WORLD ASSOCIATION for ANIMAL PRODUCTION

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The World Animal Science News

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EDITORIAL

"Global Dialogues on the Future of Livestock Production"

Recently, along with Andrea Rosati the Secretary General of the EAAP, I recently attended the XXVIII Meeting of the Latin American Association of Animal Production and the 8th Congress of the Uruguayan Association of Animal Production that was held in Punta del Este, September 22-24, 2025. This was an excellent meeting with invited speakers from across Latin America and beyond. The comprehensive conference papers are available in PDF format. During this meeting, WAAP sponsored a session on "The role of livestock and animal protein and fibre and of R&D&I policies in the sustainable development (present and future) of society: A holistic view of the future" and I presented a paper entitled "The key role played by livestock in the ecology of farming systems including the ability to deliver nutritious foods from non-human edible ingredients". This session also featured Keith Belk from Colorado State University speaking on "The societal role of meat and livestock: a need for scientific accountability and good communication" and Fabio Montossi from INIA in Uruguay who spoke on "Contributions toward a Latin American model of sustainable livestock farming: production, science, innovation, public policies, and markets". After, this session the Punta del Este Declaration was approved, which expresses a shared vision on the challenges and opportunities of sustainable animal production and contributes to strengthening its social license, integrating science, production, innovation, markets and society. Uruguay played a leading role in this milestone for animal production in Latin America and the Caribbean, projecting the region's voice on the international stage. The declaration signed by the representatives of the 12 National Animal Production Associations that make up ALPA, together with scientists, producers, authorities, and agri food chain stakeholders can be found at here. It is hoped that other peak bodies for regional animal science societies might also consider something similar. Earlier in the meeting, Andrea Rosati on behalf of WAAP and EAAP presented a thought-provoking presentation on "Guiding principles of AI: application in animal husbandry."

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Editorial (continues)

After the meeting in Uruguay, I attended the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation scheduled to be held in Rome, Italy, from 29 September - 1 October 2025. The theme of the conference was Fostering Change, Scaling Innovations, Driving Solutions. Approximately 800 to 1,000 people were expected to attend the conference which feature an opening plenary session with welcoming remarks by the FAO Director-General, a series of technical sessions with keynote speakers and panel discussions, and a closing session. Interpretation was provided in all official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). It is interesting to reflect on how far FAO have come in their thinking about the role of livestock in the almost 20 years since the publication of Livestock's Long Shadow. The overall atmosphere from the conference was that livestock do have a future role in supporting nutrition and livelihoods while of course acknowledging that mitigating and adapting to climate change are requisites for sustainable livestock transformation. We will inform you when the proceedings of this conference are published.

Frank Dunshea
President WAAP

From WAAP Members

American Dairy Science Association® (ADSA®)

ADSA News

ADSA® Science, education and service for the dairy industry

Starting today, get the insider track on the latest advancements in dairy production and dairy food science. Join ADSA's free weekly newsletter, tune into our *Dairy Digressions podcast*, or become a member to access benefits and thoughtfully curated, science-based resources to keep you at the forefront of innovation.
We offer half-off e-memberships for those outside of the United States and Canada.

Call for abstracts | ADSA 2026 Annual Meeting in Milwaukee
Get ready to mark your calendars! ADSA is excited to announce that its 2026 Annual Meeting will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from June 21 to 24. Start making your plans now to join dairy science professionals from around the world for this premier event. **You can join our prestigious scientific program by** submitting your abstract ***by February 10, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CST***. Learn more



You're invited to submit | **JDS Communications special issue on pasture-based dairy production systems**

JDS Communications is inviting submissions until **November 15, 2025**, for a special issue of the journal dedicated to pasture-based dairy production systems led by guest editor **John Roche, PhD.** The goal of this special issue is to provide a comprehensive and holistic outlook of **bovine pasture-based dairy production**, emphasizing the unique and important role these systems play in the global dairy industry.
Learn more



