



### Main Topics

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## EDITORIAL

### How do you differentiate between farm and companion animals?

I recently discussed the question of the definition of what are farm animals exactly and how they differ from companion animals. As scientists we like precise definitions and classifications and it is generally relatively easy, as our favourite animal species were separated for millenia one from each other, to clearly distinguish a cow from a goat and a goat from a pig. All children know very early in age how to identify them because they are identified in books for children as such and that they are used as models for gifts. When we examine them with scientific precision, some species initially identified as belonging to a specific family we may encounter some surprises. The Rocky Mountain goat of North America (*Oreamnos americanus*) is in reality not a goat, separated since about 8 million years ago from true goats of their common ancestor. A far cousin of this mountain goat living in the Arctic and Greenland, the Muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*) which looks more like a cow is, in reality, closer to goats than to cattle. But, apart these rare exceptions, a cow is a cow, a sheep is a sheep and a pig is a pig, etc.. The situation is a little more complicated, within the above species, when we try to separate those that are dedicated to animal production ("farm animal species") from those which we classify as "companion animals" or "pets" and include a range of categories such as, animals for sport, for pleasure, for competition, etc.; in fact, not within the "farm animal species" group. This complexity is derived from very diverse types of animal-human relationships that different human societies have developed since domestication of the various species. Before them, animals were already present in the social life of hunter-gatherers, as we can see that in the wall paintings of Palaeolithic caves, but these animals were not domesticated and remained as part of the wildlife. Domestication has created a strong link between humans and animals and the place taken by them in the different human societies since the Neolithic ages was based on two pillars. The first one, which seems common to all societies all over the world, is the production of food, workforce, fibres, skins, etc., which allow these domesticated animals to play an important role in the development of modern societies providing milk, meat and other useful products.

... Continues

## Editorial (continues)

Even though milk is not treated in the same way in the Mediterranean Basin as in Scandinavian countries, meat is not consumed using the same recipes in Africa than in Asia and leather is not producing the same clothes in America than in Australia, these animal products all contribute to feed humans and provide them very useful products for day-to-day life. This seems me true in all countries today, whatever their development may be and this was true since the beginning of animal domestication. This is the first pillar: animal production.

However, and this is a characteristic of human society, we also developed a “second pillar” with these domestic animals, which may dramatically vary between locations and societies and in some cases, could be a very important foundation of the specific society.

In the bovines, the most known example of the central place taken by them is Apis in ancient Egypt. It was the most important and highly regarded bull deity worshipped as early as 3000 BCE. It was not the only one as other bovine deities such as Buchis, Bats, Mnevis, Hesat or the Bull of the West were also present.

More recently, in the Christian religion as early as around 250 AC, a cow was associated with Saint Cornely. The legend said that Saint Cornely was driven away by pagan soldiers. He walked with two oxen wearing his luggage. One day he came to the sea. In order not to be caught by his pursuers, he hid behind his oxen and was saved. Since, it is the Holy healer of horned animals.

Nowadays, the most recognized cow is undoubtedly the « sacred cow » of India, « Gao Mata » which is, in the Hindu tradition, honoured, garlanded and given special meals at festivals all over India. The cow's nature is incarnated in Kamadhenu; the goddess who is the mother of all cows. In India, more than 3,000 institutions called Gaushalas care for old and infirm cows. More than 44 million of Gao Mata cows are living in India, which represents an important economic sector employing many people.

In Europe, on a much more limited scale, a specific breed of cattle, the Herens, is used in the Swiss Alps to organize games of « Queens ». Cows are fighting

for the title of Queen in a unique combat at which up to 10,000 people may be present. These four examples show us that the second pillar for using cattle may be very diverse between societies.

We can find examples of this second pillar in all other species of our domesticated farm animals but I would like to give some more examples below: horses which are the subject of a remarkable variety of second pillars; rabbits which also seems to me a good example of the diversity of human societies; and dogs that we generally do not associate with animal production.

