



flash *e*News

European Federation of Animal Science



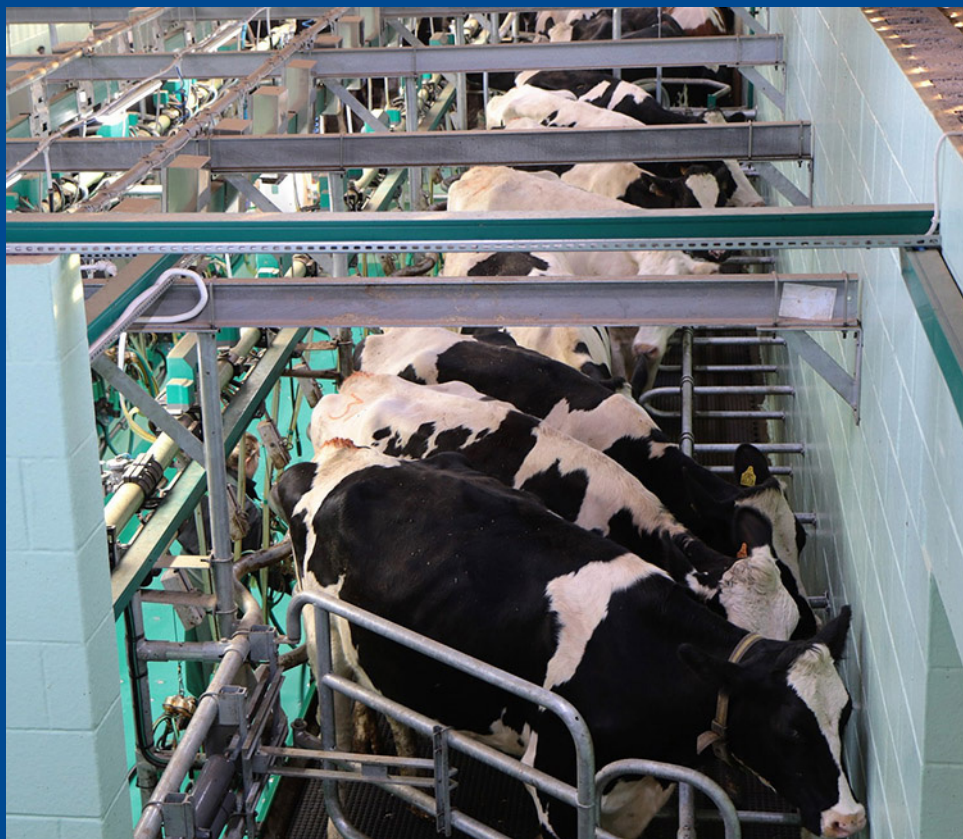
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EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The superorganism "animal farm"

In ecology a collection of organisms that appear to have group properties, such as homeostasis and reproduction, similar to those of a single organism is named a "superorganism". Immediately we think of insects like bees or ants and the complex world of social insect biology. Can we also consider animal farms as a sort of "superorganism"? Finally, can we study animal farms as superorganisms and, eventually consider, what are the pros and cons of deciding to do research assuming a group of animals within a farm is a superorganism? Up to now only rare, advanced and theoretical investigations on this topic have been conducted. Individual animals within the same farm share the same environmental conditions, including management. Therefore, let's consider the herd as the experimental unit and let's understand better how the common living conditions and environment influence herd performance. There are herds located near to each other which have very different levels of productivity and health. Is this due to the operational practices, the herd gene pools or the interactions among animals? The first two may be the immediate answers but it is worth knowing the importance of interactions among animals. I believe there is value in measuring how much animal communication, within a farm, influences the herd's health and productivity. And how behaviour is influenced by animal communication and how much this impacts on health and productivity. In a few words can we move from the reductionist-oriented research, arising from studying the single animal and its systems, organs, cells and genes, to holistic research that will analyze data among animals to account for differences among animal groups? Finally, studying herds as superorganisms would help us to understand why very similar herds located in close proximity to each other have different levels of productivity. It will create a better understanding of our "productive units". Considering the constantly increasing size of farms, the approach of assuming animals within a farm as a superorganism seems to be worth more than a passing thought.

Andrea Rosati



What you need to know about heat stress in **cattle** to manage it!

