



EAAP

European Federation
of Animal Science

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Main Topics

- **News from EAAP**
pagg. 1-2
- **EAAP People Portrait**
pag. 2
- **Science and Innovation**
pagg. 2-3
- **News from EU**
pag. 4
- **Job Offers**
pagg.. 4-5
- **Industries**
pag.. 5
- **Publications**
pag. 5
- **Animal Science Podcast**
pag. 5
- **Other News**
pagg. 5-6
- **Conferences, Workshops**
pag. 7



EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Timing of Nutrition

There is a discovery that in recent years has swept through medicine and nutritional science, earning a place even in everyday conversation: “when” we eat matters, metabolically, almost as much as “what” we eat. The chronobiology of nutrition has accumulated over two decades an impressive body of research on humans, from intermittent fasting to the synchronisation of meals with light-dark cycles. And yet, if one steps across the door of a barn and asks the same question, that is “at what time does this animal eat, and what happens if that timing is disrupted?”, one finds oneself facing an almost untouched field of research. The transfer of scientific knowledge from human to livestock species has been enormously important and will continue to be so for this sector. But is necessary to underline that is not a one-way street, for example the techniques of oestrus synchronisation and embryo transfer, developed in cattle to meet the demands of genetic improvement, provided the conceptual model from which human reproductive medicine was born, a genealogy that clinical practice tends to forget, but that animal scientists know well.

Returning to the field of nutrition and chronobiology, pigs, cattle and poultry share with humans the same circadian architecture and the same hormonal axes. An animal housed in a shed with constant artificial lighting and continuous access to feed lives in a state of potential chronic desynchronisation between its biological clock and its environmental signals. The unexplained variability in performance among genetically homogeneous animals fed the same diet may be concealing a chronobiological component that has been systematically overlooked. This line of research seeks to uncover the effects of microbiome chronobiology. Recent studies in humans show that intestinal bacterial communities oscillate rhythmically over the course of twenty-four hours, altering their composition and metabolic activity in synchrony with meal timing. Disrupting that synchrony, as occurs in shift workers, impoverishes microbial diversity and compromises immune and digestive function. In animal husbandry, where the gut microbiome is recognised as a crucial determinant of feed efficiency and intestinal health, no one has yet asked whether nocturnal or continuous feeding protocols may be unintentionally destabilising the very ecosystem that costly probiotics and prebiotics are meant to optimise. It is a straightforward question that deserves an answer. Only in recent years have studies begun to emerge with promising results. We will be hearing much more about this.

Andrea Rosati



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News from EAAP

Quick Note on Our Newsletter Distribution

Over the past few months, we have received messages from several of you expressing concern that you haven't been receiving the last EAAP Newsletter issues or other important updates from EAAP. To ensure that no one is missing out on vital information, we have decided to send this specific issue of the newsletter to all current EAAP members. At the same time, we know that some of you had actually opted out of receiving our communications many years ago. However, we completely respect your inbox preferences. If you still do not wish to receive future newsletters, you will find an option at the bottom of this email to easily confirm your opt-out status. Thank you for your continued support and understanding!

Registrations Now Open for the 1st World Conference of Animals for Fiber Production

We are pleased to announce that the abstract submission and the registrations are officially open for the 1st World Conference of Animals for Fiber Production, a very important event organized under the patronage of the World Association of Animal Production (WAAP) alongside other international partners. This conference will take place from October 26 to 30, 2026, in the city of Chifeng, Inner Mongolia, China. Bringing together researchers, industry professionals, and breeders from across the globe, the conference will serve as the best possible forum for exchanging knowledge on fine fibre-producing animals. Rather than simply presenting isolated data, our scientific sessions will foster a dynamic, narrative-driven dialogue covering a wide array of species, from wool sheep, Cashmere, and Angora goats to South American Camelids, Angora rabbits, and even silk production. A special highlight will be our "Challenged Session," designed to spark collaborative and forward-looking discussions about the future of fibre animals across research, economics, and technology. We invite our community to take part in this unique opportunity to connect and shape the future of the sector. For those wishing to actively share their work, please note that the abstract submission deadline is fast approaching, it's **June 21!**

To secure your place, submit your abstract, discover more details about the scientific program and travel arrangements, please [visit the official conference website](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to Chifeng!

