



EAAP

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EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Reevaluating the Role of Animal Proteins

While attending a presentation by Elisabetta Bernardi (University of Bari, Italy), I heard about new evidence that could rehabilitate the beneficial role of animal proteins, contradicting the narrative that associates meat with negative health effects. Meat and other animal-based foods not only appear to have a protective effect against intestinal tumours but could also contribute to the treatment of inflammatory conditions due to their immunoregulatory properties.

*Dr Bernardi discussed recent research conducted by the RIKEN Centre for Integrative Medical Sciences in Japan, published in *Frontiers in Immunology*, which highlights the positive effects of dietary antigens—proteins found in meat, milk, and eggs—on intestinal health. The study identified two specific antigens, bovine serum albumin and ovalbumin, capable of activating intestinal T killer immune cells and suppressing tumour formation in this region. Experiments on mice demonstrated that a diet rich in these antigens reduced tumourigenesis, while a diet devoid of antigens increased the risk of intestinal tumours. These antigens could also prove useful in combating diseases such as Crohn's disease or irritable bowel syndrome.*

According to another recent study published on PubMed, a carnivorous ketogenic diet may be effective against inflammatory bowel diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Furthermore, other research has identified beneficial compounds in meat, such as TVA (trans-vaccenic acid) and antioxidants with antitumour properties, present in beef, pork, and poultry.

*An analysis published in the *International Journal of General Medicine* examined the relationship between meat consumption and life expectancy in 175 countries, revealing a positive correlation between higher meat consumption and longer life. These findings challenge the prejudice that a plant-based diet is always the healthiest choice.*

Since this concerns science, it is essential to further investigate the role of animal proteins in cancer prevention and other conditions before drawing definitive conclusions, despite the promising results. However, it is worth noting that if the findings had been the opposite, some animal rights or vegan organisations might have taken those findings as conclusive and widely disseminated them as such. That said, the emerging discoveries suggest that completely eliminating meat from one's diet may not be the best choice for health. Thanks to advanced research techniques, new evidence is emerging about the benefits of animal proteins, which could positively influence the immune system and improve quality of life

Andrea Rosati

News from EAAP

EAAP Workshop on Companion Animals abstract submission is open!

EAAP is pleased to announce that the abstract submission is now open for the upcoming workshop, **"Companion Animals."** This event will take place in Milan, Italy, from 14th to 16th May 2025, and will aim to bring together leading researchers in the field of animal science and veterinary science, to discuss the latest scientific advancements, share insights, explore innovative approaches to improving the lives of companion animals and raise awareness about the application of population management tools in pet breeding. Participants with interest in attending or presenting their research are encouraged to submit abstracts and secure their places promptly. For more information and to know more about the submission procedure, please visit the [official workshop website](#). Registration will be open soon, stay tuned!

EAAP General Assembly Confirms Leadership for Genetics and Cattle Study Commissions

The EAAP General Assembly has confirmed the reappointment of Professor Filippo Miglior (Canada) as Chair of the Genetics Study Commission and Professor Massimo De Marchi (Italy) as Chair of the Cattle Study Commission for a second three-year term. This decision reflects the excellent work carried out by both during their first mandates, earning the trust and recognition of the General Assembly. Their leadership has been instrumental in advancing the goals of their respective Study Commissions. Best wishes to both Professors Miglior and De Marchi as they continue to guide and inspire progress in their fields of expertise.



Massimo De Marchi



Filippo Miglior

EAAP Regional Meeting 2026: Sassari as a Hub for Mediterranean Animal Science and Livestock Industry

The Secretary General of EAAP, Andrea Rosati, was recently invited to Sassari, on the island of Sardinia (Italy), by Professors Nicola Macciotta, a member of the EAAP Council, and Gianni Battacone, both from the University of Sassari. During the visit, he had the opportunity to explore the excellent facilities of the Faculty of Agriculture, selected as a potential venue for the fourth EAAP regional meeting, dedicated to Mediterranean animal production. The conference is scheduled for the spring of 2026 and promises to be an important opportunity for researchers and professionals in the field Mediterranean livestock industry and animal science to meet and exchange ideas. The faculty's newly inaugurated facilities, opened just a few weeks ago, have been deemed suitable for hosting the event due to their quality and functionality. Additionally, Sassari is easily accessible thanks to a well-connected airport, while Sardinia is renowned for its hospitality and natural beauty, making it a highly sought-after destination, even from a tourism perspective.