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News from EAAP

EAAP 3rd Webinar on “How to improve animal behaviour through breeding”

Today, May 11th, there will be the 3rd Webinar titled “**How to improve animal behaviour through breeding**”. The three speakers are selected to offer to participants exclusive inside on the topics. The webinar will begin with a lecture offered by Per Jensen, Linköping University (Sweden) on the domestication and behaviour in chickens. This will be followed by a talk on the impact of breeding on poultry behaviour with a special focus on measuring behaviour and improving activity and feather pecking by Esther Ellen from Wageningen University (the Netherlands). The last talk will be on breeding for pig behaviour to improve their health and welfare, given by Laurianne Canario from INRAE (France). Registration is free, just hurry up to register and to get more info [on the website](#).

The new “Restricted Site”

The new service offered by EAAP to all its members is the Restricted Site. We invite you to enter in the Restricted Site and to enjoy all new services offered by EAAP. This is a tool to communicate with your animal scientists colleagues, to create and participate to scientific groups, to join blogs and much more. Moreover, you can find the Books of Abstracts of the past 12 EAAP

Annual Meetings, the Newsletters from last year, most of the video presentations performed at last Annual Meeting, the videos of the EAAP webinars, and much more! Since you are EAAP individual member, this service is offered to you for free. We suggest you to become familiar with this new tool to learn the many different facets and related options. Please enter and make yourself comfortable with all available services. Once you are logged in, we suggest to create your own profile, then look around at the existing groups and, if you wish, create a new group for future internal exchange of information, documents, blogs, etc. The groups are more or less the same as our Study Commissions and Working Groups, but you are free to create new ones. It is certainly advisable to invite other scientists to join and then to make the groups working. To enter go to <https://members.eaap.org/>, then you are asked to include your mail, the same you use to register to the EAAP membership, and the password that actually is not in the system. Therefore, click on “Lost your Password” to create your own password. We just can't wait to welcome you for joining the Restricted Site and to see you using the related services.

Workshop co-organized by the EAAP Mountain Livestock Farming Working Group

The EAAP working group on “Mountain Livestock Farming” organizes its second workshop next June 7th to 9th, with FAO-CIHEAM Mountain Pastures Sub-Network. The workshop will be fully held virtually

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due to the pandemic restrictions. The workshop title is "Mountains are agroecosystems for people" and includes around 40 theatre presentations and 20 posters.

Last days to participate to the EAAP Young Scientists Award!

EAAP Young Scientists Award EAAP will grant to early career researchers the "EAAP Young Scientists Award". All scientists who are born after 1st September 1983 can participate. The candidates should be EAAP individual members (if you are not individual member, you can still apply, please see how [at EAAP website](#)) and should have demonstrated outstanding research performance with the European dimension and perspective. The awardee will be recognized and will receive a plate in Davos (Switzerland). He/she will be invited to present a paper at the following Annual Meeting in Porto 2022 where will be offered a [free registration](#). Nominations must be submitted to the EAAP office (eaap@eaap.org) by **15th May 2021**. The application shall be accompanied by the documents below:

- § Curriculum Vitae
- § European experience (if not in the CV) such as participation in EU projects or benefiting EU grants
- § List of scientific publications and/or of products (e.g. patents)
- § List of eventual presentations at the EAAP Annual

Meetings

- § Letter of support by another Individual Member
- § Eventual EAAP related scholarships

Get your chance and apply!

EAAP 2021 Davos: Early bird registration fee until June 1st - no risk in the event of any Covid 19 restrictions



Please notice that all authors with accepted oral and/or poster presentations must have registered by the end of May. They can benefit from the early bird registration fee. Participants without a contribution can also profit from the low prices until the end of this month.

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[Click here for more information](#)

For all registered participants, there is no risk in the event of any Covid 19 restrictions.

- In case of inability to attend due to official COVID regulations of authorities: Change to virtual participation and difference in registration fee fully refunded without administration fee.
- In the event of cancellation by the organizer: Full refund without administration fee.

Detailed information can be found on [the congress website](#) or requested directly from the local organizing committee (info@eaap2021.org).