Earn journal discounts | ADSA journal loyalty program

Are you planning to publish in--or review for--the *Journal of Dairy Science* or *JDS Communications*? The ADSA Loyalty Rewards Program sets you up to earn and redeem points for contributions to either journal. As you accumulate points, you'll unlock **significant article publishing charge rewards**.
The *Journal of Dairy Science* has achieved a new Journal Impact Factor of 4.4, and *JDS Communications* has also earned its first-ever Journal Impact Factor—2.2—a major milestone that marks a successful debut for the journal since its launch in 2020. Learn more



Special issue | Biofilm Formation in Dairy

The *Journal of Dairy Science* has released a special issue of five articles devoted to biofilms in dairy—or microbial communities that can crop up at all stages of dairy processing, from milk collection through waste treatment, and impact food quality, safety, and consumer trust. Learn more



American Society of Animal Science (ASAS)

ASAS News

Mark Your Calendars for the 2026 ASAS Meetings!

ASAS members receive **discounted registration fees.**
Become a member or renew today: ASAS Membership

January 25–27, 2026
ASAS Southern Section Meeting – *Rogers, Arkansas* (Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas Hotel)

• **Randel Lectureship**: "*Know the literature and follow the science; Understanding the roles of preovulatory estradiol and vaccination in bovine reproductive efficiency*"
– Dr. George Perry, Texas A&M AgriLife Overton Research Centre
More Info

March 8–11, 2026
59th ASAS Midwest Section Meeting – *Omaha, Nebraska* (CHI Health Centre Convention Centre)

• **Abstract Deadline:** November 3, 2025
More Info

April 19–21, 2026
EAAP–ASAS Joint Conference – *Azores Islands, Portugal*
• Theme: "*Livestock Farming and the Environment: Emissions and Solutions*"
• Focus on enteric & manure emissions, nitrogen emissions, and animal systems
More Info

June 1–4, 2026
ASAS Western Section Meeting – *Estes Park, Colorado* (Holiday Inn Estes Park)

• **Abstract Deadline**: February 5, 2026
More Info

July 12–17, 2026
World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP) – Madison, Wisconsin (Monona Terrace)
More Info

July 19–23, 2026
ASAS/CSAS Annual Meeting – *Madison, Wisconsin* (Monona Terrace)

• Begins **Sunday, July 19**, with pre-symposia, opening session & welcome reception
• Scientific sessions & posters start **Monday, July 20**
🔗Annual Meeting Website

Tip: Bookmark meeting websites for housing, registration, and abstract deadlines!

European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP)

EAAP News

EAAP–ASAS Joint Conference: Livestock Farming and the Environment – Emissions and Solutions

Get ready for something special in 2026! For the first time ever, the EAAP and ASAS are joining forces for a unique international conference on *Livestock Farming and the Environment: Emissions and Solutions*. From Sunday evening, 19 April to Tuesday, 21 April 2026, we'll gather on the beautiful Azores Islands, right in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean — perfectly positioned between America and Europe, symbolising the partnership of this event. The conference will take place in Angra do Heroísmo, the capital of Terceira Island.
The programme will dive into some of the most pressing environmental topics in animal production — enteric and manure methane emissions, nitrogen losses, and animal systems —but with a forward-looking and solution-oriented mindset. These problems will be tackled from every aspect of animal farming: nutrition, genetic, behaviour, precision livestock farming, etc. Rather than dwelling on problems, this meeting is all about sharing ideas, innovations, and practical approaches to make livestock farming more sustainable. With an exciting line-up of expert speakers and a collaborative atmosphere, the conference promises to be a memorable meeting.
Mark your calendars and get ready to visit the Azores and meet your colleagues in animal science! For more information and submit the abstract visit the website!

EAAP's Industry Club off to a great start!

The brand-new EAAP Industry Club is already proving a great success. Almost 20 livestock-related companies have joined since its launch, all sharing the goal of strengthening the network and scientific vision of EAAP. This milestone marks an important step for our community. By bringing together industry experts, technicians, and researchers, the Industry Club creates space for diverse perspectives and fresh ideas. These different viewpoints are essential to enrich our understanding of animal production and to build a stronger, more connected European livestock network. The initiative is all about collaboration, knowledge exchange, and integration across the many faces of animal science — from research to real-world application. For more information, including details about specific services for Industry Club members, please contact: eaap@eaap.org

Latin American Association of Animal Production (ALPA)

ALPA News

28th Meeting of the Latin American Association of Animal Production
Punta del Este, Uruguay, September 22-24, 2025

The 28th Meeting of the Latin American Association of Animal Production and 8th Congress of the Uruguayan Association of Animal Production "Responsible Production of Animal Proteins and Fibers: From Latin America to the World."