From left to right: Andrea Rosati, Nicola Macciotta, Gianni Battacone

EAAP People Portrait

Samy Julliand



Samy Julliand holds an engineering degree in biology (AgroParisTech), complemented by a PhD on the pathogenesis of gastric ulcers (University of Burgundy). After several international research experiences in population ecology and animal nutrition, which took him from Canada to Vietnam and from the Central African Republic to Mozambique, in 2012 he founded “Lab To Field”, a research organization arising from the University of Burgundy. Based in Dijon, France, the organization he heads now employs between 15 and 20 researchers and technicians and specializes in studying the relationship between nutrition, digestive microbiota, digestion, and health/performance in animals. Samy works mainly on the factors of variation in the gastrointestinal microbiota and the interactions between the microbiota and the host. He has been involved in setting up and supervising several programs related to this topic: the relationship between large intestine dysbiosis and immunity, changes in microbiota and fibrolytic function with age, diet-microbiota-parasitism interactions, microbiota and energy metabolism during exercise, etc. Historically, Samy has focused mainly on equine species, but is now also working on other monogastric and ruminant species. [Read the complete profile here.](#)

Science and Innovation

A hierarchical research model to foster dialogue between grazing ecology and beef cow energetics to support ecological intensification of native grassland

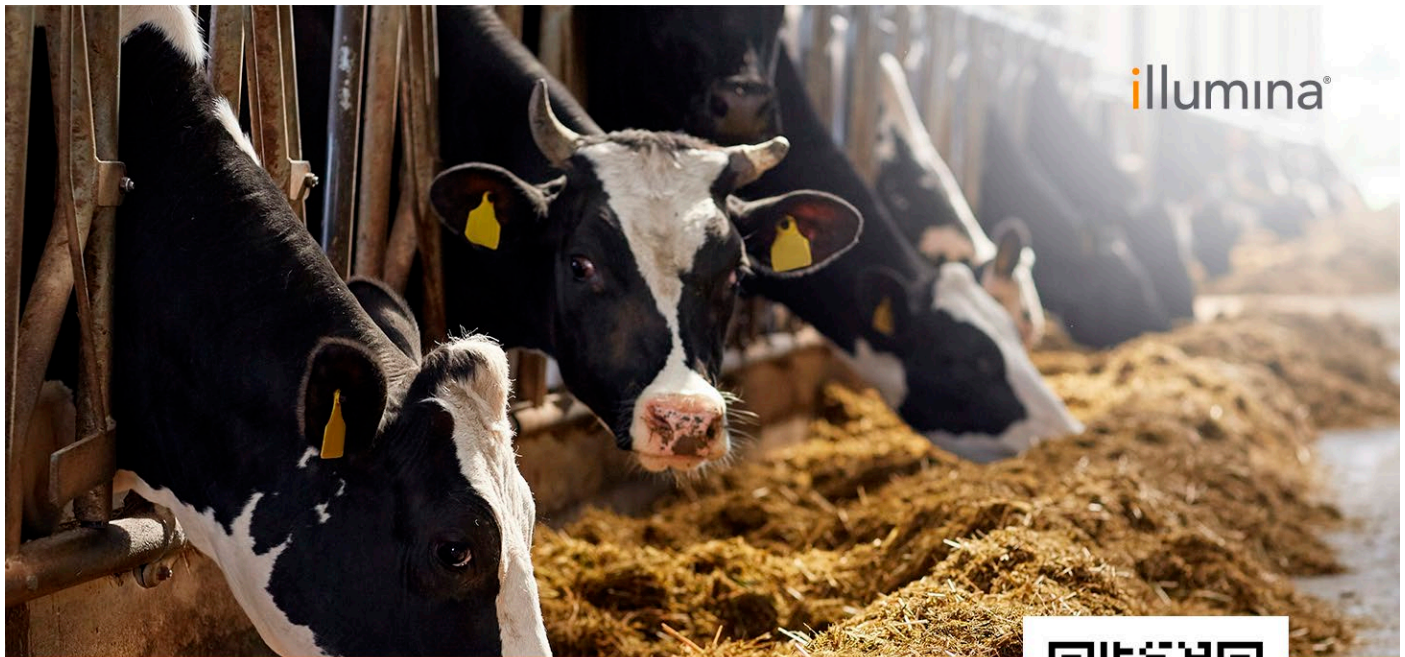
Cow-calf systems grazing native grasslands face the challenge of improving economic performance while conserving and enhancing ecosystem services. An innovative hierarchical model was developed to address this, integrating functional relationships between state variables, grazing experiments, validation processes, and co-innovation at the farm level. Key state variables, such as forage height and cow body condition score at calving, were linked to pregnancy rates. Grazing experiments identified optimal forage allowance (FA) levels (low vs. high FA) to enhance forage production, cow intake, and energy efficiency, leading to 30–50% higher meat production per hectare. High FA improved forage structure, metabolic hormone levels, and dry matter intake. Validation studies confirmed productivity and profitability improvements in commercial systems, while co-innovation across 60 farms showed increased meat production per hectare without raising costs. A slight reduction in stocking rates also reduced CO₂ emissions per unit of product, supporting sustainable intensification of livestock systems on native grasslands. [Read the full article on Animal.](#)

