**EDITORIAL**

**Will we go towards Fake animal science?**

Fake news stories are strongly associated with the new social networks which are not constrained by the borders among nations. We all have examples in politics which show that the stronger the news, the more rapid it is spread around the world. Fake news are generally created by authors to be sensational and/or inflammatory and are, as a consequence, spread much more rapidly than other news. This was recently confirmed by a scientific study performed at MIT which showed that the speed of propagation of fake news is much higher than real news.

Is Animal Science concerned or threaten with fake news in the near future?

For two reasons I believe that the answer is probably yes. First, because this question concerns all domains of society and all domains of Science and I do not know why Animal Science would escape from this global societal trend. And second, because Animal Science is, at the moment, an easy target for different lobbies acting against animal production and animal products.

The first area for which Animal Science would be concerned is the existence of fake journals and the existence of fake science. Like many scientists who will read this editorial, I receive almost daily electronic invitations to submit manuscripts to new « scientific » journals, or to be part of the editorial board, or to act as a guest editor for a special issue. We are generally flattered to receive them and we think « They recognize me as a good scientist ». In most cases, these journals are not clearly identified and bear a title which is very close to well established and well-known Scientific journals. In the last decade, for example, we have seen new journals created just by adding an « s » at the end of the name for very well known and respected journals, creating, very probably intentionally, a confusion in the mind of those who received the above invitations.

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The editors and publishers of these journals are generally not known by the scientific community, their headquarters are located in countries where legal procedures are very difficult to develop. These fake journals generally propose an Open Access system with a moderated but substantial article page charges, i.e. around US$ 1000. In that case the strategy of these journals is very clear and seems me very close to what is existing in other areas such as watches, bags or wines: develop a copy of well-known and patented products, sell the copies for several years and after some time, once the profit is well established, sell the whole company for a substantial benefit. This is business not Science. We have some clear examples of these new journals in the Animal Science domain and I would like to take the opportunity of this editorial to warn the readers against this danger. When you receive such invitations to submit a manuscript, to act as a guest editor or to be part of the editorial board, please be very careful and check the credibility of the title (is there an « s » at the end or not ?), verify the source of the invitation, and keep in mind the La Fontaine proverb « Any flatterer lives at the expense of the one who listens », and then decide to proceed or not based upon your knowledge of the situation. Please also remember that your scientific organizations which are members of WAAP and WAAP itself are ready to help you to clearly identify which are the serious and credible scientific journals.

The second area where Animal Science could be concerned by fake science is the publication of fake results in scientific journals. Since the controversy around an eventual link between vaccination against Measles and Autism, we know that to publish fake results in very high ranking journals is possible (The Lancet in that case). In that specific case and in spite of the extremely solid and uncontestable proofs that the author had deliberately invented his results and even after retraction of the fake article by the journal, the controversy continues. As exposed earlier in this editorial, fake news have a very long half-life because they present « sensational » results much more attractive for the medias than the well-established negative results produced by real scientists. As far as I know, Animal Science has not been a target of these attacks and I hope this will continue to be the case. The third and last area where Animal Science could be concerned by fake science is what has been called « the Merchants of Doubts » as discussed in a very famous article published in Nature some years ago (Oreskes N & Conway EM 2010 Nature Vol 465 : 686-687). In the case of fake science, the attacks are generally more subtle and are coming from groups or institutions which allow their real authors to remain anonymous and to fight scientific facts by sowing doubts about the results published in very good scientific journals. The above authors (Oreskes and Conway) cite the case of the tobacco-industry which created the Council for Tobacco Research, which created newsletters, journals and institutes to publish dubious claims. This was also the case for the anthropogenic cause for Climate Change with the creation of a specific institute to fight against the idea that Man was at the origin of the actual climate disorders. This type of attack against a specific domain is very difficult to detect as their authors advance anonymous messages created by these lobbies. Moreover, these messages are well developed and constructed by people from the Marketing domain, well trained to elaborate clear and well-targeted messages to convince citizens and consumers to buy or consume a specific commercial product. We have had recent examples in the area of Animal Science in which attacks against animal products were supported by the green lobbies, « green » being taken in its sense « vegetal industry » as well as from politicians and celebrities.