This biennial meeting, which has been held since 1966 in different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, was hosted this year by the Uruguayan Association of Animal Production (AUPA), coinciding with its 8th Congress, co-organized by the Latin American Association of Animal Production (ALPA). The event was attended by a total of 409 participants: 244 nationals (60% of the total) and 165 foreigners (40% of the total).

Countries of origin of attendees:

A) The Americas 402 (99% of the total)
1) South America (including the Caribbean): 363 (89% of the total)
2) Central America: 12 (3% of the total)
3) North America: 27 (7% of the total)
B) Europe: 3
C) Africa: 1
D) Oceania: 3

The meeting featured six thematic areas, with 23 keynote presentations by global experts and 12 oral presentations selected from the abstracts. In addition, six roundtable discussions were held with representatives of selected topics. 433 e-posters were displayed, and a declaration was issued by Presidents of National Branch Associations and ALPA Presidents and past Presidents, called the Punta del Este Declaration, available on the ALPA website.

The Paul Randel Award was presented for the best oral presentation of an abstract, and six prizes were awarded to the best e-posters.

The event's proceedings have been available since September 24 on the ALPA website as a special issue of the journal Archivos de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Producción Animal.

Support for the event was obtained from 58 companies (public and private). Six coffee breaks were offered for 350 people during the event, and a closing toast was offered to 200 people.

The next ALPA meeting will be in 2027 in Panama City.

The "Punta del Este Declaration": a shared commitment to sustainable animal production

During the XXVIII Meeting of the Latin American Association of Animal Production (ALPA) and the 8th Congress of the Uruguayan Association of Animal Production, held last September in Punta del Este, Uruguay, the "Punta del Este Declaration" was presented and shared. This document calls on the scientific and technical community in the field of animal production to join forces in promoting sustainable animal production, grounded in scientific evidence, innovation, and regional responsibility.
Signing the Declaration represents a decisive step towards consolidating our community's leadership in guiding the transition to more resilient, ethical, and environmentally responsible production systems. ALPA expresses its sincere appreciation to all those who have already signed and disseminated the Declaration — their example shows the way forward — and warmly invites all professionals, researchers, and institutions in the field to actively support and adhere to this initiative.
All information and links to sign the Declaration are available in the three official languages on the ALPA website.

Nigerian Society for Animal Production (NSAP)

NSAP News

The Nigerian Society for Animal Production (NSAP) will be holding her 51st Annual Conference, tagged NDA–NSAP 2026, at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Kaduna State, Nigeria, from 29th March to 1st April 2026. The theme of the conference is "Civilian–Military Collaboration for Sustainable Livestock Production and National Security." Paper submission will be open from 1st November 2025 to 31st January 2026.
We warmly invite colleagues and members of the global animal producers and animal scientists' community to register and participate in this prestigious conference as we work together to advance animal production and research.

South African Society for Animal Science (SASAS)

SASAS News

The SASAS held its annual Congress from 18 to 10 July 2025. The theme was: "*Thriving in Diverse Environments: Optimised Innovations and Resilience in Livestock-Wildlife Interactions*". The plenary papers, short papers and posters drew much attention. In many, South Africa's unique opportunity to have interactive extensive farming with

livestock and game was addressed. The Congress was hosted at The Ranch Hotel in Polokwane and attended by 296 delegates.
It is traditional for SASAS to take stock of its activities at the Congress. A new Council was elected with Prof Carina Visser, President, Prof Linky Makgahlela, Vice-President, and Council Members - Miss Amelia du Preez (re-elected), Mr Heiko Köster, Dr Helet Lambrechts, Dr Simon Lashmar (re-elected), Mrs Jackie Tucker, Dr Ockert Einkamerer (newly elected).
The retiring Council and the General Assembly expressed their gratitude to the former president, Dr Trevor Dugmore, and Vice-president, Prof Schalk Cloete, for their two terms of excellent services they rendered to the Society.
The Silver Medal Award went to Prof Cletos Mapiye of Stellenbosch University for his research and the quality of the MSc (Agric) dissertation.
The Society hosted a Student Industry Day in association with the Free State Branch of SASAS, on 18 September 2025, at the Paradys Experimental Farm of the University of the Free State at Bloemfontein. The theme for the day was "*Animal Science, the glue that keeps us together*".
SASAS publishes the SA Journal of Animal Science and has concluded a new publishing contract with the Khulisa Journals Platform, managed by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), as of August 2025. Any questions regarding the new online system or the transition process should be sent to sajas.eic@gmail.com.

