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Main Topics

- News from EAAP
pagg. 1-2
- EAAP People Portrait
pag. 2
- Science and Innovation
pagg. 2-4
- News from EU
pagg. 4-5
- Job offers
pag. 6
- Publications
pag. 6
- Animal Science Podcast
pag. 6
- Other News
pagg. 6-7
- Conferences, Workshops
pag. 8



EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

European Livestock Efficiency: A Model to Defend

European animal husbandry holds a unique global record, distinguished by its highest average production level. This result does not only translate into quantity, but into a quality that places Europe at the forefront of crucial contemporary debates.

The efficiency of our continent's livestock sector is demonstrated by objective data. Consider that gas emissions derived from animal production in Europe are, on average, 2–2.5 times lower than those recorded in the rest of the world. Furthermore, European standards guarantee a level of welfare for farmed animals that is incomparable to that maintained in other geographical areas. All these combined results ensure a direct and tangible benefit for citizens: they provide food of animal origin at affordable prices for the vast majority of the almost 750 million inhabitants, including non-EU countries, thus guaranteeing an adequate diet for almost our entire population. This scenario of excellence, with its high standards of efficiency and sustainability, is not the result of a historical heritage or acquired rights. It is, instead, the outcome of a continuous and complex synergy of interconnected factors. Success stems from prepared and efficient farmers, from high-level livestock industries rooted throughout the entire territory, and we like to emphasize, from a high-quality research sector, supported by its professionals.

It is fundamental to understand that the maintenance of these high standards, which we enjoy, critically depends on the continuous support for scientific research. For this research to maintain its current qualified levels, it must be supported. In this regard, it is vital to remember that research in agriculture and animal husbandry is an extremely profitable investment: it is estimated that every Euro invested in research yields between 4 and 10 Euros in the long term and generates an immediate Return on Investment (ROI) of +20/30% per year. We must all make it clear to those in decision-making power that without our research, we would not have the current situation, where we rightly address the important effects of production, such as environmental sustainability. We must remember, and EAAP always reminds those concerned, that this is possible because today we have high productive efficiency. To maintain it, and to continue to be a global model of excellence and sustainability, research must always be supported.

Andrea Rosati



News from EAAP

Call for Abstracts: Mountain Grassland and Livestock Joint Conference

We are pleased to invite you to submit the abstract to the EAAP Mountain Grassland and Livestock Joint conference, for an exchange of knowledge on mountain farming, research on pastures and livestock, development of new ideas, and to connect with expert colleagues in the sector and join the European mountain livestock network. The event will be held in Landquart (Switzerland), surrounded by the Eastern Swiss Alps, at Plantahof, a renovated historic building. Participants will attend interesting presentations and enjoy social events where they can taste Swiss specialties (including an excellent social dinner!) and enjoy an excursion in breathtaking landscapes. The themes range from site-adapted animals and management to the context of climate change, to the quality of products "from pasture to plate", and to the economics of livestock production. Therefore, do not miss the opportunity to present your research to the European mountain livestock network! You can now submit your abstract and contribute to a sustainable future for mountain ecosystems. For more information on how to submit abstracts, the complete topics, and the program [visit the official website](#).

Join the 31st EAAP Webinar titled: "Speaking to farmers and shepherds about livestock depredation"

The webinar, organised in collaboration with the Co-creating Coexistence (CoCo) Horizon Europe project, of which EAAP is a partner, will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 15:00 (CET). It will open with a presentation by John Linnell (Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences) who will introduce the CoCo project and its upcoming webinar series. Following that, Daniel Martín Collado (CITA, Spain) will share the findings from six months of interviewing a thousand livestock breeders and shepherds, describing the methodology and key insights. The session will then move into field-experience talks: Ángela Ruiz (CITA, Spain) will detail real-life cases of wolf–livestock interactions in Asturias, while Maria Psaralexi (Callisto NGO, Greece) will discuss living with bears in the Prespa National Park region. Finally, Daniel

Martín Collado will return to outline the next steps – how the data will be used for policy, practice and improved coexistence. For further details and registration, please consult the webinar dedicated page [here](#).



