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EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Science Changes Address

In 2024, half of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry went to two researchers who held no university chair. Demis Hassabis and John Jumper worked for Google DeepMind. The problem they had solved, predicting the shape of proteins from their sequence, had occupied academic biology for half a century. It was not the first time a company had won a Nobel Prize. It was, however, the sign of something new. According to Stanford's AI Index, more than 91 per cent of the notable artificial intelligence models of 2025 were developed by industry. Universities produced just one. The reasons are no mystery. Training a frontier model costs hundreds of millions of dollars in computing power, and the best researchers follow the machines, as well as the salaries. In 2004, one in five North American PhDs in artificial intelligence chose industry. By 2020, it was almost seven in ten.

Those of us who work in animal science already know this story. The methods of genetic selection were born in universities, from Henderson's models to genomic selection. But in broiler chickens, and increasingly in pigs, the data sit inside a handful of companies, and with the data the capacity to ask the questions has moved as well. Results reach conferences late and incomplete, and public researchers must ask permission to study them. This is not about demonising companies, which invest and innovate. The point is that science rests on a precise pact. Whoever discovers something publishes it, explains how they got there, and accepts being proven wrong. Companies live by a different pact, one that rewards secrecy. When the research frontier moves into corporations, the second pact erodes the first, and reproducibility becomes a luxury.

What remains for universities is perhaps the role of referee, the one who measures, verifies and publishes what nobody has an interest in publishing. It was a competition run by academics that certified AlphaFold's success, and the world believed them precisely because they had nothing to sell. But a referee who has never played is a fragile figure. If universities lose the ability to build these systems, who will be able to tell us whether what companies announce is true?

Andrea Rosati

News from EAAP

Industry Club Annual Meeting in Hamburg

On 10 September, during the EAAP Annual Meeting in Hamburg, the EAAP Industry Club held its annual meeting. Around twenty-five participants attended, representing companies, research institutes and publishers active in animal nutrition, health, genetics, genomics and research services. Regarded as an informal round table, the meeting had a clear purpose: after two years of activity, to hear directly from members what works, what is missing and how EAAP can offer more value to industry. The response was frank, generous and rich in ideas. The Club is already producing tangible results. A session on established companies, start-ups and young scientists, organised at this year's Annual Meeting with the support of Elanco, Alltech and Nutreco, attracted more than 50 people and will be repeated next year. Two new initiatives were presented. The first is a scientific profiling database mapping some 36,000 animal scientists and 8,300 institutions in 121 countries. It could become a service helping members identify experts, collaborators and research trends, and its legal framework is under review. The second is an annual Industry Workshop, starting with pig nutrition in Bologna on 23–25 June 2027, combining invited science with sessions built on topics proposed by companies. Participants also suggested reintroducing one-to-one meetings at the Annual Meeting, creating industry–academia matching opportunities, organising workshops on experimental design and helping scientists communicate more confidently with the public and policymakers. The message from Hamburg is clear: industry wants a stronger dialogue with science, and EAAP is the natural place for it. Companies are invited to involve their scientists in the Study Commissions, share their news through EAAP channels and contact the Secretariat to join the Club, which now counts 18 members.

Great moments from the AVEC (European Organization for Poultry Meat) Annual Meeting!

EAAP Secretary General Andrea Rosati had the pleasure of meeting the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, Christophe Hansen. During a brief but fruitful exchange, they discussed the crucial role that scientific research plays in supporting and advancing

agricultural production. Importantly, this encounter laid the groundwork for a dedicated institutional meeting between EAAP and the Commissioner in the coming weeks. We look forward to a continued and strong collaboration!



From left to right: Christophe Hansen and Andrea Rosati

New members of the Study Commissions

During the meetings held in Hamburg the “open positions” in the Study Commissions were filled with new elected scientists. The proposals discussed at the Study Commissions meetings were later analysed by the Council and then the new members of the Study Commissions were finally elected. The entire list of new Study Commissions members is available [here](#).

The Plenary Session of the 77th EAAP Annual Meeting is now available online!

Missed the session or want to watch it again? The video is now available on YouTube. [Watch it here!](#) Don't miss the opportunity to revisit the key discussions and highlights of the meeting!