What can we do as animal scientists to counter fake news and fake science ? Individual scientists can counter fake news and advertising publicly in the scientific and news media and can start blogs to counter false narratives, for example about food and nutrition. The WAAP and our constituent societies can respond as the voice of science and reason to counter the fake messaging with scientific fact, written for someone who doesn’t understand science. Societies can be proactive with public releases of new innovations in animal science ; for example ASAS has AnimalSmart.org.
Junior animal scientist, and board responses to things that are inaccurate or unfairly disparage animal science. Our Societies can approach politicians with the facts about animal agriculture who may be helpful like, for example, the Italian politician who came out against the EAT-Lancet article or the one who exposed the fake GMO article causing cancer. We all have to fight against fake Animal Science!

Philippe Chemineau
WAAP President
@ChemineauPh
https://www.waap.it/

From WAAP Members

From World Association for Animal Production (WAAP)

1st WAAP/CSAS joint Symposium

The first joint symposium between WAAP and one of its member will be held during the ASAS/CSAS meeting in Austin TX (USA). The Canadian Society of Animal Science agreed to be the first one to use this opportunity offered by WAAP. The joint WAAP/CSAS Symposium is about "Enhancing the Efficiency of Livestock", a topic of global importance. Planned speakers will cover what "Efficiency" means to animal breeders in each of the main food-animal species.

From Tanzanian Society of Animal Production (TSAP)

42nd Annual Scientific Conference for the Tanzanian Society of Animal Production

The 42nd Annual Scientific Conference for the Tanzania Society of Animal Production (TSAP) will be held in Dodoma, Tanzania at St. Gaspar Hotel and Conference Centre, from Wednesday 23rd to Friday 25th October 2019. The main theme of the Conference is “Supporting Industrialization through Livestock and Fish Value Chains under Changing Climate”. This is an opportunity to bring together outstanding scientists, policy makers, professionals and students from interdisciplinary fields of Animal Science, Veterinary, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Economics and other stakeholders with interest in the livestock and fisheries industries to share the latest developments, meet old friends and form
new partnerships. Researchers, extension experts, managers and all players in the livestock and fisheries sub-sectors are invited to share experiences and explore the role of livestock and fish production in the process of industrialization in Tanzania amid pressures of the changing environment. Abstract submission deadline: **15th August 2019**. Further information is available [here](#).

**From Malaysia Society of Animal Production (MSAP)**

39th Malaysian Society of Animal Production Annual Conference

The Malaysian Society of Animal Production (MSAP) is delighted to invite you to attend the 39th Malaysian Society of Animal Production Annual Conference in Langkawi Kedah, Malaysia, from 25th to 27th November 2019. Conference registration will open on 31st May 2019. The theme of the conference is “Livestock perspectives: shaping the path for the future”. The conference will cover all aspects of scientific findings within animal production, including nutrition, genetics, management, health and welfare. Learn more about the conference in [document 1](#) and [document 2](#). If you are interested you can also fill the document [Form](#) to become an MSAP member.

**From European Federation Animal Science (EAAP)**

Horse Commission of EAAP: International Workshop on Linear profiling in the Warmblood Horse