The 1000 Chinese Indigenous Pig Genomes Project provides insights into the genomic architecture of pigs

Pigs play a central role in human livelihoods in China, but the lack of systematic large-scale whole-genome sequencing has limited genetic studies. The “1000 Chinese Indigenous Pig Genomes Project” presents a sequencing dataset for 1,011 individuals from 50 populations across roughly two-thirds of China. With deep sequencing (~25.95×), 63.62 million genomic variants were identified, providing a reference panel to enhance the genetic imputation of Chinese pig populations. Analysis revealed an ancient genetic admixture linked to human migrations in the 13th century, contributing to the development of southeast-central Chinese pig populations. A unique Y chromosome haplogroup was found in populations near the Taihu Lake Basin. Additionally, genetic variants were identified in the THSD7A gene (related to high-altitude adaptation) and a region on chromosome 7 associated with body size traits. This dataset represents a vital resource for studying genetic architecture and complex traits in pigs. [Read the full article on Nature.](#)

Factors influencing somatic cell count and leukocyte composition in cow milk: a field study

Animal health and welfare are vital for sustainable milk production, with udder health being a key factor influencing both animal welfare and milk yield and quality. Monitoring somatic cell count (SCC) and leucocyte components in milk is an effective method for early detection and management of mastitis. Key factors such as parity, lactation stage, and milk production levels significantly affect SCC and leucocyte composition, including neutrophils (NEU), lymphocytes (LYM), and macrophages (MAC), which are crucial for immune responses to mastitis pathogens. A study involving 179 dairy



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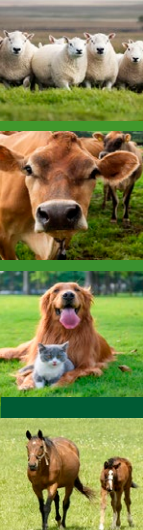
FEATURED PRODUCT

Cattle Array – BovineSNP50 v3



cows across six farms analysed the impact of these factors using statistical models. Results showed that NEU levels were highest (>60%) and MAC levels lowest (<20%) during early and late lactation, critical periods for udder health. High SCC was linked to poor hygiene, low milk production, and elevated NEU and LYM percentages. These findings highlight the importance of managing these variables to improve udder health and milk quality. [Read the full article on Journal of Dairy Science.](#)