The horse is considered a “noble” species because it was used since its domestication for its ability to provide a workforce for humans, even though it may also provide meat and milk. This species has been developed for racing, which is a very powerful economic domain as it is generally associated with games, and for entertainment as it answers the strong demand of contact with nature. More recently, the horse has shown its potential to improve the mental health of disabled people by developing soft links with them, another good illustration of the range of human-animal links. I believe that the horse is the one who has provided the largest second pillar in terms of diversity. The rabbit is also noteworthy because it was more recently domesticated either by the Romans or more probably by the Middle Ages by French monks. Today, this species is raised to produce meat and fur mainly in China, Italy, Spain and France, but not in the more Northern countries of Europe where it is kept as a pet. The European Union has not defined this classification and rabbits could be considered as experimental animals in the above countries but not in the other countries.

The dog is also a good example of the second pillar of our favourite species. Probably one of the earliest species to be domesticated by humans, dogs are associated both as a working animal, for example, hunting and shepherding, and as a companion animal, which may be able to enhance the health of its human master. This may be attributed, at least this is my view, to the fact that this is the only domestic animal which is able to express explicitly when it is happy by beating its tail vigorously. However, in spite of its close relationship to humans, dogs also provide a source of

animal protein in some countries such as China, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Mexico and some parts of Switzerland.

Thus, the boundaries between farm and companion animals is clearly not between species but rather built on the cultural evolution of different societies developed over the millennia

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### From WAAP Members

#### **American Dairy Science Association® (ADSA®)**

##### 2020 ADSA Virtual meeting

The 2020 ADSA Virtual Annual Meeting took place from 22-24 June. It was a completely new experience organized after the Corona outbreak forced to do so. Over 2,300 individuals registered for this year's meeting. Registration gave access to live stream sessions, prerecorded oral and poster presentations, virtual exhibits and post-meeting access to recordings of all the sessions. The meeting featured more than 100 hours of programming delivered through nearly 900 scientific presentations, panel discussions, live roundtable discussions available in several time zones, an exhibit hall, additional networking opportunities, and student competitions. It focused on discussions about the latest dairy science and its applications. An evaluation of this first virtual annual meeting as a new experience will take place.

##### New journal JDS Communications

*JDS Communications* was launched in June 2020 and has published the first issue just two months later. *JDS Communications* is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes short (5-page limit) original research that relates to the production and processing of milk

or milk products intended for human consumption. It includes a single page graphical abstract that provides a concise visual summary of the work. The editorial team is receiving new submissions and papers are undergoing review with Matthew Lucy (University of Missouri) as editor in chief. "For 103 years, the Journal of Dairy Science has published leading peer-reviewed research and the celebration of the first issue of ADSA's newest journal – *JDS Communications* – marked an important milestone for ADSA, its members, and stakeholders in how we deliver valuable science to the entire dairy community," said Catharine Perry, ADSA executive director.

##### The Transition Period – From Physiology to Management October 26-29, 2020

This 39th ADSA Discover Conference will focus on scientific advancements made in the last 10 years and feature discussion of unanswered questions and controversies about the transition period. Registration is closed by October 23rd.

##### NASEM Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle, June 1-4, 2021, Eaglewood Resort & Spa

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM, previously known as NRC) anticipates the 2021 release of the 8th revised edition of the "Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle". This 40th Discover Conference will focus on the scientific advancements in dairy cattle feeding used in revising the 2001 edition. NASEM subcommittee members will address the substantive changes in the nutrient requirements and the conceptual approaches used to make those changes. They will report on areas with significant knowledge gaps that still prevent more accurate prediction of the nutrient requirements. It includes a demonstration of the software and focused discussions with the speakers. Conference Topics Include: Feed Intake, Feed ingredients, Dry Cows, Calves and Replacement Heifers, and Application of the New Requirements. Registration by April 30, 2021, is \$375 for ADSA-

ARPAS members and \$425 for non-members. **Registration** will be accepted on an availability basis. Your registration includes 90 days free access to the [Searchable Proceedings of Animal Conferences \(S-PAC\)](#).

