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EDITORIAL

Livestock and conflict

My recent editorials have dealt with the livestock industry's major issues: Livestock and Climate Change and Livestock and the circular economy. These are the big-ticket items for the livestock sector to tackle now and into the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, many of us have been facing far more pressing issues for some time because of the many conflicts occurring across the globe, some of which have been continuing for many years. These conflicts can disrupt the food supply chains and food security with ripple effects often felt across local and global agricultural and food systems.

Recently El Bilali and Ben Hassen (2024) conducted a systematic review of 236 publications to understand the effects of the Ukraine-Russian war on global food systems. They found that the war profoundly impacted all aspects of food security, with the most significant repercussions observed in food access. The decline in domestic food production and productivity, along with the damage to production assets, food stocks, and agricultural infrastructure, resulted in a diminished food supply, particularly of cereals. This scarcity was further exacerbated by rising production input costs, alterations in land use leading to degradation, and labour shortages in rural regions. Consequently, the reduced food availability led to heightened food prices and inflation. Coupled with disruptions to agri-food trade, markets, and supply chains, these factors severely hindered food access, especially for impoverished and vulnerable communities. Furthermore, the effects on food utilisation were evident in the deterioration of diet quality and diversity, exacerbating nutritional challenges faced by populations affected by the conflict. While this review focused mainly on disrupted harvests rather than livestock systems, the authors noted that attention should be paid to the impact of the war on the animal production subsector.

Animal agriculture holds significant importance during conflict and war. For example, livestock provides a vital source of protein and nutrients for populations, especially in regions affected by conflict where access to food may be limited. Livestock can help ensure food security by consistently supplying meat, milk, and other animal products. During the conflict, when other sources of income may be disrupted, livestock can provide a crucial livelihood, helping communities withstand economic shocks, particularly in rural areas. Livestock ownership can contribute to social stability by providing a sense of security and continuity during times of upheaval. For many communities, livestock represents a source of sustenance or income and a cultural and social asset fostering community cohesion.

... **Continues**

Editorial (continues)

Livestock assets can serve as a form of economic resilience during conflict, providing families with a tangible asset that can be sold or traded to meet immediate needs or invest in other livelihood opportunities. Livestock products such as milk and meat are important sources of nutrition, especially for vulnerable populations such as children and pregnant women. Ensuring access to livestock products can help mitigate the impact of conflict on nutrition and health outcomes. However, it should not be ignored that because of their financial and nutritional value, livestock can also become a focus of tension as looting and rustling often occur during wars.

When practised sustainably, livestock agriculture can contribute to environmental management by maintaining ecosystem balance through grazing and soil fertilisation. This is particularly important in conflict-affected regions where environmental degradation can exacerbate existing challenges. Livestock can play a role in post-conflict reconstruction and recovery efforts by providing a foundation for rebuilding agricultural systems and livelihoods. Investing in livestock agriculture can contribute to long-term stability and resilience in conflict-affected regions. Livestock can be included in humanitarian assistance programs to provide food, income, and livelihood support to conflict-affected populations. Livestock-based interventions, such as distributing animals or providing veterinary services, can help communities recover and rebuild their lives.

Overall, livestock agriculture plays a multifaceted role in global security during conflict, contributing to food security, livelihoods, social stability, economic resilience, health, nutrition, environmental management, and reconstruction efforts. Ensuring the protection and support of livestock systems can help mitigate the impact of conflict on vulnerable populations and promote long-term stability and development.

Hamid El Bilali and Tarek Ben Hassen (2024). Disrupted harvests: how Ukraine – Russia war

influences global food systems – a systematic review. Policy Studies <https://doi.org/10.1080/01442872.2024.2329587>.

Frank Dunshea
President WAAP

From WAAP Members

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

ADSA News



Stay at the forefront of innovation via ADSA's free weekly newsletter, our Dairy Digressions podcast, or by becoming a member to access benefits and thoughtfully curated, science-based resources. Not ready to become a member? We offer half-off e-memberships for those outside the United States and Canada.