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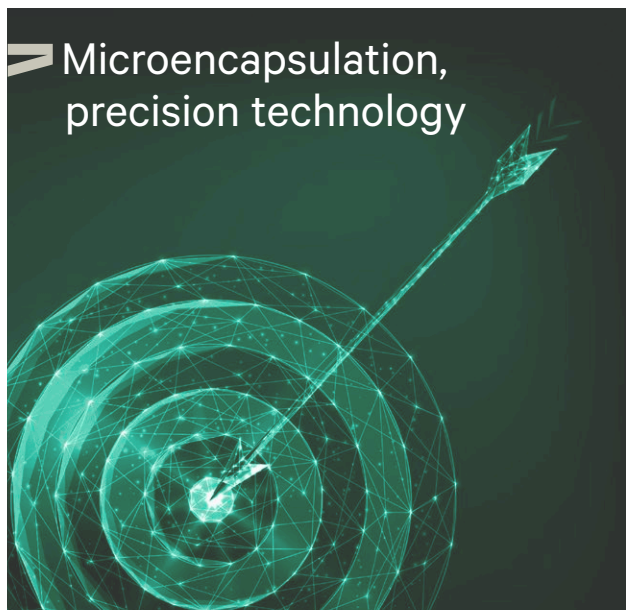
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Influence of different levels of black soldier fly larvae meal on growth performance and carcass quality of broiler chickens

A study evaluated the effects of Black Soldier Fly Larvae Meal (BSFLM) as a replacement for soybean meal in broiler diets. Three diets were tested: a control (0%), 6% BSFLM (BSF 6), and 12% BSFLM (BSF 12), during starter (0–14 days) and grower (15–28 days) phases. BSFLM inclusion did not negatively impact feed intake or live weight gain. Birds fed 12% BSFLM showed higher live and carcass weights than the control ($P < 0.02$), though breast weight (as a percentage of live weight) was lower at this inclusion level ($P < 0.04$). Diets containing 6% BSFLM showed the highest apparent metabolizable energy (AME) and nutrient digestibility, outperforming the 12% BSFLM group but comparable to controls. Breast meat quality was unaffected by BSFLM inclusion. The findings demonstrate that up to 12% BSFLM can effectively replace soybean meal in broiler diets without compromising growth performance, nutrient utilisation, carcass traits, or meat quality. [Read the full article on Livestock Science.](#)





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News From EU

3rd Annual HoloRuminant Meeting: A Collaborative Success in Caldes de Montbui, Spain

From November 19th to 21st, the 3rd Annual HoloRuminant meeting brought together 50 representatives from partner organizations in the beautiful town of Caldes de Montbui, Spain, hosted by IRTA. This dynamic event served as a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic planning for the year ahead. The first day focused on fostering collaboration. Three major projects—RUMIGEN, GERONIMO, and 3D OMICS—presented their objectives and explored potential synergies within the newly established "ECOGEN" cluster. This cluster, which also includes Re-Livestock, was formed through Holoruminant with the support of the Horizon Results Booster to promote cooperation and knowledge sharing across complementary initiatives. The following days allowed each HoloRuminant work package to review their achievements over the past year and refine plans for the future through different interactive session and workshops. Early-career scientists captivated the audience with presentations of their impressive research, underscoring the consortium's commitment to supporting emerging talent in the field. [Read the full article here.](#)



Job Offers

Postdoctoral Researcher at Aarhus University, Denmark

[Aarhus University](#) invites applications for a two-year Postdoctoral Researcher position in Ruminant Nutrition, with a particular focus on the use of feed additives to reduce enteric methane in different types of cattle (calves, dairy cows). A PhD in Animal, Veterinary Science, or a related field is required. **Deadline: 5 December 2024.** For more information [read the job vacancy.](#)

Industries

Unlocking the Power of Equine Genomics

Neogen's GGP Equine chip supports a broad range of applications, including research and discovery of new traits, parentage analysis, and hereditary disease and trait screening. Designed using the most informative and useful SNPs from higher density arrays, GGP Equine is a comprehensive and cost-effective tool that provides you with informative, consistent, and high quality data.

The GGP Equine chip consists of over 70,000 evenly distributed SNP markers, including Equine SNP parentage testing options for horses using markers under consideration by the International Society of Animal Genetics (ISAG). Neogen's latest version of the GGP Equine chip is now mapped to EquCab3. All proposed ISAG SNP parentage markers and various health and trait markers can be found in the final report, including coat colour and genetic disease markers, plus over a thousand mitochondrial markers and numerous Y chromosome markers.



Can Neogen help with your research?

The Neogen team is ready to assist with any genotyping or sequencing research project, whether it's current or in the planning stages. Simply fill out our [form with your query](#).