Join the 36th EAAP Webinar titled: “AI-Powered Publishing: From Manuscript to the Right Journal”

The webinar will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 15.00 CET and organized in collaboration with the Dr. Gareth Dyke (Sci-Train). This webinar will provide researchers in animal and agricultural sciences with a practical framework for using AI tools throughout the publishing process, from manuscript preparation and language refinement to identifying the most suitable journal for their research. The session will combine the opportunities offered by AI with established principles of scholarly publishing, with particular attention to ethical

and transparent use, academic integrity, and the specific needs of researchers working in animal, agricultural and veterinary sciences. For further details and registration, please consult the webinar dedicated page [here](#).



EAAP People Portrait

Derek Bickhart



Dr. Derek Bickhart earned his Ph.D. in Genetics and Genomics from the University of Connecticut in 2010. His doctoral research focused on the genomic plasticity of bacteria harbouring mobile genetic elements. Seeing an opportunity to broaden his research interests, he accepted a postdoctoral position at the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) under the supervision of Dr. George E. Liu. During his postdoctoral fellowship, he developed skills as a Bioinformatician in the field of animal genetics, developing the first individualized structural variant maps for cattle. Throughout his

career at the USDA, Dr. Bickhart applied cutting-edge DNA sequencing technologies to improve genomics resources for agricultural research. In 2012, Derek joined the USDA as a full-time Research Geneticist at the Animal Improvement Program Laboratory (AIPL) and the Dairy Forage Research Centre (DFRC). [Read the complete profile here](#).

Science and Innovation

Developing a new digital vision for rangeland grazing systems

Addressing the complex challenges of rangeland agriculture requires the strategic implementation of appropriate digital technologies. Central to this approach is the creation of a "rangeland farm hub," a centralized platform designed to seamlessly integrate environmental management practices into traditional livestock systems. This hub serves as a critical testing ground, enabling researchers and farmers to develop specific approaches and quantifiable metrics that accurately measure the tangible benefits of various agricultural and environmental solutions. Ultimately, adopting this comprehensive digital vision is essential for the future of rangeland agriculture. By merging technology with ecological stewardship, these hubs can significantly enhance the socio-ecological viability of livestock systems, ensuring they remain productive, sustainable, and highly resilient in the face of ongoing climate change. [Read the full article on Animal Frontiers](#).

Dietary L-glutamate and L-aspartate improve growth, gut health, and amino acid digestibility in weaned piglets challenged with enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*

This study investigated whether supplementing weaned piglets with L-glutamate (Glu) and L-aspartate (Asp) could support intestinal resilience against *E. coli* (ETEC) infection, potentially serving as an alternative to antibiotics. Piglets challenged with ETEC received either a control diet, 1% Glu, 1% Asp, a combination of both, or antibiotics. The results demonstrated that supplementing with Glu, Asp, or their combination significantly improved growth performance and feed efficiency, matching the protective effects of the antibiotic group. Additionally, individual Glu or Asp supplementation effectively reduced diarrheal frequency. Furthermore, Asp alone and the combined treatment lowered bacterial shedding and improved the digestibility of key amino acids. Overall, Glu and

Asp are promising nutritional strategies to enhance growth and nutrient utilization while reducing reliance on in-feed antibiotics. [Read the full article on Journal of Animal Science.](#)



Exploring genomic regions regulating the liver transcriptome and energy homeostasis in pigs

In pigs, energy homeostasis heavily influences meat quality and health. To understand the genetic regulation of fatty acid composition, researchers analysed 310 liver RNA sequencing samples from Duroc pigs. They combined standard expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) mapping with allele-specific expression (ASE) and aseQTL mapping to overcome environmental factors that confound gene expression data. The analysis identified thousands of regulatory variants, notably linking *FADS1* and *FADS2* genes to polyunsaturated fatty acid composition. Additionally, ASE revealed an allelic imbalance in the *DGAT2* gene driven by post-transcriptional mechanisms—a nuance missed by eQTL mapping alone. Ultimately, combining these three mapping techniques successfully resolves complex genetic traits, offering a deeper understanding of the genetic determinism underlying energy homeostasis in pigs. [Read the full article on Animal.](#)

Modelling the impacts of imports and non-native subspecies hybridisation in honeybees

