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EDITORIAL

Food in the Anthropocene: Animal products in healthy diets from sustainable food systems.

A very recent study of what could be our future food systems has been published on line by The Lancet. This 50-page paper results from a huge work of an EAT-Lancet Commission composed of 37 authors of various competences and origins. Mainly based on modelling approaches and on extensive data, this publication partially concludes that we would need to reduce, or completely suppress animal products in our diets to reach a healthy status for us and for the planet. In my opinion, in spite of the considerable amount of high-quality work that has been done by these authors and even though I am sharing the idea that we should reach sustainable food systems in a near future to feed the planet, this study suffers of some drawbacks that I would like to share with you in this editorial. My first criticism resides on the position of EAT (« a non-profit start-up dedicated to transforming our global food system through sound science, impatient disruption and novel partnerships ») as a sponsor of this commission and of their members. As extensively and very precisely explained by Leroy and Cohen in EFA (European Food Agency) News, EAT claims and is clearly well known as being strongly linked to and funded by the vegan and animal right activists constellations. As indicated in the article of The Lancet page 41, «all authors received funding from EAT». Even though all these authors probably do their best in terms of scientific approaches of the problem, we cannot exclude that they have been influenced by the funding coming from EAT. Sometimes it seems that some scientific publications about drugs are influenced by the sponsor of the studies via the scientists who receive grants. Would it be possible that the results presented by these authors be biased by receiving these funds from EAT? This is questionable.

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Editorial (continues)

And I regret that a highly considered magazine like The Lancet did not consider this aspect. My second criticism resides in the fact that, in spite of their extensive browsing of the effects of human activity on the planet during Anthropocene and of the links between diet and health, some effects are missing. The consequences of reducing animal production are not envisaged and the article does not consider the progress that can be made to reduce livestock emissions and overlooks all the services that livestock systems provide. Indeed, a more vegetal world is not a panacea. This is especially the case of the use of pesticides in agriculture which is detrimental to biodiversity and, probably to human health at least for a part of them acting as endocrine disruptors. At reverse, the positive effects of out-doors livestock systems on biodiversity is not mentioned whereas most of the worldwide land is used for pastures and a majority of systems are mixed livestock-crops. Nothing is said in the article about the ability of livestock, especially ruminants, to eat non-edible feeds for humans. Their aptitude to digest grass and to transform it into animal products able to be eaten by humans is a characteristic that we should use more intensively. This is also the case of positive effects of animal products on human health, such as the benefits of milk products during the early and late life or the specific positive role of meat proteins for maintaining muscles in elderly people and for supply of micronutrients. Finally, human is absent from reasoning and feeding cannot be reduced to a question of material flow management. The shared pleasure of eating animal products and its social role in the history of domestication of farm animals are not treated while we know that it has probably played an important role in the emergence and organization of human societies since millenaries (see [The milk revovultion](#), A. Curry 2013 Nature 50:20-22).

Nevertheless, I fully shared the view that the actual livestock has nowadays a too large footprint on the planet and that we need to analyse in more details what it is responsible for and what could be the challenges to tackle in order to reduce it. Changing the way we use

Nitrogen and Phosphorus and their derived products is of great importance, especially for preserving our ecosystems. It is very clear that involving livestock systems to close the N and P cycles at the level of the farms, or of the regions, may be the most interesting way to follow, because it impairs the Carbon-costly synthesis of chemical fertilizers and it preserves our limited reserves in Phosphorus. This is the third criticism that I address to this EAT-Lancet paper, why not to propose a better inclusion of livestock systems into our food systems to close these N and P cycles and render them more sustainable?