Publications

• **Animal consortium (EAAP, INRAE, BSAS) – Elsevier**

[Animal: Volume 18- Issue 11 – November 2024](#)

Article of the month: [“Signatures of selection analyses reveal genomic differences among three heavy pig breeds that constitute the genetic backbone of a dry-cured ham production system”](#)

Animal Science Podcasts

American Sheep Industry Association Podcast dedicated an episode to Guardian Dogs behaviour over Different Breeds. The invited speaker of this episode is Dr Julie Young. [Listen the episode here](#).



Other News

Denver Call for Action: Advancing Evidence-Based Livestock Policies for Global Sustainability and Nutrition

The Denver Call for Action builds upon the Dublin Declaration of Scientists on the Societal Role of Livestock (2022), signed by over 1,200 scientists ([link](#)). It urges evidence-based policies respecting the nutritional, environmental, socio-cultural, and economic value of livestock systems. Key points include the rejection of oversimplified narratives that frame livestock as universally harmful, instead advocating for nuanced, scientifically supported assessments of their contributions to biodiversity, soil health, and global nourishment. The document warns against restrictive dietary policies, highlighting the nutritional inadequacy of many proposed alternatives and the growing global malnutrition crisis. It calls for high scientific standards in policymaking, underlining the importance of transparency and ethical approaches. Issued during the Second International Summit on the Societal Role of Meat and Livestock in Denver (2024), the Call demands that policymakers embrace pluralistic, rigorous, and unbiased decision-making to balance the global need for nourishment with environmental sustainability. Opening [this document](#), you can also find the very interesting relative videos and presentations.

Precision Feeding: A Sustainable Revolution in Pig Farming

Environmental contamination from nitrogen and phosphorus excretion has long been a major issue in pig farming, particularly during the growing–finishing phases. These nutrients, when not properly managed, can contribute to

significant environmental problems, including water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Traditionally, pig farmers have relied on Group 3-Phase Feeding (CGF) systems, where large groups of pigs receive the same feed over extended periods. However, this approach often leads to inefficient nutrient utilization, resulting in excessive excretion and increased environmental impact. [Read the full article here.](#)



XXI AIDA Conference on Animal Production: Innovation and Knowledge Exchange in 2025

The XXI Conference on Animal Production, organized by the Interprofessional Association for Agrarian Development (AIDA), will take place on June 3–4, 2025, at the Veterinary Faculty, University of Zaragoza. This event has been a cornerstone for Spanish-speaking professionals and researchers in animal production since 1985, fostering the exchange of scientific and technical advancements in the field. This year's edition introduces two significant innovations. Firstly, the conference will be held in a new venue, providing an inspiring academic setting. Secondly, a new section dedicated to precision livestock farming will be launched. This growing field leverages advanced technologies to enhance efficiency and sustainability in livestock management, complementing the existing topics: genetics, nutrition and feeding, livestock systems, reproduction, animal health and welfare, and product quality. Committed to supporting young researchers, the conference will once again host a competition recognizing the best communications in each thematic area. Accepted papers will be included in the official proceedings, accessible on the [official meeting website](#). Submission deadlines include January 31, 2025, for papers and mid-March for revisions. Stay updated on registration details and the final program [via official website](#). Information is also available on [this leaflet](#). Don't miss this opportunity to engage with leading experts and contribute to shaping the future of animal production!