1st Feed Ingredients Academy

A month ago, EAAP organized the Feed Ingredients Academy in Milan, a new educational and scientific event dedicated to additives and ingredients in feed for livestock. The first edition of this academy was held in fact in Milan on May 7 and 8, 2026, under the chairmanship of Andrea Bertaglio and with institutional greetings from Andrea Rosati, Secretary General of EAAP. The workshop's format was with two half-days with high-profile speakers from universities, research institutes, and industry to reflect a deliberately interdisciplinary approach: the science of animal nutrition dialogues with the practical needs of the feed industry, and above all, with the safety issues that span the entire production cycle. The topic was suggested and supported by "dox-al", one of the most active member companies of the EAAP Industry Club. Among the main scientific topics were nutrition, animal welfare, and sustainability. [Read the full article here](#).

Join the EAAP Industry Club!

Did you know that EAAP connects industries of the livestock sector with the European community of Animal scientists? All companies dealing with animal production (nutrition, genetic, applied technologies, etc.) are invited to join the "EAAP Industry Club" to increase visibility, to be actively involved in European animal science activities, and to receive news and services necessary to industries. In addition, through the Club, industries will enlarge their scientific network and will receive specific discounts on sponsoring activities. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this important and growing network! Learn more about the EAAP Industry Club and its benefits and discover how to apply [here](#).



Join the 34th EAAP Webinar titled: “Technologies for human-carnivore interactions in farming and livestock breeding”



The webinar, organised in collaboration with the CoCo project – Co-creating Coexistence (an EU-funded Horizon Europe project, whose EAAP is a partner), will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 15.00 (CET). It will be led by Alexandros Poulakis and other representatives of the Callisto Wildlife and Nature Conservation Society. It will open with a presentation by Dimitrios Bormpoudakis, who will share insights on *established and emerging technologies for human-wildlife coexistence*. Following that, Dimitrios will have an interactive workshop: *Evaluating and adopting emerging technologies from the primary producers’ perspectives*, while Tasos Hovardas will discuss in detail the workshop report. For further details and registration, please consult the webinar dedicated page [here](#).

EAAP People Portrait

Marco Tejeda



Marco’s fascination with science began early in life, captivated by the highly organized behaviour of ants he observed while visiting ancient Mayan ruins deep in the tropical jungles of Mexico. This foundational curiosity naturally led him to pursue a biology degree to explore the genetic basis of insect behaviour. Along the way, he discovered that understanding the evolutionary, ecological, and physiological drivers of insects provided the perfect foundation for applied science, culminating in a PhD in Biotechnology. His early academic work laid the groundwork for a career dedicated to harnessing the benefits of insects to improve society—a mission that is transforming agricultural and industrial practices through innovative biological solutions. [Read the complete profile here](#).

Science and Innovation

Fifty years of progress for beef cattle production in the United States

Over the past 50 years (1972–2022), the U.S. beef cattle industry has significantly improved its efficiency, productivity, and environmental sustainability. Using life cycle assessment models, researchers evaluated the impact of advancements in genetics, feed production, and animal management. They found that modern practices produced 23% more beef carcass weight using fewer, but larger, cattle. While total feed consumption remained similar, diets shifted to include less forage and more grains and byproducts. Crucially, the environmental footprint per unit of beef produced has drastically decreased. These reductions include 22% less feed, 29% less land, 42% less blue water, 41% less fossil energy use, and 27% less methane emissions. Overall, these advancements highlight a highly efficient and increasingly sustainable industry capable of meeting the growing demand for beef. [Read the full article on Journal of Animal Science](#).

