looking for a Research Scientist in Life Cycle Assessment of Agricultural Systems. As a Research Scientist in the Life Cycle Assessment of Agricultural Systems you will be responsible for the further development of the SALCA method and the tools of the LCA Research Group (in particular SALCAfuture) as well as the SALCA Life Cycle Inventory Database. Your knowledge of agricultural and environmental processes will enable you to further develop the models. For more information [read the job vacancy](#).

Animal Science Podcasts

American Sheep Industry Association Podcast: "[Mineral Supplementation](#)", speaker Dr Robert Van Saun

Other News

Course: Black Soldier Fly: Boosting a Sustainable Future

How can one insect reshape the global food system? The Black Soldier Fly (BSF) is rapidly gaining attention for its unique ability to transform organic waste into high-value protein, oils, and fertilizer. As the demand for sustainable solutions in food, feed, and farming grows, BSF offers a scalable and impactful answer. This course empowers professionals to understand and apply the full BSF value chain. The course is organised by the Wageningen University and will be held from 23 to 27 March 2026. For more information and registration [read the flyer](#).





FAO: Calling all young livestock farmers!

Are you 18–35 years old and working in the livestock sector? We want to hear from you! As part of the upcoming [Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation](#) (29 Sept – 1 Oct at FAO HQ, Rome), the Coordination Team of the [Global Youth Network on Sustainable Livestock Transformation](#) is launching a call for short videos under the theme: “**Young Voices from the Field**”. Share a 1-minute video showcasing your experience, innovations and challenges working in the field, as well as calls to action for decision-makers in the livestock sector. Record a video, responding to one or more of the following questions:

- What inspired you to get involved in the livestock sector?
- What is the biggest challenge you face in your daily work?
- What is one change you would like to see in the sector – whether from governments, institutions, or the community?
- Have you introduced or adopted an idea, technique, or technology that improved your work or helped overcome a challenge?

For detailed information on the format, requirements, and application process, please refer to [these guidelines for submission](#). Please send the video to youth-livestock@fao.org by **16 July 2025**.

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
76 th EAAP Annual Meeting	25 – 29 August 2025	Innsbruck, Austria	Website
8 th 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
71st ICoMST-International Congress of Meat Science and Technology	3 – 8 August 2025	Girona, Spain	Website
MODNUT 2025	9 – 12 September 2025	Engelberg, Switzerland	Website
Apimondia 2025	23 – 27 September 2025	Copenhagen, Denmark	Website
SAADC2025	1 – 4 October 2025	Can Tho, Vietnam.	Website

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



*“If a man knows not to which port he sails,
no wind is favourable”*

(Seneca)

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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 6700 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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