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.**

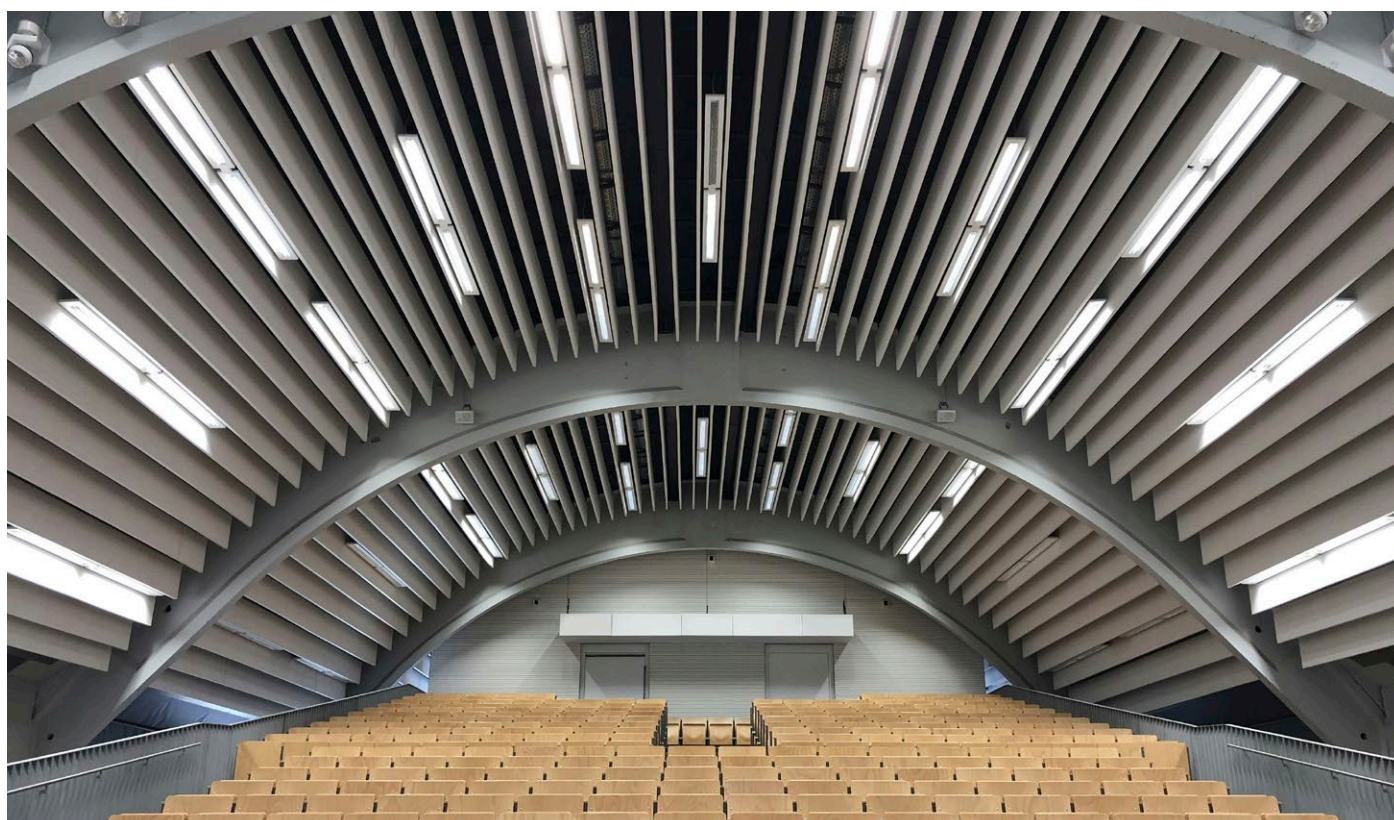
EAAP Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
1 st EAAP Insects Workshop	29 – 31 January 2025	Athens, Greece	Website
3 rd EAAP Regional Meeting	9 -11 April 2025	Krakow, Poland	Website
1 st EAAP Companion Animals Workshop	14 – 16 May 2025	Milan, Italy	Website
1 st EAAP Artificial Intelligence 4 Animal Science Workshop	4 – 6 June 2025	Zurich, Switzerland	Website

Other Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
European Biodiversity Conference 2024	10 December 2024	Brussels, Belgium	Website
Midwestern Section Meeting	10 – 12 March 2025	Des Moines, Iowa, USA	Website
50 th Annual Conference of the Nigerian Society for Animal Production	16 – 20 March 2025	Lafia, Nigeria	Website
BSAS 2025 Conference	8 – 10 April 2025	Galway, Ireland	Website

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



“The only man I know who behaves sensibly is my tailor; he takes my measurements anew each time he sees me. The rest go on with their old measurements and expect me to fit them”

(George Bernard Shaw)

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Please also remember that individual membership is for free for residents in EAAP countries.

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Presently, the English version of the Newsletter reaches nearly 6000 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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