To strengthen the exchange and collaboration of science and practice across countries and studbooks, a new series of meetings on linear profiling in the Warmblood horses had been established in 2013. The meetings are arranged by the international working group on linear profiling, linked to the Horse Commission of the European Federation of Animal Science and its permanent working group Interstallion. Starting with a rather small, though already international group of representatives from studbooks and science at the first meeting, the event has attracted in subsequent years up to almost 50 people from 14 countries. Everybody who has participated once is likely to join the meeting again - although possibly not every year. For the first time in the still relatively young series of events on linear profiling, the workshop has this year been organized in Sweden and with a substantially strengthened focus on the practical part. And the two days, 22 - 23 January 2019, turned out to be a great success! In the most beautiful surroundings of Flyinge Equestrian Centre, Flyinge, Sweden, the more than 50 participants from 16 countries enjoyed the unique atmosphere of the meeting which provided plenty of opportunities for re-freshing already existing and making new contacts, for discussing and comparing procedures. The Swedish hospitality was overwhelming and supported quick return of the well-known family-like feeling among those engaged in promoting linear profiling in the Warmblood horse. On the first day, experts from the panel of judges of the Swedish Warmblood association demonstrated the way they routinely perform the linear description of young horses in hand, in free jumping and under rider. Explanations and discussion of similarities and differences across countries made an excellent starting point for subsequent talks and presentations. With the nine presentations on the second day, the speakers contributed to knowledge transfer and improved mutual understanding of science and practice. Key messages were the crucial role of data quality, the great potential of linear data for breeders, the importance of transparency and the benefits of harmonization and collaboration. In the closing discussion, the workshop participants underlined the high value of the regular meetings, praised the very well-organized practical sessions at this 5th IWSLP and suggested keeping this approach of a detailed insight into linear profiling in the host country. Although the mixed scientific and non-scientific audience implies challenges in the theoretical sessions, these updates are considered valuable and inspiring. Continuation of
the workshop series with annual meetings would be appreciated, and based on the now available overview, specific topics like linear description of foals or linear traits relating to behaviour and temperament could be addressed in future workshops. Conference material and further information can be found online.

Beware of predatory and fake animal science journals

More competition in the field of science publishing is to be welcomed but one regrettable side effect is that researchers are being inundated with emails inviting them to submit papers to new journals. Some of these new publications have adopted the name of a highly respected journal like animal and simply made a minor modification to the title, such as a single letter or the inclusion of a hyphen. Animal scientists have recently received invitations to contribute to special issues of a journal “animals” (note the extra “s”) published by MDPI. They have assumed that these invitations come from our journal animal published by Cambridge University Press.

Animal is not alone. We have found 14 other journals from MDPI which were created just by adding or removing an “s” to their title or slightly modifying it or, more simply, just by copying the same title. It could be argued that these similarities in names and scopes between these new journals and the original ones were deliberately chosen to cause confusion in the market and to attract authors and readers based on this confusion. MDPI deny this and responded “For the name “Animals”, we did the one word plural to make it simple to remember. We didn’t have the intention to capitalize on the name of animal. We would not think it’s appropriate to judge a journal as a fake journals according to its name”. We leave it to you to judge the veracity of this statement. Scientists and scientific societies do not have the funds to take legal action against these journals. They are also very concerned that they themselves may be the subjects of legal action if they suggest that such minor modifications to journal titles are a deliberate attempt to deceive. The best course of action is to make animal scientists aware of the problem and for scientists to take great care when submitting a paper or responding to an invitation to contribute to a special issue.

Submit papers to animal, the journal supported by EAAP, INRA and BSAS and published by Cambridge University Press.

Philippe Chemineau
Isabelle Ortigues-Marty
Cledwyn Thomas

News from Science

Formulating piglet diets without adding antibiotics

As it becomes increasingly uncommon to mix antibiotics or zinc oxide through diets for just-weaned piglets, the question is what to provide instead to ensure an uncompromised growth pattern. Let’s take a look at the common ingredients fibre, protein and fat – what can be done? Read the full article on PigProgress.
News from Industry

Animal Task Force Vision paper towards European Research and Innovation for a sustainable and competitive livestock production sector in Europe

In March 2018, the ATF published a position paper for research and innovation (R&I) within Horizon Europe supporting a sustainable and competitive terrestrial livestock production sector in Europe. This Vision Paper has been jointly developed by ATF members and engaged partners during 2018, based on the outcomes of the platform’s activities and events since its creation in 2011. It aims to provide a common framework and a scope for suggested priorities for R&I within Horizon Europe towards a resource efficient, sustainable, competitive and safe livestock production sector in Europe. Suggested priorities for research and innovation for Horizon Europe will be developed during 2019 by ATF members and engaged partners, discussed with stakeholders and consolidated into a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda to be presented in November 2019. Read the ATF Vision paper here.

Market drives NAE trend

The market for poultry meat produced with ‘No antibiotics ever’ is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Producers produce it and consumers want it. The US is at the forefront where the flywheel effect of NAE is taking off. On farm it is not always easy, attention to detail and improved animal husbandry is needed. Read more on PoultryWorld.

