

Gürbüz Daş was born and raised in Göle, a small town nestled in the highlands of Northeast Anatolia. At over 2,000 meters above sea level, the town is surrounded by rugged mountains, partly covered by scotch pine forests, and expansive valleys that transform into lush meadows during the brief summers. These same landscapes are then buried under a meter of snow throughout the long, harsh winters. While the environment offers little for conventional agriculture, it provides ideal conditions for pasture-based animal farming.

Coming from a farming family, Gürbüz grew up in close connection with a diverse range of farm and companion animals, including sheep, goats, cattle, water buffalo, chickens, geese, horses, dogs, cats, and many others. Summers, spent caring for free-ranging animals and making hay for winter, were not only filled with adventure but also nurtured a deep, intuitive understanding of nature, especially animals. Inspired by these formative experiences, Gürbüz completed a two-year associate degree in animal health in a nearby city before pursuing higher education in animal science under the warm Mediterranean skies of Adana in southern Turkey. He graduated with first-class honours and soon moved far west to Çanakkale, the historic land of Troy and Homer, to begin his master's and PhD studies under the supervision of Türker Savaş.

His academic journey later led him to the University of Göttingen in Germany, where he completed his first PhD focusing on poultry nutrition and host-parasite interactions, under the supervision of Matthias Gauly and Hansjörg Abel. Soon after returning to Turkey, he earned a second PhD on nutritional and breeding-based approaches to control coccidiosis in dairy goat kids. After several years of postdoctoral research back in Göttingen, Gürbüz joined the Research Institute of Farm Animal Biology (FBN) in Dummerstorf, Germany, in 2014. Since then, he has been working in the research group Nutritional Physiology, led by Cornelia C. Metges.

Gürbüz proudly describes himself simply as an animal scientist, valuing the integration of disciplines rather than narrow specialization. His research spans multiple farm animal species, and he has contributed to numerous projects while mentoring bachelor's, master's, and PhD students. In 2023, he earned the *venia legendi* degree in Livestock Health and Management. His involvement in EU projects such as MonoGutHealth and PigWeb and NUTRIFEEDS has further expanded his collaborative network. He currently leads a working group within the Cost Action GIN-TONIC, focusing on the nutrition of farmed insects.

A committed member of the EAAP community since 2009, Gürbüz has served in the Animal Health and Welfare Commission as both secretary and vice president for about ten years. In recent years, he has been contributing to the Poultry Working Group of the EAAP. He has helped organise several scientific sessions at EAAP annual meetings and takes great pride in his long-standing connection with the organisation and its members. Incidentally, he is now again involved in the preparation of the 8th EAAP International Symposium on Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition in Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, in September 2025.

Today, Gürbüz lives in a small town close to FBN with his wife, while their two daughters pursue their studies. In his free time, he enjoys wandering in nature, tending his very small garden, experimenting with plants, and, whenever possible, fishing, a cherished pastime since his childhood days.