Stretch your publishing budget | ADSA launches journal loyalty program

Are you planning to publish in--or review for--the Journal of Dairy Science or JDS Communications? If so, you can unlock **significant publishing charge savings** via the ADSA Loyalty Rewards Program! This program was created to give back to our thriving journal community and lower the barriers to sharing your work in the year ahead. Learn more



Master precision dairy | [Join the 46th Discover Conference, Milking the Data: Value-Driven Dairy Farming](#)

Join us in person **May 6 to 9, 2024**, to be immersed in the latest in precision dairy farming science and learnings, from artificial intelligence to sensing technology and data analyses. [Learn more](#)



Science and sunshine | [2024 ADSA Annual Meeting in Florida](#)

Promote your work, continue your dairy education, and connect with colleagues and the people behind the breakthroughs at [ADSA's Annual Meeting](#) from **June 16 to 19, 2024**, in West Palm Beach, Florida. [Learn more](#)



Save the date | [International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology \(ISRP\)](#)

The premier, state-of-the-science event for ruminant physiology is coming to Chicago, Illinois, **August 26 to 29, 2024**. Happening only every five years, ISRP attendees get the *full and comprehensive* scientific story from the field--with topics ranging from feeding behavior and rumen fermentation to postabsorptive

intermediary metabolism and physiological and metabolic regulation. [Learn more](#)



Accelerate your articles | [ADSA journals are now faster than ever](#)

We have adjusted our processes to place *Journal of Dairy Science* and *JDS Communications* articles into the hands of researchers and readers **faster than ever before**. The field of dairy science continues to advance and innovate, and we are committed to ensuring ADSA journals meet the changing needs while maintaining our rigorous standards. [Learn more](#)



American Society of Animal Science (ASAS)

[ASAS News](#)



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

Membership

As a member of ASAS, we are sure you are aware

of all the benefits that having a professional membership offer, including complimentary registration to monthly webinars and early access to the recordings, access to ASAS Journals, and discounted meeting registration to name a few. Remember to renew your ASAS membership or join ASAS to take advantage of these benefits. More information on memberships can be found [on the Membership website](#).

The 2024 ASAS-CSAS-WSASAS Annual Meeting

The 2024 ASAS-CSAS-WSASAS Annual Meeting will take place at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre. The meeting sessions are intended to bring together scientists from industry, academia, and government and provide an opportunity for diverse ideas to inter-mingle for the greater good of animal agriculture and its relevance to human wellness. The program will feature a significant number of graduate student presentations in addition to invited talks, providing opportunity for networking among emerging student scientists and academic and industry professionals.

In addition to the annual meeting, there are three pre-meeting symposia scheduled for Sunday, July 21, 2024:

- ASAS-NANP Symposium
- Biotics2024 – Impact on Companion Animal Health & Well-Being: Sponsored by Phileo
- Biennial Repro Symposium

Make sure to check [the meeting website](#) for registration, housing, and additional meeting information.

CALL FOR PAPERS for submission to ANIMAL FRONTIERS

Animal Frontiers is soliciting organic submissions from members of the Animal Frontiers founding societies (American Society of Animal Science, American

Meat Science Association, European Federation of Animal Science and the World Association for Animal Production). Themed Issue: “Artificial Intelligence in Animal Agriculture”. Submission deadline: **May 15, 2024**. This themed issue will cover the emerging uses for and impacts of artificial intelligence on animal agriculture practices for the December 2024 issue of *Animal Frontiers*. These articles may be Feature articles (3000-5000 words; 3-6 color figures, tables or photos; no more than 30 references) or Perspectives articles (1500 words; 1 color figure, table or photo; 5 references). Descriptions of article types can be found at [here](#). All articles are subject to rigorous peer review. Organic submissions will be subject to open-access article processing charges. APC for Feature articles is \$3500 and for Perspectives articles, \$1500.

Upload your prospective title and a brief (3 to 5 sentence) description of your manuscript to the editor, Dr. Sarah Reed, for an initial assessment of relevance to the topic at <https://tinyurl.com/5m6maafh>. Be sure to pick which themed issue you are submitting for. If your title is appropriate, a submission guide and instructions to authors will be sent by return email.