### **Health management of calves: from intrauterine life to successful weaning**

This [41st ADSA Discover Conference](#) will explore the many changes in dairy calf management practices, and research conducted over the last decade. Potential Conference Topics include:

Opportunities and Key Knowledge Gaps in Calf Management; Bull Calves & Dairy-Beef; Calf Immunology and Vaccines; Transition to the Ruminant Calf

A poster session will be included to allow participants to share and discuss research findings. Details will be posted on the [meeting site](#) as they are finalized.

### **2021 ADSA Meeting**

The EAAP / ADSA Symposium: Limits in Production Growth on Level of Cow, Farm, and Industry is moved from the West Palm Beach meeting 2020 to the ADSA 2021 meeting.

Next ADSA Annual meeting will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on July 11-14th 2021. The meeting has been scheduled to partly overlap with the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS). Meeting overlap day with some joint programming is planned to be July 14th, 2021. Details will be available in the meeting area of [www.adsa.org](http://www.adsa.org) as they are finalized.

### **Canadian Society Animal Science (CSAS)**

#### **Welcome to our new President!**

On behalf of the CSAS Executive, I would like to welcome Dr. Flavio Schenkel as our new President. Dr. Schenkel is a Full Professor with research interests ranging from theoretical to applied

genetics and genomics in livestock breeding. Current research focuses on the use of genomic information to enhance genetic evaluation of livestock species with emphasis on genomic selection. His research program is supported by industry and governmental funds, including various funding agencies. Since 2006, he is a member of influential industry boards in Canada, including the DairyGen Council of Canadian Dairy Network and the Dairy Cattle Genetic Evaluation Board. Dr. Schenkel was a professor at a Federal University in Brazil from 1993 to 2000, and a Research Associate at University of Guelph from 2000 until he became an Assistant Professor in 2005. In 2009 Dr. Schenkel changed his status to an Associate Professor and in 2014 he became a Full Professor. Since 2013, Dr. Schenkel is the Director of the [Centre for Genetic Improvement of Livestock](#) at University of Guelph. In his scientific career, Dr. Schenkel published over 198 peer-reviewed scientific papers and has contributed to formation of several high qualified personnel, including 21 graduate students and 17 post-doctoral fellows. Dr. Schenkel also serves on several international journal editorial boards and maintains strong research collaboration with researchers in Brazil and other countries. I wish Flavio all the best in his new term as our President and look forward to working together with him and the rest of the Executive in the year to come!

Stay safe and healthy,

Christine Baes, Past President on behalf of the Canadian Society of Animal Science Executive

#### **Welcome to our new President!**

The new Executive members are: 1) Dr. Younes Miar (Awards Chair); 2) Dr. Obioha (Obi) Durunna (Western Director); 3) Dr. Carl Julien (Eastern Director); 4) Dr. Oscar Lopez Campos (Vice-President)

[Read the leaflet here.](#)

## **European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP)**

### EAAP 2020-2024 Strategic Plan

Our organization follows the guidelines drafted in a Strategic Plan that is renewed and updated every four years. The Strategic Plan for the next four years period, 2020-2024, is currently prepared by a specific Committee with 10 selected representatives of the Council, Members, Industry and Scientific networks. They already had a first virtual meeting and going to have others with the objective to create a draft plan by the end of October to be submitted to the judgement and approval of the Council and of the Members. The Strategic Plan Committee work is supported by the report of the Assessment Group (four senior scientists who few months ago made a full assessment of current EAAP structure and activities). Final approval of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 will be decided at the General Assembly next December 2020.