Norman Casey,
SASAS representative at the WAAP
SASAS Secretary: secretary@sasas.co.za

News from Science

Predicting livestock intake energy at different grazing strategies using agent-based modelling of livestock

The research described in this paper used an agent-based model (ABM) to optimise grazing strategies for Mongolian sheep in spatially heterogeneous grasslands. The ABM simulated interactions between sheep (agents) and vegetation (environment) across a landscape of 976 grid cells, each characterised by plant biomass, species composition, nutritional value, and palatability. Sheep movement was either voluntary, based on GPS-tracked patterns, or controlled by simulated herder strategies targeting cells with the highest or probabilistically higher biomass, palatability, or nutritional value. Metabolizable energy intake was calculated from intake mass, plant energy content, and palatability across cells over a two-month summer period and under three stocking rates. Results showed that herder-controlled grazing based on biomass maximisation achieved the highest energy intake and maintained a dispersed grazing distribution, even at higher stocking densities. Thus, guiding sheep towards biomass-rich patches represents the most efficient grazing strategy for Mongolian grasslands. Read the full article on Nature.

Integrating three genetic dimensions relating to piglet birth weight: direct and maternal effects on the mean and genetic control of residual variance

This article investigated the genetic basis of within-litter birth weight (BW) uniformity in Swiss Large White pigs, a key factor for piglet vitality and survival. Using data from an experimental farm (43,135 records) and a commercial farm (23,313 records), researchers applied a heteroscedastic model that accounted for genetic

effects on both mean BW and residual variance. Results showed that direct genetic effects on BW were negligible, while maternal genetic effects played a major role. The genetic component of the residual variance for BW ranged from 0.0712–0.1246 (experimental) and 0.0371–0.0994 (commercial). Positive genetic correlations between mean BW and BW variability (0.15–0.59) indicated that heavier litters tend to be less uniform. Therefore, modelling only maternal genetic effects is sufficient, and selection strategies focusing on improving BW uniformity within litters are recommended to enhance piglet survival and performance. Read the full article on Animal.



Use of biotics in animals: impact on nutrition, health, and food production

This review highlights the growing importance of probiotics, prebiotics, and other biotic substances in promoting gastrointestinal health, immune function, and overall wellbeing in both agricultural and companion animals. Although the effectiveness and optimal types of biotics vary with species, life stage, and physiology, evidence shows they can enhance digestion, growth efficiency, and disease resistance in livestock, while supporting gut and immune health in pets. With increasing restrictions on antibiotic use, rising population densities, and greater demand for sustainable animal production, biotics are becoming essential health-promoting tools. The paper, based on a discussion at the 2023 International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics meeting, summarises current applications, their potential role within global "One Health" strategies to reduce antimicrobial resistance, and future opportunities for developing targeted, microbiome-based biotic solutions for both animal and human health. Read the full article on Journal of Animal Science.

Research progress on broodiness behaviour and its molecular mechanisms in poultry

Broodiness is a natural maternal behaviour in female poultry, marked by prolonged nest-sitting, feather fluffing, reduced appetite, halted egg-laying, and incubation activity. It is influenced by both environmental and internal factors, including genetics and hormones, and regulated at organ, cellular, and molecular levels. The hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian (HPO) axis plays a central role, while hormones such as GnRH, prolactin, FSH, LH, oestrogen, and progesterone act through specific receptors and signalling pathways to regulate granulosa cell apoptosis and autophagy, affecting broodiness onset. At the molecular level, broodiness is a polygenic trait modulated by epigenetic mechanisms. Despite advances, the detailed regulatory pathways linking hormonal and genetic factors to ovarian structure and broodiness behaviour remain unclear. This review summarises behavioural characteristics, reproductive changes, and current understanding of broodiness regulation to guide future poultry research. Read the full article on Poultry Science.