EAAP People Portrait

Lorenzo Hernandez Castellano



Lorenzo was born in 1984 in Gran Canaria, one of the eight Canary Islands (Spain) and according to his opinion, the most beautiful of them. During his childhood, he enjoyed very much visiting his

grandparents as they lived in the countryside and raised dairy goats, hens and rabbits. Lorenzo got his Veterinary degree, his Master in Animal Health and Food Safety and his PhD at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC; Spain). His PhD was about investigating how the colostrum period management and the preweaning diet can affect the immune system development of newborn lambs. In order to get a deeper knowledge about the different physiological processes occurring in his experimental animals, he decided to perform different proteomics approaches on both sheep colostrum and lamb blood plasma. As those proteomics facilities were not available at the ULPGC, he performed short research periods at the University of Lisbon (Portugal), Aarhus University (Denmark) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA, USA) during his PhD. In 2013 he obtained his PhD and in 2014 he got the best thesis award granted by the ULPGC. From 2014 to 2017, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Veterinary Physiology group (University of Bern, Switzerland) where he worked on the immune system development in newborn calves and on mammary gland physiology in dairy cows. In 2018, he got an assistant professor position at the Department of Animal Science (Aarhus University, Denmark), where he worked on several research lines, with special interest on finding new management alternatives for improving colostrum quality and calf immune system development and health status. In 2021, he returned to Gran Canaria as he got one researcher contract under the Ramón y Cajal programme (Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain). Therefore, he is currently working side by side with

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his previous PhD supervisors (Tacho and Noemí) at the Animal Production and Biotechnology group (Institute of Animal Health and Food Safety, ULPGC, Spain). During his research career he has collaborated with researchers from more than 25 different countries, resulting in 62 articles in Science Citation Index (SCI) journals, 3 book chapters, 13 research projects and 11 articles in popular science journals. He has also presented his results in multiple international conferences where he has obtained the best poster/oral communication in 6 occasions. In addition, he has been very active in two European COST- actions, the Farm Animal Proteomics (FA1002) and the Dairy Care (FA1308) and he has been part of the executive and organizing committee of the International Conference on Goats (IGA, 2012) and he will part of the organizing committee of the Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association for the following 3 years. Finally, he has been recently selected for being the vice-president of the study commission on Sheep and Goat of the EAAP (2020-2023). During the last decade, he has contributed with teaching about animal production as well as ruminant physiology and nutrition at different Universities such as the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain), the University of Bern (Switzerland), Aarhus University (Denmark), Yasouj University (Iran), the University of Lisbon (Portugal) and the University of Milan (Italy). During this time, he has supervised two Veterinary Doctorate students, four Master students and he is currently supervising one PhD student (Bhagya) and one Master student (Camilla). During his free time, Lorenzo enjoys spending time with his parents (Carmen and Lorenzo), his siblings (Maria del Cristo and Carmelo), his cousin (Enrique) among other relatives. In addition, he enjoys very much sharing his time with his girlfriend (Sandra) in activities such as playing board games, baking sourdough or hiking in the nature. This last activity is always led by the carnivorous ruminant animal, also known as dog, Cala. Finally, Lorenzo thinks that there is nothing better than a plate of Canarian cheeses with a glass of Spanish wine to complete a perfect day.

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From Science and Innovation

Online advanced course: New feeds and feeding technologies in aquaculture 14th - 23rd June, 2021, Zaragoza, Spain

Register now to the online course "New feeds and feeding technologies in aquaculture" jointly organised by [CIHEAM](#) and [MedAID project](#), with the collaboration of the H2020 projects [NewTechAqua](#) and [PerformFISH](#). The course is designed for 30 participants with a university degree and is intended for professionals of the feed industry and fish farming, as well as for technical advisors and researchers in the field. For more information and registration [visit the website](#).

Late-gestation heifers and heat stress

Increasing global environmental temperatures have detrimental effects on the dairy industry. While the effects of heat stress on multiparous lactating and non-lactating dairy cows have been studied extensively, the effects on gestating heifers have received less attention. [Read the full article on DairyGlobal](#).



Exploring prebiotics to revolutionise gut health in layers

Can improvements be made in chicken production, and antibiotic use significantly lowered, with the use of prebiotics in the diets of egg-laying hens? A University of New England 2021 Science and Innovation Award winner is investigating. [Read the full article on AllAboutFeed](#).