### Scientific Program of the 2020 EAAP Annual Meeting

The Scientific Program of the 2020 EAAP Annual Meeting is finally ready. Just last Friday the EAAP Scientific Committee examined the current situation. The Scientific Program comprises more than 1000 abstracts, the majority of which will be presented as theatre presentation and the rest as posters. The meeting will be virtual, of course, but there will be recorded presentations both for theatre and for poster presentations. [The Scientific Program is available here.](#) Registrations are open for this major animal science meeting [on the EAAP website.](#)

## Josef Gross winner of the EAAP Young Scientist Award 2020!



EAAP is proud to announce the Winner of the Young Scientist Award 2020: Josef Gross! We wish to congratulate him for this relevant attainment. Josef Gross studied Animal Science with emphasis on animal nutrition and physiology at the Technical University of Munich. During his doctoral thesis, he started to actively participate in European and abroad meetings related to nutrition, physiology, health and management. [Read his profile and career here.](#)

## **Latin American Association of Animal Production (ALPA)**

### Updates from Latin American Association of Animal Production (ALPA)

1. The Latin American Animal Production Association (ALPA) chooses a new Board of Directors. Eng. Marlene Medina Villacís, from Ecuador, assumes the presidency of ALPA. The first vice president is Eng. Abelardo Conde Pulgarín, from Colombia.

2. ALPA has established 16 Thematic Networks and their respective working groups. The best formed network is the Carbon Footprint, to study the impact of livestock in Latin America and the Caribbean on the environment.

3. ALPA is co-sponsor, jointly with the Central University of Venezuela and other civil organizations, of the International Congress of Women Involved in the Development of Rabbits in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held from October 16 – 18, 2020.

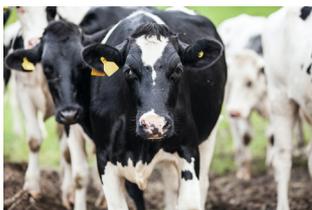
4. ALPA inaugurates its YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/SiheuE26ksQ> to save there the conferences and webinars sponsored by the association in conjunction with the universities of Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. On October 29, together with the La Salle University of Bogotá, Colombia, the webinar on "Technologies for sustainable territorial development" will be held with the participation of Drs. Thomas Preston and Jose M. Palma.

6. Newsletter: read the last issue of the Newsletter "[Carta Aérea N° 8](#)" (August 2020).

## News from Science

### Finding ways to reduce ammonia emissions on dairy farms



Livestock-heavy countries around the world are under pressure to reduce their ammonia emissions. We look at methods that can reduce these emissions. Agriculture is the dominant source of ammonia emissions with the sector accounting for around 88% of total UK emissions and the main sources identified as livestock manures, slurry and mineral fertilisers. [Read the full article on DairyGlobal.](#)

### Post-thermal application of feed additives



Introducing an alternative design of feed processing line to protect heat-sensitive materials. Compound feed is a mixture of main ingredients, including grains, protein supplements and by-products, and feed additives (micro-ingredients) such as minerals, vitamins, commercial enzymes, probiotics and prebiotics. [Read the full article on AllAboutFeed.](#)

## News from Industry

### Animal Task Force - Plants For the Future ETP webinar

**04th November 2020 - 14.00-16.00 (CET)**

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

#### HOW TO RE-IMPLEMENT CROP-LIVESTOCK SYNERGIES?

*POLICY BRIEF*

**NOVEMBER**

**4<sup>TH</sup>**

14.00-16.00

**INTERACTIVE WEBINAR**



JOIN THE DISCUSSION WITH

- ✓ JEAN-LOUIS PEYRAUD, ANIMAL TASK FORCE
- ✓ MARC CORNELISSEN, PLANTS FOR THE FUTURE

INTRODUCTION BY LUKAS VISEK, EC FRANS TIMMERMANS' CABINET



Click [here](#) to read the Policy Brief

**REGISTRATION**

Click [here](#)

Please register before Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Plants for the Future  
European Technology Platform

**atf** animal task force  
A European Future-Food Platform

The "**Animal Task Force**" (ATF) and the "**Plants for the Future**" European Technology

Platform (Plant ETP) recognise the urgency to transition towards sustainable agricultural practices and published R&I opportunities for the crop-livestock value chain (see [Joint Position Paper](#) and [Policy Brief](#)). Together, the 2 organisations will organise a webinar on the topic "**How to re-implement crop-livestock synergies?**". Join the discussion on Wednesday 04th November from 14.00 to 16.00 CET with **Jean-Louis Peyraud**, President of the Animal Task Force, and **Marc Cornelissen**, President of Plants for the Future. Mr. **Lukas Visek**, member of Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans at the European Commission, will introduce the webinar. [More information and registration on ATF website](#)