Rethinking livestock farming for artificial intelligence integration

Animal husbandry is currently undergoing a profound structural transformation driven by the integration of artificial intelligence (AI). To address global challenges like environmental sustainability, food security, and animal welfare, AI must be embraced not merely as a tool, but as a catalyst for systemic change. This transition requires a complete overhaul of traditional farming models. Success depends on upgrading both digital and physical infrastructures, optimizing farm buildings, animal mobility routes, and cybersecurity alongside data interoperability. Furthermore, businesses must invest in continuous staff training and open collaborative ecosystems to effectively translate complex data into actionable decisions. Ultimately, adopting a strategic and holistic approach allows the livestock sector to harness AI effectively. By fully integrating these technologies, farms can become more resilient, productive, and sustainable, securing a competitive edge in 21st-century agriculture. [Read the full article on Animal Frontiers](#).

Sustainable cattle breeding through the genomic diversity index

In animal breeding, balancing rapid genetic gain with the preservation of genetic diversity is a major challenge. To address this, researchers introduce the Genomic Diversity Index (GDI), a comprehensive metric that quantifies an individual animal's contribution to population diversity. The GDI evaluates three key components: detrimental inbreeding, average genomic relatedness, and the frequency of rare alleles. Simulations using Holstein cattle demonstrated that incorporating the GDI into sire selection significantly outperforms conventional genomic selection. Specifically, the GDI approach successfully decreased genomic inbreeding, expanded the effective population size, and maintained higher heterozygosity. Notably, it increased additive genetic variance for production traits by up to 19%, with only a minimal reduction ($\leq 7\%$) in overall genetic gain. Ultimately, the GDI provides a highly practical tool for ensuring long-term sustainability in livestock breeding programs. [Read the full article on Animal.](#)



Long-term repeatability and predictability of body temperature in dairy calves explored using reticulorumen temperature boluses

This study investigates the repeatability, plasticity, and predictability of body temperature in large endotherms, using dairy calves as a model. Researchers analysed long-term, high-frequency data from reticulorumen temperature boluses in 98 calves before, during, and after weaning. Using mixed modelling techniques, they discovered that reticulorumen temperature is moderately repeatable and exhibits plasticity across different weaning stages. Crucially, plasticity and predictability varied significantly at the individual level, indicating that calves respond to weaning in unique, complex ways. As the first study to formally quantify both inter- and intra-individual temperature variations in calves, these findings offer valuable insights for precision livestock farming. The authors conclude that integrating these individualized temperature variations into automated health monitoring systems could significantly improve the accuracy of early disease detection. [Read the full article on Nature.](#)



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News From EU

The 6th RUMIGEN newsletter is now available!

Enjoy your reading [here!](#)



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, NEW TOOLS - How Herders Are Learning to Share the Land with Wildlife Again

Long before wolves, bears and other large carnivores became the subject of EU policy debates and conservation strategies, herders across Europe already knew them well. In the mountain pastures of Romania, the highlands of Greece and the rangelands of Spain, generations of pastoralists developed a practical understanding of large carnivore behaviour, and built their farming practices around it. Livestock guarding dogs, communal herding, night enclosures and carefully timed seasonal movements were not romantic traditions: they were survival strategies. As large carnivores return to landscapes from which they had long been absent, that knowledge is more relevant than ever. The CoCo project is working to document it, learn from it and combine it with new tools and technologies – not to replace what herders

already know, but to build on it. [Read the full press release here.](#)



NEW TOOLS, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Herders Are Learning to
Share the Land with Wildlife
Again

Job Offers

32 Doctoral and postdoctoral researcher positions, Germany

Twenty-four doctoral researchers and eight postdoctoral researchers in the broader field of sustainable food systems are available at the CRC 1780 "FoodDiverse" (*Food System Diversification for Sustainable Nutrition*). The Collaborative Research Centre is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and led by the University of Bonn. **Deadline: 14 June 2026.** For more information and application [read the webpage.](#)

Doctoral Researchers (30 positions) at the University of Helsinki, Finland

[The University of Helsinki Doctoral School](#) (UHDS) invites applications for 30 salaried doctoral researcher positions in various disciplines. The positions are four year fixed term, full time employment contracts, starting between 1 January and 31 March 2027. The positions are part of an international, interdisciplinary [RESDOC doctoral training project](#), co funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND scheme and the University of Helsinki. **Deadline: 31 August 2026.** For more information and application [read the webpage](#).