From EU (policies and projects)

GenTORE project: Free training session on “on-farm tools to phenotype proxies of Resilience and Efficiency”.

GenTORE project has organised on 19th May 2021 a free training session on “**on-farm tools to phenotype proxies of Resilience and Efficiency**”. The training is for vets, farmers, breeding & farm consultants, academics and students. The training is in English, for more information [read the flyer](#). If interested, to register contact: office@raftsolutions.co.uk.

SmartCow: Fourth meeting of the European Stakeholder platform on June 30th 2021

On June 30th, 9:00-12:30, [SmartCow](#) will hold its Fourth meeting of the European Stakeholder platform, as a virtual meeting. This meeting will be open to the wide community of key players and experts in the field of sustainable agriculture, animal nutrition, genetics, health and welfare, farming technologies, climate impacts... from industry, advisory bodies, farmers' organisations, NGOs, policy makers, academia.

From this meeting, you will get:

- Informed about last results and deliverables
- Feedbacks on the granted transnational access projects
- An opportunity to exchange with the project coordinator and WPL about project outcomes and perspectives.

For registration contact Florence Macherez: florence.macherez@idele.fr

H2020 project RES4LIVE 2nd Consortium Meeting

The RES4LIVE consortium met again, after its first semester, from 15th to 16th of April 2021. The 2nd Consortium Meeting was organised by our Italian colleagues in UNIBO and was held via teleconference, to comply with the current COVID-19 restrictions. Stefano Benni (UNIBO, Italy) opened and moderated the meeting, while over 45 participants from the 17 RES4LIVE partners,

from industry and research, have been able to share preliminary results and to set the basis of the upcoming work steps. [Read the full article here](#).

EuroFAANG

By establishing EuroFAANG, the H2020 projects [AQUA-FAANG](#), [BovReg](#) and [GENE-SWitCH](#) have formed a closer relationship to coordinate their objectives within Europe in association with [the international FAANG initiative](#). EuroFAANG brings together a wide range of expertise in farmed animal biology and breeding, genomics, bioinformatics, modelling and open data, as well as multiple platforms for dissemination and outreach, with a common goal to discover links between genome and phenome (i.e. G2P) in the frame of the FAANG to Fork strategy. For more information [visit the webpage](#).

“We must adapt”: EU research chief on Europe’s €100-billion funding programme

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel will oversee the implementation of the Horizon Europe scheme. The European Union's new research programme, Horizon Europe, will distribute €95.5 billion (US\$113 billion) over 7 years. The basic-research arm of Horizon Europe, the European Research Council, launched [its first calls for grant applications](#) in February. In the coming weeks, the European Commission will announce detailed plans for the rest of the scheme, followed by additional funding calls. [Read the full article on Nature](#).

DAIR'INNOV Congress - HappyMoo Interreg project & D4Dairy project

The theme of the DAIR'INNOV Congress will be “Innovations to benefit cow welfare and dairy farming sustainability”. Organized by HappyMoo Interreg project & D4Dairy project, this congress will be held from 27th April to 29th April 2022 in Namur, Belgium. For more information [visit the website](#).

From Industry, Governments and International Organizations

ATF: SRIA presentation (webinar) 20th May 2021- 14:00-15:30 CET

This Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) derives largely from the ATF Vision Paper and aims to provide suggested priorities for R&I within Horizon Europe towards a resource efficient, sustainable, competitive and safe livestock production sector in Europe fostering more sustainable food systems. It was developed by the ATF Presidency and Secretariat in consultation with ATF members in 2019 and 2020 and based on the outcomes of the ATF meetings, workshops and events and aligns with the objectives laid down in the Green Deal, in particular as regards the communications on the Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity strategies. Speakers:

- Ms Tereza Budnakova, European Commission - DG Agri - Deputy Head of Unit B.2 Research and Innovation, introduction
- Mr Frank O'Mara, TEAGASC & current ATF President
- Mr Jean-Louis Peyraud, INRAE & former ATF President

The event is free but the registration is mandatory. [To register click here.](#)

MethaneSAT space mission

As part of the global effort to combat climate change, MBIE is participating in the MethaneSAT space mission. It's New Zealand's first government-funded space mission. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to the amount of warming that we are experiencing. New Zealand is participating in the MethaneSAT space mission as part of the global effort to combat climate change. [Read the full article here.](#)