The EAAP in the European Parliament calls for more funds for Livestock Research

On November 18, the Secretary General of the EAAP (European Federation of Animal Science), Andrea Rosati, made a strong and direct appeal during a meeting in the European Parliament for an increase in funding dedicated to livestock research. Rosati stressed that investing in innovation is fundamental to supporting the productive efficiency of the European sector, while ensuring the highest standards of animal welfare and environmental sustainability. Research is the key tool for developing solutions that combine these objectives. Without adequate financial support, Europe risks losing the challenge of competitiveness with other emerging areas of the planet. The appeal was clear: it is necessary to dedicate the funds required for research to ensure a solid and sustainable future for European livestock farming.



Cooperation Reinforced Between EAAP and FEFAC in Brussels

The EAAP and FEFAC (European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation) – the federation representing the European compound feed and premixtures industry and 28 national associations in 27 countries – met in

Brussels to discuss future cooperation activities. FEFAc plays a central role in the food chain and contributes to the economies linked to livestock and aquaculture. Strengthening the link between research (EAAP) and the animal nutrition industry (FEFAc) is fundamental for the progress of both sectors. This synergy is crucial for tackling the challenges of livestock sustainability. Immediate cooperation activities were defined, and joint long-term projects were planned.



From left to right: Anton van den Brink (Deputy Secretary General FEFAc), Alexander Doering (Secretary General FEFAc), Andrea Rosati (EAAP), Andrea Bertaglio (EAAP)

EAAP People Portrait

Franziska Koch



Franziska Koch is a biologist with a major focus on nutritional biochemistry and molecular biology, working at the Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN) in Germany. For the past 10 years, she has been investigating the effects of climate change with a particular interest in heat stress in dairy cows by using climate chambers and climate sensors in the barns. Her research encompasses the leaky gut syndrome, immune and metabolic responses of heat-stressed dairy cows. In her current research project, funded by the German Research Foundation, she wants to uncover the epigenetic mechanisms behind the metabolic response. Furthermore, she mentors PhD and undergraduate students from different universities in Germany. Franziska earned her German Diploma, i.e. M.S., at the University of Rostock, including 6 months at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. In Sweden, she studied Protein Engineering and Microbial Biochemistry. She completed her PhD in Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology focussing on obesity and aging at the Medical Department at the University of Rostock, Germany. During her lab classes, she discovered her interest in biochemistry and molecular techniques. [Read the complete profile here.](#)

Science and Innovation

A role for zinc in the mitigation of zoonotic disease attributable to RNA viruses—a review with application to One Health perspective

The One Health concept provides a crucial foundation for connecting human and animal populations—including livestock, wildlife, and companion animals—with key environmental and socioeconomic factors. This integrated approach is essential for the global understanding, prevention, and treatment of numerous zoonotic diseases that can afflict all groups. A major concern within the One Health initiative is the increasing prevalence of zoonotic diseases primarily attributed to various families of RNA viruses. However, a growing body of research is providing compelling evidence that dietary zinc can play a pivotal role in the prevention and mitigation of these specific RNA virus-attributable illnesses. The escalating global risk posed by these RNA viral diseases requires that we gain a much deeper understanding of the protective function that nutritional immunity offers. This enhanced knowledge is vital for developing effective prevention and mitigation strategies aligned with the principles of One Health. [Read the full article on Animal Frontiers.](#)

Early-Life Risk Factors Predicting Growth Retardation and Mortality in Pigs: A Multi-Criteria Approach

Body weight (BW) variability is a significant challenge in the swine industry, leading to poor efficiency and lack of batch uniformity. This study aimed to identify early-life risk factors and develop a multi-criteria predictive model to classify piglets at risk of poor postnatal growth or mortality ("compromised"). Analysing data from 2,138 pigs, researchers found that BW on day 7 was the strongest predictor of weaning weight ($R^2 > 0.60$), emphasizing the first week's critical influence. A logistic regression model was trained using day 7 data, achieving a high classification accuracy (AUC 0.910). The final model showed that BW on day 1, relative BW on day 1 (RBW), colostrum intake (CI), and sow parity were significant predictors. [Read the full article on Journal of Animal Science.](#)