Chinese Society of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine (CAAV)

[CAAV News](#)



International Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Symposium (IPRRSS 2024)

International Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Symposium (IPRRSS 2024) will be held on August 7th to 9th in Yantai, China. It is expected that more than 1200 participants engaged in PRRS fields

will attend the conference. The conference will invite top experts related to PRRS research worldwide to share the latest research trends and achievements, and help you in the subsequent prevention, control, and purification of PRRS. Be sure to mark your calendar for the IPRRSS 2024! For more information and registration [visit the website](#).



European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP)

EAAP News



Invitation to the 2024 EAAP Annual Meeting in Florence

With a record-breaking number of abstract submissions, we anticipate an attendance of approximately 2000 participants at the forthcoming EAAP Annual Meeting, set to take place in Florence, Italy, from September 1st to 5th ([visit the website](#) for more information). We extend our genuine gratitude to the dedicated animal science researchers who have generously shared their findings for the upcoming conference hosted by the European Federation of Animal Science. The EAAP Scientific Committee has diligently crafted the scientific programme, which will soon be finalised and made public in the coming weeks. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to

welcome you to Florence, where you can showcase your research, engage with colleagues from across the globe, and contribute to advancing perspectives in the field of animal science. Kindly ensure your registration is completed before **June 1st** to avail of discounted rates.

EAAP representatives met the German member in Hamburg

Few weeks ago, the President of EAAP, Isabel Casasús, and the Secretary General, Andrea Rosati, met in Hamburg the representatives of the German EAAP member among the others, Bettina Bongartz Secretary general of the German Society of Animal Science (DGfZ) and Peter Sanftleben (EAAP German Council member and also EAAP Vice-President). The meeting was mainly organized to visit the conference centre in Hamburg to assess the facilities for hosting the 2026 EAAP Annual Meeting together with representatives of the German member of EAAP, who will support the organization of the event. The conference centre offers a wide range of modern conference rooms and state-of-the-art technical equipment, ideal for hosting an international event like the EAAP Annual Meeting. The facilities were evaluated for their suitability to accommodate plenary sessions, workshops, exhibitions, and other ancillary activities. Furthermore, the central location of the conference centre, close to major transportation hubs and hotels, makes it easily accessible for participants from around the world. Collaboration with the German member of EAAP will provide valuable local support for event organization, facilitating communication with local authorities, providing logistical assistance, and promoting participation from professionals in the livestock sector of the region.

Open nominations for the Young Scientist Award

EAAP is delighted to announce that nominations for the Young Scientist Award are open. This esteemed award recognises exceptional research performance with a European perspective and will be given to an EAAP Individual Member aged 38 or younger at the time of the Florence Annual Meeting, encompassing

those born after September 1st, 1986. Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by an Individual Member, with each nomination requiring support from another Individual Member. The recipient of the Young Scientist Award will be honoured for their outstanding research achievements and granted the opportunity to present their work at the EAAP annual meeting. We urge all eligible individuals to consider submitting a nomination for this prestigious award. It offers a unique platform to showcase research on a European scale and gain significant recognition within the field. The winner will receive a commemorative plate, complimentary registration for the subsequent Annual Meeting, acknowledgment on the EAAP website and Newsletter, and an invitation to present a paper at the following year's Annual Meeting. Don't miss this chance to gain recognition within the EAAP community! The deadline for nominations is June 1st. For further details on eligibility criteria and the nomination process, [please visit the dedicated webpage](#).

2024 Leroy Award offered to Cornelia C. Metges

Professor Cornelia C. Metges (Germany) has been honoured by the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP) for her outstanding contributions to the field. The EAAP Council members and Scientific Committee have conferred to Prof. Metges the 2024 Leroy Award in recognition of her exceptional work in animal nutrition and physiology. With over 30 years of active involvement in research, Prof. Metges has significantly advanced the field of animal nutrition, impacting the productivity and profitability of the livestock industry. Her research, comprising more than 350 publications, has garnered recognition both nationally and internationally. As a highly esteemed keynote speaker at international conferences, Prof. Metges continues to share her expertise with the global scientific community. The award given to Prof. Cornelia C. Metges by the EAAP Council members and Scientific Committee underscores her unparalleled contributions to animal science. Prof. Metges will give a lecture at the Plenary Session that will be organized during the 75th EAAP Annual Meeting in Florence (Italy) next September 2nd.