Job Offers

PhD position available at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

An exciting opportunity exists for a PhD student to join a team of experienced molecular biologists and ruminant nutrition researchers in the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences at The University of Queensland investigating metabolic efficiency in ruminants. For more information, please contact Dr Nicholas Hudson, n.hudson@uq.edu.au. Learn more about the position here.

Professorship in Statistical Genetics at Aarhus University, Denmark

The Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics of Aarhus University is looking for a professor in statistical genetics with focus on statistical and computational method development in support of the two strategic focus areas ‘Modelling of life’ and ‘New breeding technologies’. The position is open from 1st of September 2019. Application deadline: June 15th, 2019. For further information visit the website or contact the Head of Department Erik Østergaard Jensen at eoj@mbg.au.dk

Head of an INRA experimental pig farm in St Gilles Britany, France

INRA is looking for an experimental pig farm manager who will lead the experimental activities and the 35 personnel employed there. The candidate will be responsible for managing all the farm’s administrative and scientific activities. He/She must have previous experience working in pig experimental farming facilities and be fluent in French. For further information and the modalities to apply, please contact Stephane Ingrand – tel +33 786388133 – stephane.ingrand@inra.fr
Three open positions as Assistant Professor at Aarhus University, Denmark

The Department of Animal Science, Aarhus University, invites highly qualified applicants for three assistant professor positions in 1) Epigenetics, 2) High throughput sequencing and bioinformatics and 3) Ruminant microbiome and its function, available from 1 January 2020 or soon thereafter. Application deadline: **May 19th, 2019.** Detailed information can be found on the website or contacting Professor Charlotte Lauridsen at charlotte.lauridsen@anis.au.dk.

### Publications

1. Cambridge University Press

**Animal: Volume 13 - Issue 4 – April 2019**

2. Cambridge University Press

**Animal: Volume 13 - Issue 4 - April 2019** - Article of the month “Salivary and urinary metabolome analysis for pre-puberty-related biomarkers identification in porcine

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

I. “Importance of Feed Additive “Bile Acid” in Shrimp Nutrition and its Functionary Properties for Sustainable Culture Practice”

II. “AQUAVI® Met-Met, the peptide of DL-methionine | Evonik”

III. “Evaluation of dry hydrogen peroxide as a commercial hatchery sanitizer”

IV. “How Much Supplemental Vitamins do Cows Really Need?”

### Meetings and Conferences

**May 15th-16th, 2019 in Wageningen, The Netherlands**

**4th F&A Next 2019**

**F&A Next** is an initiative by Rabobank, Wageningen University & Research, Anterra Capital and StartLife, collectively believing that innovation will be key to sustainably feed future generations. The 4th edition of the F&A Next is a conference about thought leadership and connecting promising startups/caleups to dedicated food & agtech investors and innovative corporates. More details about the event can be found on the website.

**May 20th-22nd, 2019 in Biella, Italy**

**9th World Congress of Coloured sheep**

The 9th World Congress of Coloured sheep will take place from the 20th to the 22nd of May 2019 in Biella, Italy at the Santuario di Oropa. It is held every 5 years and brings together colored sheep breeders from all four corners of the world, to discuss various matters which are of interest to anyone interested in sheep breeding. For more information you can contact Mr. Nigel Thompson...
June 5th-6th, 2019, in Paris, France

8th Conference Global Markets Milk and Meat 2019

The 8th Conference Global Markets Milk and Meat 2019 will take place on 5th -6th June 2019 in Paris, at the FIAP Jean Monnet. For more information visit the website.

June 10th-12th, 2019, in Bloemfontein, Free State Province, South Africa

51st SASAS Congress

The 51st SASAS Congress will be held on 10th-12th June and the theme of the conference will be “Managing the ecological footprint of livestock through efficient production”. For more information visit the website.

June 11th-14th, 2019, in Sorrento, Italy

23rd ASPA Scientific Congress on New Challenges in Animal Science

The congress is organized by the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Production (MVPA) of the University of Naples Federico II and by the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences (SAFE) of the University of Foggia. Learn more visiting the website.