It is also very clear that enteric fermentation of ruminants is the major agricultural source of Green House Gas emissions, mainly because of the very high potential for climate warming of the Methane eructed by cattle. However, and this is my last criticism to this Lancet paper, we already know that very strong scientific results were produced, especially in New Zealand and Europe, for selecting ruminants against Methane emission (see Animal board invited review: genetic possibilities to reduce enteric methane emissions from ruminants. Pickering et al. 2015 [ANIMAL](#) 2015, 9: 1431-1440). And also that this type of selection will improve animal efficiency to digest feed, reducing therefore the request of natural resources. At the era of genomic selection, we can propose a worldwide effort in that sense. Moreover, this seems to be additive to the use of feed additives in the ruminant ration, leading to a very strong reduction in GHG emissions by cattle. Thus, reducing animal products intake by humans is not the only solution to reduce their imprinting, but acting at the herd level could bring more efficient results to develop sustainable systems.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the authors of this paper for the huge work that they have done to propose the transformation of our food systems towards more sustainable ones, but I also regret that such an extensive work suffers of the above drawbacks. I would like to suggest them to better take into account in this necessary transformation, the positive potential of our farm animals which are essential for the income of so many poor farmers especially in Southern countries, which represent a very significant part of our Human history since their domestication about

11 000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent and which can play a very positive role in the new and sustainable food systems of the Anthropocene.

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From WAAP Members

From American Dairy Science Association (ADSA)

2019 ADSA Annual Meeting

The most comprehensive, global dairy science meeting in the world will be held in the lively, easy-to-reach city Cincinnati, USA, from June 23 to 26, 2019. The Online registration for the 2019 ADSA Annual Meeting (June 23–26) and the 2019 Interbull Annual Meeting (June 22–24) is now open. When making your travel plans, remember that the meeting has been extended to include a full day of scientific programming on Wednesday, June 26. Non-members may join ADSA to attend the meeting for only \$445.00 (must become a member and register online by 11:59 pm on March 14). You can enjoy all the benefits of membership through December 31, 2019. Be sure to check out the current list of symposia and workshops, including speakers and their presentation topics. We have 4 workshops scheduled on Sunday, more than 25 symposia scheduled throughout the meeting, the full-day Teagasc-Moorepark Symposium: Animal Diet, Future of Housing, Dairy Product Quality, and Advances in Dairy Foods Nutrition and Health on Wednesday, June 26, and the Mixed Models workshop on Wednesday (all day) and Thursday morning (June 27). The ADSA Annual Meeting will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Interbull Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Netherland Plaza. Hotel room blocks have been secured at discounted rates for our attendees at

the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati (ADSA HQ), Hilton Netherland Plaza (Interbull HQ), Hampton Inn & Homewood Suites (student HQ), and the Westin Cincinnati. You can book your room online now.

Important ADSA 2019 Annual Meeting Deadlines:

Abstract Submission: February 20
Non-member Presenter Registration: March 14
Early-Bird Online Member Registration: March 14 (\$50 off professional member rate)
Housing: May 23
Early Registration: May 30

From the South African Society for Animal Science (SASAS)

51st SASAS Congress

The South African Society for Animal Science (SASAS) is the pivot of science in this field in South Africa and throughout southern Africa. The statutory South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions officially recognises SASAS as representing the affairs of the animal science profession. SASAS works closely with the Council in providing professional and certificated registrations of qualified persons in the animal science discipline. SASAS is leading the way among the natural scientific professions in continued professional development (CPD) under the auspices of the SA Council for Natural Scientific Professions. The society publishes the South African Journal of Animal Science. Volume 48 is available on the website.

This year, SASAS is holding its 51st conference in the city of Bloemfontein, Free State Province, at the invitation of the Society's Free State branch. The dates are 10 to 12 June 2019. The SASAS conferences are vibrant occasions of interaction, socialising and science. Primarily for science, they have well organised social programmes bringing together delegates, special guests, accompanying persons and visitors. Students and young researchers in particular are welcome. An established student quiz

where teams from various universities compete has become a highlight on the first day following the opening plenary session. The theme of the 51st conference is “Managing the ecological footprint of livestock through efficient production”. Details of the conference are accessible on the [website](#).

From Nigerian Society for Animal Production (NSAP)



44th Annual Conference of the Nigerian Society for Animal Production

The Society will host its 44th Annual Conference between 17th to 21st March 2019 at the University of Abuja, the nation’s capital. The theme for the conference is “REPOSITIONING THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A DIVERSIFYING ECONOMY”. The conference will feature a number of activities and participants from both the academia and industries will be in attendance NSAP recognizes excellence among its members and students. A number of awards are made annually to deserving members in various categories. Fellowship award to scholars who have distinguished themselves in the field of Animal production, captain of industries, Royal father and Undergraduate student excellence. Awards are presented to foster cohesion among members and pride in being part of the animal agriculture. Over 1000 participants are expected at this year’s conference from both within and outside the shore of Nigeria.