Latin American Association of Animal Production (ALPA)

ALPA News



The Latin American Association of Animal Production is celebrating 58 years of being founded. It was founded on April 27, 1966, in the city of Maracay, Venezuela, with the presence of 141 delegates representing the countries of Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela. The magazines **Archivos Latinoamericanos de Produccion Animal** and **ALPA en el Campo** were recently published.

The book **Livestock in Latin America and the Caribbean**, a diagnosis of the reality of animal production in Latin America, with 54 chapters, will soon be available on the [ALPA website](#).

Despite many setbacks that ALPA has faced, it becomes more dynamic every day. ALPA has been structured into 17 scientific networks with 950 members.

Nigerian Society for Animal Production (NSAP)

NSAP News



The Nigerian Society for Animal Production (NSAP) held her 49th Annual Conference tagged NSAP-UI 2024 on 24th – 27th March 2024 at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, with the

theme: “Improving Animal Agriculture for Sustainable Economy Development in Nigeria”. The Golden jubilee will be celebrated in 2025.

During the conference, the annual general meeting was held and elections into various positions in the national executive council were conducted.

The following persons were elected to NSAP National Executive Council:

1. Prof. O. J. Babayemi - President
2. Prof. E. B. Etuk - Vice President
3. Dr. (Mrs.) F. O. Jemiseye - Secretary
4. Dr. N. P. Achi - Assistant Secretary
5. Prof. O. A. Abu - Editor in Chief
6. Dr. S. B. Adedeji - Deputy Editor in Chief
7. Dr. (Mrs.) G. Z. Rekwot - Treasurer
8. Dr. U. S. Salisu - Publicity Secretary
9. Dr. M. I. Ghude - Ex-Officio III
10. Dr. F. U. Udeh - Ex-Officio II
11. Prof. F. O. Abeke - Ex-Officio I

Activities from the conference can be viewed from the [association Facebook platform](#).

While the conference book of proceedings can be downloaded from [the website](#).

The Nigerian Journal of Animal Production (NJAP) publication*.

Submission of papers for publication can be made to www.njap.org.ng

News from Science

Future drought risk and adaptation of pastoralism in Eurasian rangeland

The article investigates the escalating threat of drought to pastoralism in Eurasian rangelands, exacerbated by climate change and socioeconomic shifts. Using a robust ecosystem model and climate projections, the study assesses future drought risk (2031–2060 and 2071–2100) under different

warming scenarios. Results indicate a significant rise in drought risk and vulnerability across the region, particularly in West Asia due to prolonged and intense droughts, and in Central and East Asia due to increased vulnerability. These findings suggest impending livestock feed shortages and adverse effects on pastoralism. The study underscores the importance of adapting rangeland management strategies to ecological and socioeconomic contexts, advocating for the integration of traditional ecological knowledge into comprehensive adaptation measures involving improved management practices, social changes, capacity building, and policy reforms to address diverse stakeholders. [Read the full article on Nature](#).

Value assessment of animal protein can help feed the future

The article explores the challenges and strategies associated with global food production, particularly focusing on the importance of measuring value in livestock and meat. It discusses the implications of population growth on food supply and highlights the role of technology in enhancing crop yields and animal genetics. Economic signals are emphasised as key drivers for change and innovation within food production systems. The text provides insights from various regions, including South America and Australia, regarding value assessment systems and their adaptation to meet global demand and export requirements. It also acknowledges the evolving landscape of animal protein production, driven by advancements in artificial intelligence. Ultimately, the text advocates for the adoption of technology, standards, measurements, and data to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of food production systems worldwide. [Read the full article on Animal Frontiers](#).