### **Being a pig farmer can be tough and lonely**



In times of Covid-19, hardly anybody gave it any thought what it must have been like for all those pig producers who were faced with their houses full of pigs and nowhere to go. In her first contribution as columnist, Dr Irene Camerlink touches on a sensitive subject: what can producers do to move on? [Read the full article on PigProgress.](#)

### **Job Offers**

#### **Two available positions at Aarhus University, Denmark**

The following positions are available at Aarhus University:

- [Associate Professor in environmental chemistry](#)

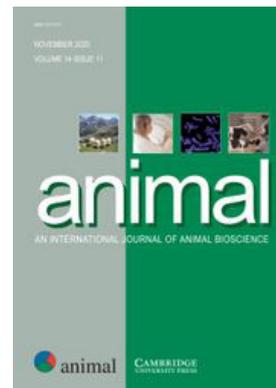
[and toxicology.](#) Deadline: **6th November 2020.**

- [Researcher/Assistant Professor in big data in livestock production.](#) Deadline: **15th November 2020.**

### **Publications**

#### **I. Cambridge University Press**

Animal: [Volume 14- Issue 11– November 2020](#)  
Article of the month "[The repeatability of feed intake and feed efficiency in beef cattle offered high-concentrate, grass silage and pasture-based diets](#)"



#### **2. New technical articles have been recently published on Engormix:**

I. "[Investigation on eggshell apex abnormality \(EAA\) syndrome in France: isolation of Mycoplasma synoviae is frequently associated with Mycoplasma pullorum](#)"

II. "[Successful weaning of calves](#)"

III. "[Contribution of probiotics in the increase of global shrimp production](#)"

## Meetings and Conferences

EAAP invites you to check the validity of the dates for every single event **published below and in the Calendar of the website**, due to the state of sanitary emergency that World is currently dealing with.

### December 1st – 4th, 2020

#### EAAP 2020 Virtual Meeting

The COVID-19 pandemic did not stop our determination to disseminate knowledge on the latest discoveries related to Animal Science! The EAAP 2020 Annual Meeting will be held virtually from December 1st to 4th. To register click here. Don't miss this important event!

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### Third week of June 2021 in Bled, Slovenia

#### Joint meeting EAAP Mountain Livestock Farming & FAO-CIHEAM Mountain Pasture

The Joint Meeting of EAAP Mountain Livestock Farming Working Group & FAO-CIHEAM Mountain Pasture Sub-Network “Mountains are agroecosystems for people” has been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The meeting will take place during the third week of June 2021. The location (Bled, Slovenia) and the meeting formula (three days between Monday 14 and Friday 18 June) will not change. The exact date of the meeting, as well as the new deadlines, will be published during autumn on the meeting website and in the EAAP Newsletter.

### September 23rd – 24th 2021 in Balotesti, Romania

#### 16th International Symposium of Animal Biology and Nutrition

The 16th edition of the International Symposium of Animal Biology and Nutrition, organized by the National Institute for Research Development in Biology and Animal Nutrition (IBNA), will be held in Balotesti on September 23rd and 24th 2021. More information is available on IBNA symposium webpage.

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### **CHANGE DATE: October 21st – 22nd 2021, Paris, France**

#### 2nd Aminoacid Academy Workshop

The 2nd Amino Acid Academy, organized by EAAP and Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Europe, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Academy will take place on the 21st and 22nd October 2021 in Paris, France. The location remains the same – the Grand Amphitheatre of the National Museum of Natural History. Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming months and save the date!

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More conferences and workshops are available on EAAP website.



The **World Animal Science News** is the Official WAAP Newsletter. This interesting update about activities of the global animal science community presents information on leading research institutions in the entire world and also informs on developments in the industry sector related to animal science and production. The Newsletter is sent to all WAAP member organizations and to their associates. You are all invited to submit information for the newsletter. Please send information, news, text, photos and logo to [waap@waap.it](mailto:waap@waap.it).

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