The Dutch dairy industry: Facts, figures, and farm trends

Here we offer an overview of the Dutch dairy industry, look at trade and consumption, and zoom in on the

sector's focus on sustainability. Since April 2019, the Netherlands is home to 1.58 million dairy cows and calves with a yearly production of 14 billion kg of milk. [Read the full article on DairyGlobal.](#)



Job offers

Project Position as Researcher in Plant-Insect Ecology at Aarhus University, Denmark

The [Department of Bioscience](#) at Aarhus University, invites applications for a 4 year position as Researcher in plant – insect interaction ecology and resource habitat research. The position is available from August 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter. Deadline for application: **27th May 2021**. For more information [read the job vacancy.](#)

Publications

• Elsevier

[Animal: Volume 15- Issue 4 – April 2021](#)

Article of the month: "[Construction of a conceptual framework for assessment of health-related quality of life in calves with respiratory disease](#)".



• Elsevier

"Livestock: On our plates or eating at our table? A new analysis of the feed/food debate". A. Mottet et al. 2017.

Conferences and workshops

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

Virtual conference, May 31st – July 5th, 2021**Grazing in future multiscapes**

Join *Grazing in future multiscapes* – a virtual conference online for six virtual workshops, organized by the Lincoln University, that will focus on cultivating a shift towards more sustainable and ethical grazing systems. Detailed information is available on the [conference website](#).

Virtual meeting, June 7th – 9th 2021**1st Joint meeting EAAP Mountain Livestock Farming & FAO-CIHEAM Mountain Pasture**

The Joint Meeting of EAAP Mountain Livestock Farming Working Group & FAO-CIHEAM Mountain Pasture Sub-Network "Mountains are agroecosystems for people" has been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The meeting will be held virtually from 7th to 9th June 2021

August 30th – September 3rd 2021 in Davos, Switzerland**72nd EAAP Annual Meeting**

EAAP is delighted to invite you to the 72nd Annual Meeting. It will be a hybrid event from August 30th to September 3rd, 2021 in Davos, the highest town in Europe situated in the alpine mountains of Switzerland and home to the World Economic Forum (WEF). Detailed information can be found on [EAAP2021 website](#).

September 30th - October 1st 2021 in Balotesti, Romania**16th Edition of the International Symposium of Animal Biology and Nutrition****50 years of Research in Biology and Animal Nutrition at IBNA**

The Symposium is organised every two years by the [National Research and Development Institute for Animal Biology and Nutrition Balotesti](#). The event will gather experts and scientists in Biology and Animal Nutrition, both European and worldwide, who will present their most recent research focusing on current scientific trends. More details on Symposium and registration can be found [on the Symposium page](#) and in [the attached flyer](#).

October 21st – 22nd 2021, Paris, France**2nd Amino acid Academy Workshop**

The 2nd Amino Acid Academy, organized by EAAP and Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Europe will take place on the 21st and 22nd October 2021 in Paris, France. The location will be the Grand Amphitheatre of the National Museum of Natural History. Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming weeks and save the date!

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www.eaap.org**July 3rd – 8th 2022, Rotterdam, The Netherlands****12th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP)**

We are excited that the 12th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production will be held in the Netherlands, between July 3rd and July 8th, 2022! The impact of Covid is at the front of our minds. We are investigating all different options on how to best deal with Covid-19 and ensure a safe conference for all. We will make our final decision before the call for abstract opens. This way we can provide you with the best possible information. Our website contains more & more information, so please keep an eye on that. Because of the privacy laws, we would like to ask you to actively sign up for the mailing list, so we can keep you up to date. Please [visit the website](#). Follow us on: [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)

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

**“If you don’t like something, change it.
If you can’t change it, change your attitude”**

(Maya Angelou)

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

EAAP Secretariat is located at the following address: Via G. Tomassetti 3, A/1 - Rome (Italy). Tel.: +39-06-44 20 26 39; Fax: +39-06-44 26 67 98; E-mail: eaap@eaap.org

Production staff: Marlène Sciarretta, Federica Motterle, Andrea Rosati, Eleonora Azzaro, Milan Zjalic.

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