June 12th, 2019, in Wageningen, The Netherlands

1st Edition – Circular Agri Food Summit

The Summit aims to empower the attendants to take tangible actions about the Agri Food sector, which is changing rapidly. It will take place the

12th of June 2019 at the Wageningen University and Research Campus in Netherlands. For more information and registration, please visit the website.

June 21st, 2019, in Brussels, Belgium

Conference: The role of ruminants in sustainable diets

On June 21st, the Belgian Association of Meat Science and Technology (BAMST) and the International Dairy Federation (IDF) are bringing together various experts to discuss “The role of ruminants in sustainable diets” in Brussels, Belgium. For more information visit the website.

June 23rd-26th, 2019, in Cincinnati, Ohio

ADSA 2019 Annual Meeting

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association® (ADSA®) will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is the most comprehensive dairy science meeting in the world. For more information visit the website.

June 27th-29th, 2019, in Bern, Switzerland

17th International Conference on Production Diseases in Farm Animals

The ICPD conference is a traditional scientific conference dedicated to current topics related to farm animal diseases that are related to the respective food production systems. The ICPD 2019 will be held at the University of Bern, Switzerland. For more information visit the conference website.

July 8th-11th, 2019 in Austin, Texas

2019 ASAS-CSAS Annual Meeting and Trade Show

The 2019 ASAS-CSAS Annual Meeting and Trade Show will be held in Austin, Texas. For more information visit the website.
July 29th – August 2nd, 2019 in Accra, Ghana

7th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture (AACAA)

The 7th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture (AACAA) will be held at the Accra International Conference Centre, Ghana, from July 29th to August 2nd, 2019. The conference is being organised by the All Africa Society for Animal Production (AASAP) in association with the Ghana Society of Animal Production (GSAP), the Ghana Animal Science Association (GASA), and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The main theme is “Innovations to secure the future of African animal agriculture in a globalizing world”. More information can be found here.

August 26th – 28th, 2019 in Berlin, Germany

13th EPIZONE Annual Meeting

The EPIZONE annual meeting will be held from 26-28 August 2019 in Berlin, Germany, and will be hosted by the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), the German Federal Research Institute for Animal Health. The theme of the 13th Annual Meeting will be ‘Breaking Walls’. Deadline for abstract submission: 2 June 2019. For more information please visit the website.

August 26th – 30th, 2019 in Ghent, Belgium

70th EAAP Annual Meeting (EAAP 2019)

The Belgian organizing team is delighted to invite you to the 70th Annual Meeting of EAAP. The meeting will take place from 26th–30th August 2019 in the historic yet contemporary city of Ghent. The meeting will be organized by ILVO under the patronage of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries from the Flemish Government. For more information, please visit EAAP 2019 website.

September 3rd– 6th, 2019 in Leipzig, Germany

International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology

The Symposium about Ruminant Physiology will be held in Germany in 2019 at the Kongresshalle am Zoo of Leipzig. The Symposium is the major international conference on ruminant physiology. For more information, please visit the symposium website.

September 8th -12th in Wroclaw, Poland

XIX Congress of the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH 2019)

The XIX Congress of the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH 2019) will take place from 8 to 12 September 2019 in Wroclaw, Poland. For more information visit the website.

September 9th – 12th, 2019 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

6th EAAP International Symposium on Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition (ISEP 2019)

The organizing committee and EAAP Commission on Animal Nutrition invite you to the 6th EAAP International Symposium on Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition (ISEP 2019). For more information, please visit ISEP 2019 website.

September 18th – 20th, 2019 in Turin, Italy

23rd Congress of the European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition

The 23rd Congress of the European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (ESVCN) is organized by the Research team in Animal Nutrition of the Department of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Torino (Italy). The 2019 Congress will focus on the comparative nutrition of farm, pets, wildlife and zoo animals. More information on the website.
**September 18th – 20th, 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey**

**12th World Buffalo Congress**

The 12th World Buffalo Congress will be held in Istanbul, Turkey during 18-20 September 2019. The theme of WBC2019 is “Efficient Production for the World”. In addition to the main congress, there will be the Pre-Congress Workshop on “Reproductive Biotechnology in Buffalo” during 16th-17th September 2019. For more information please visit the website.