Human movement of agricultural organisms often causes hybridization, which can erode the unique adaptations and fitness of native species. Using honeybees as a model, researchers simulated hybridization between native (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) and non-native (*Apis mellifera carnica*) populations using the SIMplyBee tool, based on Irish population parameters. The 20-year simulations examined complex traits like honey yield and fitness under varying import rates. Results showed that increased non-native imports accelerated genetic introgression, creating a clear trade-off: higher short-term honey production came at the cost of long-term fitness and adaptation. While halting imports eventually reversed this trend, the recovery process was slow. Ultimately, sustainable management requires restricting non-native imports and prioritizing the breeding of locally adapted populations to maintain ecosystem health. [Read the full article on Nature.](#)



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News From EU

EcoGen Webinar Episode 10: Beyond EU livestock research: turning results into practice

We are happy to invite you to the 10th episode of the series to deep dive into the practical application of European Livestock research results which will be held on **19th October 2026** from 12:00 to 13:00 (CEST). [To register click here!](#)

ISIDORE II - ANDV TNA project call

The first ISIDORE II TNA call for proposals “**Mobilising Research Infrastructure Services for Andes Virus & ANDV-relevant Hantavirus Research**”, was launched! The call will be open for applications until 11 December 2026. More information about the call can be found on [the ISIDORE website](#).

FENCES, DRONES AND DNA. How Swedish Farmers Are Learning to Live with Large Carnivores

In Sweden's pastoral landscapes, the challenge of coexisting with wolves and other large carnivores is not a distant policy debate – it is a daily reality managed through wire, technology and close collaboration between farmers and agricultural advisors. Ingela Löfquist, Advisor at Hushållningssällskapet –one of Sweden's leading agricultural advisory organisations and a partner in the EU-funded CoCo (Co-Creating Coexistence) project– works directly with farmers in southern Sweden to develop and implement practical livestock protection strategies. Unlike in many other European countries, Sweden's pastoral tradition

does not include the use of livestock guarding dogs or shepherds. Instead, the country has developed a fencing-based approach, refined over years of experience with carnivore presence. [Read the full press release here.](#)



CoCo 

“We can use drones, cameras and DNA tests to see if there is a problem. [...] Science and traditional farming knowledge can work together”

INGELA LÖFQUIST
 ADVISOR
 HUSHÅLLNINGSSÄLLSKAPET



 **Funded by the European Union**

Job Offers

Senior researcher manager at Rethink Priorities, remote work

[Rethink Priorities](#) is looking for a Senior researcher manager for the Animal Welfare Department. This is a leadership role in a department that is growing and being restructured. The successful candidate will work with the Director to set a strategy for this team



 animal family of journals

covering how the team prioritizes projects, and how the team measures and maximizes impact for the animals. Deadline: **19 October 2026**. For more information and application [read the job vacancy](#).

Industries

NOVUS Introduces New Bis-Chelated Trace Mineral

CHESTERFIELD, MO (September 22, 2026) – The leader in intelligent nutrition today announced a new source of organic trace mineral nutrition available for the animal agriculture industry. RELYZANT™ Bis-Chelated Trace Mineral is the next-generation bis-chelate from NOVUS. Available in zinc, copper, and manganese, the mineral is bound by two lactic acid ligands, forming a stable, neutral molecule that maintains integrity across changes in pH in the gut and interactions with other parts of the diet, ultimately resulting in more mineral being accessible to the animal. [Read the full article here](#).



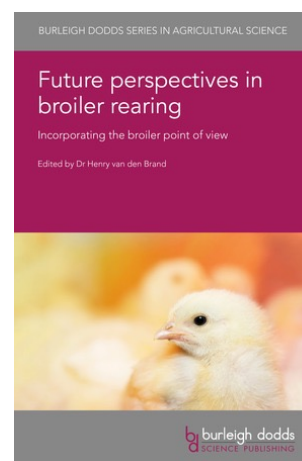
Publications

• Animal consortium (EAAP, INRAE, BSAS) – Elsevier
[Animal: Volume 20 - Issue 9 – September 2026](#)
Article of the month: [“Changing lambing time reduces parasite burden for sheep meat production enterprises”](#).

• Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing

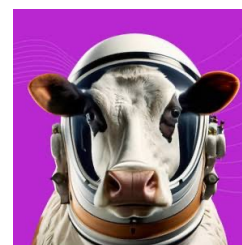
[Future perspectives in broiler rearing](#)

Discount code for EAAP Members is available. [Get access](#) to your personal area and find out the code on the right side, over the box “Groups”. For more info read [here](#). Discount code expires **30th November 2026**.



Animal Science Podcasts

The Dairy Nutrition Blackbelt Podcast: [“Water quality and Herd Health”](#), speaker Ben Moitoso



Other News

News in the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub

The latest additions to the [FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub](#) are now available! (also available in French and Spanish). The FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub facilitates

access to biodiversity-related resources developed by FAO to strengthen countries' capacity to mainstream biodiversity in agrifood systems, implement the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (KMGBF), deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and achieve food and nutritional security for all. The Hub now offers 640 resources, searchable using filters such as KMGBF targets, regions, thematic tags, and other criteria. The FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub centralizes FAO's key resources and information on biodiversity in agrifood systems. The platform supports countries in strengthening their knowledge and capabilities to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and ensure global food security. [For more information read here!](#)

Europe wants more plant protein. But who will feed the animals?

The European Commission's Protein Action Plan seeks to boost domestic protein production and reduce import dependence. The challenge isn't simply replacing animal protein with plant protein, but building a more integrated, resilient system that relies less on external supplies. When Europe talks about increasing plant protein production, the focus naturally turns to more legumes on our plates and a smaller role for animal protein. But the Protein Action Plan, adopted by the European Commission on 7 July 2026, takes a broader approach: strengthening the resilience, **strategic autonomy** and sustainability of **Europe's protein system** while reducing dependence on imports. [Read the full article here.](#)



Breakthrough offers faster route to infectious bronchitis vaccines

Scientists at The Pirbright Institute have identified a promising way to develop infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) vaccines using cell culture, potentially making production faster and more responsive to emerging strains. The work centres

on the spike protein from Beaudette, an attenuated laboratory strain of IBV. Researchers found that the protein could weaken a highly pathogenic strain while also allowing the modified virus to grow efficiently in Vero cells, a cell line used in licensed human and animal vaccine manufacture. [Read the full article here.](#)



Obituary

In memory of William Martin-Rosset



William Martin-Rosset was one of the most active and influential members of the EAAP Horse Commission. His involvement began as early as 1979 and finished through its presidency between 2002 and 2007. Throughout the years, he played an important role in shaping the Commission's scientific activities and international development. William was a renowned scientist who made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of equine nutrition, through his researches at INRA. His work played a major role in establishing systems for evaluating the nutritional value of feeds for horses, including the *Unité Fourragère Cheval* (UFC) for energy and *Matières Azotées Digestibles Cheval* (MADC) for protein. His landmark book on equine nutrition brought together decades of research and knowledge and was subsequently published in English, making this work accessible to a much wider international audience. The significance of his scientific contribution was recognised at the highest level. William received in 2009 the Leroy Award Fellowship, a major distinction of the European animal science community. Also 2009 he was given the *Médaille de Vermeil* of the *Académie d'Agriculture de France*, awarded in recognition of his contribution to equine nutrition and the dissemination of nutritional recommendations. [Read the full obituary here.](#)

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
5 th EAAP Regional Meeting	26 – 28 May 2027	Zadar, Croatia	Save the Date
EAAP International Pig Science Forum	23 - 25 June 2027	Bologna, Italy	Save the Date
78 th EAAP Annual Meeting	23 – 27 August 2027	Dublin, Ireland	Save the Date
3 rd South American Camelids Congress	6 – 8 October 2027	Padua, Italy	Save the Date

Other Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
IMAR – International Meeting on Animal Reproduction	26 – 30 October 2026	Viçosa, Brazil	Website
21 st Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies Animal Science Congress	28 – 31 October 2026	Hanoi, Vietnam	Website
ICOFAAS 2026 – 8 th International Conference on Food, Agriculture and Animal Sciences	29 October – 1 November 2026	Antalya, Türkiye	Website
Future Grasslands 2026	11 – 12 November 2026	Telford, UK	Website

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



*“A man who dares to waste one hour of time
has not discovered the value of life.”*

(Charles Darwin)

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 2026!

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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