Industries

Dr. Joseph Gulizia Joins NOVUS to Support Poultry Research and Innovation



CHESTERFIELD, MO (April 24, 2026) – Joseph Gulizia, Ph.D., has joined NOVUS as its new global poultry research manager. In this role, he will design and execute research trials, analyse results, and translate findings into scientific publications and technical resources for the poultry industry. Gulizia replaces longtime NOVUS poultry nutritionist and researcher, Frances Yan, Ph.D., who retired earlier this year. He joins the leader in intelligent nutrition from Auburn University in the United States where he recently finished a postdoctoral fellowship. Gulizia originally wanted to be a veterinarian and credits his longtime mentor, educator Kevin Downs, Ph.D., with the shift to animal agriculture.

"While I was studying animal science at Middle Tennessee State University, I conducted undergraduate research in ruminant and poultry nutrition with Dr. Downs," he says. "He introduced me to animal agriculture research and encouraged me to pursue graduate studies in poultry science." [Read the full article here.](#)

Publications

• Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing

[Achieving net zero dairy farming](#)

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 **31st July 2026**.

Animal Science Podcasts

European Livestock Voice Podcast: "[Insect Farming: Safety, Sustainability, and Future Perspectives](#)", speaker Professor Laura Gasco.

Other News

Summer School "AI for Life Sciences and Agri-Food Research"

The Summer School "AI for Life Sciences and Agri-Food Research" will be held from 20 to 24 July 2026 in Piacenza, Italy. The programme will include lectures in the morning and guided practical sessions in the afternoon. The number of places available for in-person attendance is limited; however, online participation will also be possible, limited to the morning sessions. For more information and registration read the [attached flyer](#).

Whole-eDNA sequencing as a new tool for broodstock genetic monitoring in gilthead seabream

A recent study has demonstrated that environmental DNA collected directly from tank water can be used to estimate genome-wide genetic diversity in gilthead seabream broodstock, with genome-wide diversity estimates broadly consistent with tissue-based. [Read the full article here.](#)

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Scented straw increases play behaviour in pigs

A research group at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences has studied whether scented straw can increase pigs' interest in straw and improve their welfare on a commercial farm. The results showed that scented straw increased play behaviour among the pigs and their interest in the straw. The research team, whose scientific article has been published in the journal *Animal*, spent two years studying pigs' behaviour when provided with scented straw. They also examined whether various welfare indicators, such as tail injuries, ear injuries and body soiling, were reduced as a result of the scented straw. [Read the full article 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
Mountain Grassland and Livestock Joint Conference	15 – 17 June 2026	Plantahof, Landquart Switzerland	Website
2 nd Artificial Intelligence 4 Animal Science Workshop	29 – 30 June 2026	Ghent, Belgium	Website
77 th EAAP Annual Meeting	7 – 11 September 2026	Hamburg, Germany	Website
1 st World Conference of Animal for Fiber Production	26 – 30 October 2026	Chifeng, China	Website

Other Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
ADSA 2026 Annual Meeting	21 – 24 June 2026	Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA	Website
WCGALP 2026	12 – 17 July 2026	Madison, Wisconsin, USA	Website
ASAS/CSAS Annual Meeting 2026	19 – 23 July 2026	Madison, Wisconsin, USA	Website
14 th International Conference on Goats 2026	18 – 22 September 2026	Chongqing, China	Website

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



“It is not his possession of knowledge, of irrefutable truth, that makes the man of science, but his persistent and recklessly critical quest for truth.”

(Karl Popper)

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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