Opportunities and challenges for the genetic selection of dairy calf disease trait

This research explores the growing interest in dairy cow health and its link to production potential and

animal welfare. While efforts have been made to incorporate health traits into genetic evaluations, focus has primarily been on mature cows, neglecting calf health. Diarrhea and respiratory disease are major concerns, with traditional disease control methods facing scrutiny due to potential negative impacts on calf development. Genetic selection emerges as a promising approach to address these issues, supported by heritability estimates for diarrhea and respiratory disease. Incorporating epidemiological modelling into quantitative genetics allows for a more accurate assessment of genetic variation in disease traits. Colostrum intake emerges as a key factor in calf health, offering opportunities for continuous measurement and improvement. However, to maximise the benefits of genetic selection, standardisation of recording practices and improved data collection are essential. [Read the full article on Animal.](#)



Many faces of dominance: the manifestation of cohabiting companion dogs' rank in competitive and non-competitive scenarios

The study investigated hierarchical relationships among companion dogs in multi-dog households, exploring correlations between rank scores obtained from the Dog Rank Assessment Questionnaire (DRA-Q) and dogs' behaviour in competitive and non-competitive scenarios. Results indicated that dogs' rank scores reliably predicted their behaviour in both contexts. Higher-ranked dogs were more successful in acquiring and retaining resources in the Toy Possession test, while dominant and submissive behaviours in the Greeting test corresponded to agonistic and leadership subscores of the DRA-Q. The study validated the questionnaire-based rank scoring method, highlighting the importance of considering different aspects of dominance. Despite limitations in observing group dynamics directly and variations in dogs' responses, the findings support the use of the DRA-Q in assessing rank-related behaviours in companion dogs and underscore the complexity

of hierarchical relationships in multi-dog households. Further research could refine questionnaire items to capture a broader range of rank-dependent interactions. [Read the full article on Animal Cognition.](#)



News from International Organizations

EU policies jeopardise food independence, say 50% in poll



European voters are as unhappy as farmers with the bloc's protection of agriculture, accounting the largest slice of the EU budget. Almost half of the respondents in an Ipsos survey of 26,000 European voters conducted for Euronews considered the EU's actions to impact negatively on the protection of European agriculture and the bloc's food independence. Both aspects take centre stage in the EU's farming subsidies programme, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which is also one of the bloc's biggest cash envelopes. [Read the full article on Euronews.](#)

Job Offers

Professorship at University of Bonn, Germany

The Faculty of Agriculture of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn is seeking to appoint a professorship W2 - "Quality of foods of animal origin". The applicant is expected to be internationally recognized in the field of process-related quality characteristics of animal foods and to have expertise in livestock farming and food production. **Deadline: 15 May 2024.** For more details and application [read the job vacancy](#).

Quantitative Genetics and Breeding scientist at Roslin Institute and Aquanzo, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Aquanzo and The Roslin Institute have been awarded a [Knowledge Transfer Partnership \(KTP\)](#) to develop and implement a breeding programme for artemia farming and pioneer scalable, affordable, improved, and sustainable artemia eggs for the aquaculture hatchery industry. We seek an independent and motivated KTP Associate to drive this ambitious project. The post-holder will conduct research and implementation of the quantitative genetics and breeding for artemia in collaboration with Aquanzo. The post is fixed term, for 24 months. **Deadline: 22 May 2024.** For more information and application [read the job vacancy](#).

PhD position at INRAE, Guadeloupe (French West Indies)

A PhD position starting late 2024 is available at INRAE in Guadeloupe. The objective of this thesis is to characterize the capacity of Creole goats to avoid feed that are contaminated with feces. It could be a potential means to improve gastrointestinal nematodes management, even more if this behaviour has genetic background, which would be explored during the thesis. For more

details [read the job vacancy](#) (in French).