Preliminary study of pregnancy rates and litter sizes following artificial insemination of boar spermatozoa prepared by colloid centrifugation and hypothermic storage

Antimicrobial resistance necessitates improved antibiotic stewardship, particularly in the pig industry, where significant volumes of antibiotics are used in artificial insemination (AI) semen extenders. This proof-of-concept study aimed to evaluate if Single Layer Centrifugation (SLC) through a low-density colloid, followed by cold storage, could serve as an effective, antibiotic-free alternative without harming fertility. Sows were inseminated with three types of semen: a conventional control, SLC-prepared semen with antibiotics, and SLC-prepared semen without antibiotics. SLC provided a high spermatozoa yield (84–93%). The key finding was that reproductive outcomes were similar across all groups. Farrowing rates were 88% for controls and 89% for SLC groups. Mean litter size was also comparable (16.6, 17.5, and 17, respectively), as were stillborn rates. The study concluded that combining SLC and cold storage does not negatively affect sow reproductive outcomes, regardless of antibiotic inclusion, validating it as a strategy to reduce antibiotic use in pig AI. [Read the full article on Nature.](#)

Dynamic responses of energy metabolism in ewes during late pregnancy: a meta-regression

Insufficient energy intake during late gestation causes negative energy balance, risking metabolic diseases in ewes. This meta-analysis investigated the kinetics of key energy metabolites—glucose, non-esterified fatty acids (NEFAs), and beta-hydroxybutyrate (BHB)—in late gestation ewes relative to dietary energy adequacy (E60: insufficient; E100: sufficient) and litter size. Circulating glucose showed a quadratic trend, dipping significantly between days –28 and –14 before lambing. This decrease was greater with larger litter sizes and more drastic in E60 groups. Conversely, both NEFAs and BHB increased linearly throughout late gestation. Importantly, concentrations of these



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fat-mobilization indicators were consistently higher in E60 diets and in ewes carrying larger litters, confirming energy deficit. The analysis highlighted the strong impact of litter size on energy demands. It also revealed a scarcity of data on ewes carrying three or more lambs, concluding that most diets in the literature, per NRC standards, are inadequate for triplet- or quadruplet-bearing ewes. Specifically, a 100g increase in BW on day 1 was associated with a 27.6% decrease in the odds of being compromised, while higher RBW and CI also reduced risk. The model, based on easily measurable birth indicators, reliably identifies vulnerable pigs, offering a strong tool for on-farm management to improve uniformity and performance. [Read the full article on Animal.](#)



News From EU

Press Release: RUMIGEN & Geronimo-H2020 Joint Session at EAAP!

At the EAAP 2025 Annual Meeting in Innsbruck, the [RUMIGEN](#) and [GeroNIMO](#) projects joined forces to explore how genomic and epigenomic research can drive more resilient, ethical, and sustainable livestock systems. Experts from research, breeding, and policy discussed advances in gene activity, animal resilience, and the ethical dimensions of innovation in farm animal breeding. Read the full press release [here](#).

ON-DEMAND WEBINAR

Advances in Animal Epigenetics

Epigenetics is unlocking new opportunities in animal breeding by showing how environmental factors influence gene expression without changing the DNA sequence.

Learn how epigenetics enables breeders to better predict **production potential and adaptability**, as well as improve selection for **disease resistance and overall health**.

Organised in collaboration with EAAP, this webinar, chaired by INRAE Research Director **Didier Boichard**, features presentations from INRAE and ELIANCE researchers.

Watch now



CoCo Press Release: Bridging Wild and Rural Slovenian Farmers and Students Lead the Way in Coexistence

As the conversation on coexistence between people, livestock, and large carnivores gains momentum across Europe, the CoCo project continues to champion collaborative approaches in diverse landscapes. This summer, the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana (BF-UL) has taken the lead in implementing the CoCo project in Slovenia, with the Department of Biology and the Department of Animal Sciences joining forces to deepen understanding of the relationship between pastoralism and wildlife. Read the full press release [here](#).



CoCo

"By listening to farmers we are building a foundation for practical solutions that will help both rural communities and wildlife."