News from International Organizations

European Parliament: Veggie products can no longer be called "meat"

A veggie burger or plant-based sausage will no longer be called that way, if the European Parliament has its way. On Wednesday, October 10, a majority of Members of European Parliament (MEPs) decided that words like "sausage," "burger" and "steak" should only be used for real meat products. In 2020, the Parliament voted on a similar proposal, but at the time it failed to gain sufficient support. As it happened, the Parliament did decide at the time to ban the names "soy milk" and "vegan cheese" for dairy products. Those terms may only be used for real dairy products. Read the full article on PigProgress.

Lumpy skin disease sweeps through France, bans in place

To contain the highly contagious lumpy skin disease, France has banned cattle exports as well as bullfighting. With the increase of lumpy skin disease across the country, important measures are in place until 4 November. The measures in place to stop the spread of lumpy skin disease has been effective since Saturday 18 October and will be lifted on 15 November if the health situation permits, says the French Ministry of Agriculture. Read the full article on Dairy Global.



Job Offers

Two positions at Göttingen University, Germany

Two positions are available at Göttingen University:

1. Researcher –Quality of Animal Products
2. Researcher (PostDoc) –spectroscopy & chemometrics

Deadline: **2 November 2025**. For more details read here.

Post-doctoral position at University of Padua, Italy

The Department of Biology, University of Padua is looking for a Post-doctoral researcher to join the GREEN-BIOSILAGE project. A PhD in Biosciences, Animal and Food Science, Crop Science or related fields is required. The position is open to applicants under 35 years old. For more details read here.

Publications

1. Animal consortium (EAAP, INRAE, BSAS) – Elsevier

Animal: Volume 19 - Issue 10 – October 2025
Article of the month: "Opinion paper: The sound use of experimental hypotheses in animal science"

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

I. "The Complete Guide to Sow Management and Feed Additives for Swine"

II. "Impact of grain type on performance and gut microbiota composition in broilers under necrotic enteritis challenge"

III. "Evonik adds plant-based product BoruCare® Capsin to its portfolio for ruminants"

IV. "Insights in Cage-Free: When is the right time to open the aviary on the rearing farm?"

Other news

China switches to poultry imports from Russia

During the first 7 months of 2025, Russia boosted its share of Chinese poultry imports to a record 18%, up from 14% the previous year. Russia is now ranked the second-largest poultry exporter to China, though the prospects for continued growth remain questionable as China sees a steady rise in poultry production. In January-August, Russia exported 80,000 tonnes of poultry to China, which is 15% more than the previous year, the Russian Poultry Union said in a statement on its social media channels. The Chinese market accounted for nearly half of Russia's poultry export growth this year. Read the full article on PoultryWorld.

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
4th International Precision Dairy Farming Conference	3 – 5 December 2025	Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand	website
ASAS Southern Section Meeting	25 – 27 January 2026	Rogers, Arkansas, USA	website
59th ASAS Midwest Section Meeting	8 – 11 March 2026	Omaha, Nebraska, USA	website
NSPA 51st Annual Conference	29 March - 1 April 2026	Kaduna, Nigeria	website
EAAP-ASAS Conference on Livestock farming and the environment: emissions and solutions	19 – 21 April 2026	Azores Islands, Portugal	website
2026 2nd International Scientific Meeting on Colostrum	20 – 22 May 2026	Guelph, Ontario, Canada	website
4th EAAP Regional Meeting – Mediterranean Region	20 – 22 May 2026	Sassari, Italy	website
ASAS Western Section Meeting	1 – 4 June 2026	Estes Park, Colorado, USA	website
1st Conference on Animal for Fiber	9 – 13 June 2026	Chifeng, China	website
ADSA 2026 Annual Meeting	21 – 24 June 2026	Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA	website
2026 WCGALP	12 – 17 July 2026	Madison, Wisconsin, USA	website
ASAS/CSAS Annual Meeting	19 -23 July 2026	Madison, Wisconsin, USA	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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