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**September 19th – 21st, 2019, China**

**3rd China Swine Science and technology Conference**

Chinese Association of Animal science and Veterinary medicine (CAAV) will host the 3rd China Swine Science and technology Conference (CSSC2019) in 19th-21st September 2019, together with the Annual Conference of CAAV in Qingdao, China. Read more here.

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**September 23rd – 27th, 2019 in Montepulciano, Tuscany, Italy**

**Workshop Genetic Data Analysis for Plant and Animal Breeding**

The workshop “Genetic Data Analysis for Plant and Animal Breeding” is organised by the University North Carolina State University, USA and the University of Florence, Italy. Registration will open May 1st, 2019. The first registered 30 (maximum) people will be admitted to the workshop. For more information visit the website.

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**October 9th – 11th, 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia**

**12th International Symposium on Modern Animal Science News**

The 12th International Symposium “Modern Trends in Livestock Production “will be held in hotel Park in Belgrade, 9th-11th October 2019 in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia. Participants can take part with an oral or poster presentation. For more information read the attachment.

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**October 16th – 19th, 2019 in Florence, Italy**

**X International Symposium on the Mediterranean Pig (X-PIGMED-2019)**

The X International Symposium on the Mediterranean Pig (X-PIGMED-2019) will be held in Florence (Italy) on October 16th-19th, 2019. For more information visit the website or contact the Scientific Secretariat at medpig2019@gmail.com.

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**October 23rd – 25th, 2019 in Dodoma, Tanzania**

**42nd Annual Scientific Conference for the Tanzanian Society of Animal Production**

The 42nd Annual Scientific Conference for the Tanzania Society of Animal Production (TSAP) will be held in Dodoma, Tanzania at St. Gaspar Hotel and Conference Centre, from 23rd to 25th October 2019. The main theme of the Conference is “Supporting Industrialization through Livestock and Fish Value Chains under Changing Climate”. Abstract submission deadline: 15th August 2019. Further information is available here.

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**October 23rd – 25th, 2019 in Prague, Czech Republic**

**11th European Symposium on Poultry Genetics**

The 11th European Symposium on Poultry Genetics is organised by the Czech branch of WPSA and Working Group 3 ‘Breeding and Genetics’ of the European Federation of WPSA. It will be held in the Congress Center of Prague in Czech Republic from October 23rd to 25th, 2019. Deadline submission poster abstracts is June 1st, 2019. For more information visit the website.
**October 22nd – 26th, 2019 in Varadero, Cuba**

*5th International Convention AGRODESARROLLO 2019*

The 5th International Convention AGRODESARROLLO 2019 will take place on October 22nd-26th, 2019, at the Plaza América Convention Center, Varadero, Cuba. Deadline for abstract submission: **July 19th, 2019**. For more information please visit the [website](#) or read the program [here](#).

**November 8th – 11th, 2019 in Pokhara, Nepal**

*7th International Conference on Sustainable Animal Agriculture for Developing Countries (SAADC)*

The International Tropical Agriculture Conference will take place in Brisbane from 11th to 13th of November 2019. The TropAg 2019 program will focus on ‘Shaping the science of tomorrow’ and include five program themes across field crops, horticulture, livestock, nutritious food and an AgFutures stream focused on technology and investment. For more information and registration, please visit the [website](#).

**November 11th – 13th, 2019 in Brisbane, Australia**

*3rd International Tropical Agriculture Conference - TROPAG2019*

The International Tropical Agriculture Conference will take place in Brisbane from 11th to 13th of November 2019. The TropAg 2019 program will focus on ‘Shaping the science of tomorrow’ and include five program themes across field crops, horticulture, livestock, nutritious food and an AgFutures stream focused on technology and investment. For more information and registration, please visit the [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.

**WAAP Secretariat is located at the following address:** Via G. Tomassetti 3, A/1 - Rome (Italy). Tel.: +39-06-44 20 26 39; E-mail: waap@waap.it

**Production staff:** Marlène Sciarretta, Philippe Chemineau, Andrea Rosati, Eleonora Azzaro.

**Graphics design and layout:** Gianfilippo Ercolani.