ŽIVA ALIF

RESEARCHER

BIOTECHNICAL FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA



Funded by the European Union

EcoGen Webinar Series: Episode 7 "Innovation Beyond Traditional Breeding – Part 2"

You are invited to EcoGen Webinar, Episode 7 (Part 2) "Genome and Epigenome Editing through Responsible Innovation Perspective" on Friday, **28 November 2025 at 12:30 (CET)**.

Speakers:

Guillaume Devailly, INRAE

Matias Schrauf, Wageningen University & Research

Eric Pailhoux, INRAE

Invited speaker:

Karel de Greef, Wageningen University & Research

Join us as we explore new frontiers in genome and epigenome editing and how they could help improve sustainable animal production in Europe. To register click [here!](#) We look forward to seeing you there!





 animal family of journals

Job Offers

Nutrition Scientist at Affinity Petcare, Barcellona, Spain

[Affinity Petcare](#) is looking for a Nutrition Scientist (VET) responsible for advancing scientific excellence in pet nutrition by managing innovative research programs that bridge science and product innovation. A PhD related with pet nutrition and health is required. For more information [read the job vacancy](#).

Senior Researcher at CVR at Arnhem, The Netherlands

[CRV's](#) Global Genetics department is looking for a Senior Researcher who will contribute to the continuous development of CRV's breeding programs through innovation. A PhD or Master's degree in Genetics, Molecular Biology, or a related field (biology/bioinformatics) is required. For more information [read the job vacancy](#).

PhD research opportunities at Agriculture Victoria, Australia

A PhD opportunity focused on GxExM modelling to improve feed efficiency in dairy cattle is available at [Agriculture Victoria](#), Australia. The student will be part of a vibrant research community that spans the dairy industry through linkages with the Victorian Dairy Innovation Agreement partners in addition to DataGene. Closing date for applications: until filled. For more information [read the job vacancy](#).

Publications

- Animal consortium (EAAP, INRAE, BSAS) – Elsevier

[Animal: Volume 19 - Issue 11 – November 2025](#)

Article of the month: "[Opinion paper: Ethical and equitable sharing of farm animal data requires stakeholder participation in data governance](#)".

Animal Science Podcasts

American Sheep Industry Association Podcast: "[The Benefits of Crossbreeding](#)", speaker Scott Greiner



Other News

Game-changing mastitis solution without antibiotics

A new sustainable solution could help eliminate mastitis. To reduce reliance on antibiotics and combat [mastitis](#), international researchers have developed an innovative method that lowers the risk of udder infections in dairy cows through a novel mechanism. Scientists have recently unveiled research that aims to offer "an alternative

class of potent antimicrobial compounds that could be used in the agriculture industry to combat multi-drug-resistant bacteria,” says Prof Mary Chan, one of the co-leads of the research from [Nanyang Technological University](#)’s School of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology and the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. [Read the full article on DairyGlobal.](#)



Feed nutrient distribution affects broiler performance

[Broilers](#) being feed in houses through long distribution lines can be affected by inconstant feed quality, affecting bird growth and health. Researchers at Penn State University, United States, carried out a study of how nutrient distribution affects broiler chicken performance, processing yields and bone mineralisation. [Read the full article on AllAboutFeed.](#)

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
EAAP-ASAS Conference on Livestock farming and the environment: emissions and solutions	19 – 21 April 2026	Azores Islands, Portugal	Website
4th EAAP Regional Meeting – Mediterranean Region	20 – 22 May 2026	Sassari, Italy	Website
1st Conference on Animal for Fiber	9 – 13 June 2026	Chifeng, China	Website
Mountain Grassland and Livestock Joint Conference	15 – 17 June 2026	Plantahof, Landquart Switzerland	Website
2nd Artificial Intelligence 4 Animal Science Workshop	29 – 30 June 2026	Ghent, Belgium	Website

Other Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
4 th International Precision Dairy Farming Conference	3 – 5 December 2025	Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand	Website
Plant and Animal Genome Conference (PAG 33)	9 – 14 January 2026	San Diego, California, USA	Website
ASAS Southern Section Meeting	25 – 27 January 2026	Rogers, Arkansas, USA	Website

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



*“A happy man is too satisfied with the present
to dwell too much on the future.”*

(Albert Einstein)

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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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