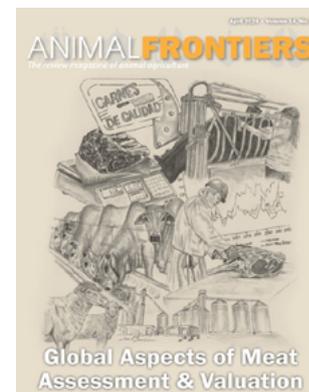
MSc at university of Saskatchewan, Canada

The Prairie Swine Centre, Department of Animal and Poultry Science at the [University of Saskatchewan](#) is seeking passionate, bright, and highly motivated individuals interested in a fully funded position as an MSc graduate student in the disciplines of swine nutrition – precision feeding. The successful candidate's research program will focus on: "Application of precision feeding techniques using blend-feeding technology". Candidates must hold, or will have completed, a BSc in a related discipline such as animal science, animal physiology, nutrition, or veterinary science. For more details [read the job vacancy](#).

Publications

I. Oxford Academic:

[Animal Frontiers: Volume 14, Issue 2, April 2024](#)



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

I. ["Poultry: Data collection and analysis"](#)

II. ["Continuous monitoring of cow's body temperature, an important tool to optimize cooling treatment in the summer"](#)

III. ["Revolutionizing Aquaculture: Harnessing the Power of AI and ChatGPT for Sustainable Seafood"](#)

Production”

IV. “Which Mycotoxin Testing Technology is Right for Me?”

Other news

Animal Science Modellers' Group at 2024 ADSA Annual Meeting

A meeting of the Animal Science Modellers' Group will be held on June 15th in West Palm Beach before the start of the ADSA Annual Meeting. The meeting will likely run from 9 am to 4 pm. If you'll be attending, please consider submitting your modelling work for a presentation. We invite contributions to this satellite meeting, which will be concerned with applications of mathematics to animal science or any relevant topic. Abstracts of the meeting will be published in the Canadian Journal of Animal Science, subject to editorial review. They must be of completed or near completed work and prepared in the correct style. [Read here the author guidelines](#). Those wishing to contribute should send an abstract to John Cant (jcant@uoguelph.ca) or Joanne Knapp (joanne.r.knapp@gmail.com) by Friday **May 10, 2024**. An abstract must not exceed 400 words of text and may, in addition, contain some equations and a few references. Each talk will be of 15-20 minutes duration, followed by 5-10 minutes discussion. The aim is to select a balanced program of at least ten quality contributions from those offered.

Summer school Circular Food System!

The CFS Network is hosting a summer school in The Netherlands this summer! Twenty young professionals are welcoming, MSc and PhD students working in the field of food and agriculture. The school will be held from 15th to 26th July 2024. Deadline for application: **1 May 2024**. For more details [visit the webpage](#).



Lots of demand for improved animal welfare, but what do people really know?

Animal welfare is very important to Europeans, with surveys regularly stating that most Europeans want to see higher standards for animal welfare than they currently have. The European Commission also prioritises animal welfare, as for the last 50 years, rules have been put in place and revised when needed, gradually improving the lives of farm animals. The European Union has a legislative framework on animal welfare, which protects animals kept for farming purposes for producing food, wool or fur. [Read the full article here.](#)



Meetings and Conferences

WAAP 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.

Event	Date	Location	Information
46 th Discover Conference	4 – 6 May 2024	Itasca, Illinois, USA	website
INSECTA 2024 International Conference	14 – 16 May 2024	Postdam, Germany	website
3 rd Mountain Livestock Farming Systems Meeting	5 -7 June 2024	Clermont-Ferrand, France	website
ADSA 2024 Annual Meeting	16 – 19 June 2024	Florida, USA	website
Joint AAAP & AAAS Animal Production Congress	8 – 12 July 2024	Melbourne, Australia	website
2024 ASAS ASAS/CSAS/WSASAS Annual Meeting	21 – 25 July 2024	Calgary, Canada	website
International Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Symposium (IPRRSS 2024)	7 – 9 August 2024	Yantai, China	website
International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology (ISRP)	26 – 29 August 2024	Chicago, Illinois, USA	website
BOLFA & ICFAE meeting	28 -30 August 2024	Bern, Switzerland	website
9 th International Conference on the Welfare of Animals at Farm Level (WAFL)	30 – 31 August 2024	Florence, Italy	website
75 th EAAP Annual Meeting	1 – 5 September 2024	Florence, Italy	website

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.

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