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Chinese Association of Animal science and Veterinary medicine (CAAV)

3rd China Swine Science and technology Conference

Chinese Association of Animal science and Veterinary medicine (CAAV) will host the 3rd China Swine Science and technology Conference (CSSC2019) in 19th-21st September 2019, together with the Annual Conference of CAAV in Qingdao, China. This biennial conference will focus on swine industry, and brings all relevant subjects associating with swine science on this platform, like Nutrition and feed, genetic breeding, farming and equipment, veterinary and medicine, farm waste disposal and environment protection, meat processing, and industrial economic research. The conference will set up plenary conference and parallel subject forums in two and half days. It is estimated that total 2,500 participates will attend, including professors, researchers, students, farmers and other industrial people from China and foreign countries. The theme of CSSC is set up as Ecology, Quality and Efficiency. In 19th -21st September 2019, CAAV will organize Swine Science and Innovation Exposition co-located with CSSC. It will be the first time of exclusive Expo to Swine Science and Innovation in China, and it open to registry of local and international exhibitors. CAAV sincerely welcome all members of WAAP to visit those two events, the simultaneous translation service will be provided at plenary conference and some of parallel forums. Any questions, please contact us:

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Read more [here](#).

From European Federation Animal Science (EAAP)

70th EAAP Annual Meeting



The Belgian Organizing Committee is delighted to invite you to attend the 70th Annual Meeting of EAAP in the historic and lively city of Ghent from 26th - 30th of August 2019. The main theme of the meeting is 'Animal farming for a healthy world' and deals with topics such as resource efficiency, animal welfare, diversification, agro-ecology, climate change and product quality. The program covers various disciplines such as animal genetics, animal health and welfare, animal nutrition, animal physiology, livestock farming systems, cattle, horse, pig, sheep and goat production, precision livestock farming and insects. Since the very first EAAP meeting in 1955 (in Brussels, Belgium) the Annual Meeting has hosted scientists and experts from the field of animal science from Europe and around the globe. The EAAP Congress provides a platform for scientists and industry experts to meet and acquire new knowledge and to exchange experiences about the latest research results from many areas of animal science. The Annual Meeting gives an opportunity for the application of new ideas in practice through many parallel sessions, a plenary meeting, poster presentations, and discussions about scientific achievements in livestock production. All these activities make the EAAP one of the largest animal science congresses in the world. We hope to welcome more than 1200 participants from more than 50 countries worldwide. More information about the European

Federation of Animal Science (EAAP) and its activities can be found on [EAAP website](#).

Besides this scientific part of the Conference, we will prepare an attractive and interesting program of social events, which will start with the Welcome Ceremony and will include a Belgian Evening, a Conference Dinner, as well as technical tours and an accompanying persons program so everyone can enjoy a taste of the beauty and delicacies Belgium has to offer.

We hope that the 70th Annual Meeting of the EAAP in Ghent will be a great opportunity to meet and socialize with colleagues and friends. We welcome you and wish you a pleasant stay in Ghent!

[Registration](#) is open and [Abstracts](#) can be submitted until **March 1th 2019**. More info [here](#).

News from Science

Course in Mathematics of Nutrition: Modeling Anaerobic Fermentation and Fiber Digestion Dynamics, University of Sassari, Italy

February 25th – 28th, 2019

The course in "Mathematics of Nutrition: Modeling Anaerobic Fermentation and Fiber Digestion Dynamics" will be held by Dr David Mertens in February 25-28, 2019 in the Department of Agricultural Sciences, University of Sassari. The course is open to faculty, graduate students, and technical representatives of nutrition and biogas companies. Course approach will be hands-on development of models using Vensim software for integration. In addition to Dr. Mertens, several faculty members from Italian universities will give lectures on various aspects of mathematics and modeling. For more information about Dr. Mertens and the programme read [here](#). For registration please contact Dr. Antonello Cannas cannas@uniss.it

Doctoral course “Robustness: from a wooly concept to operational measures”, AgroCampus, AgroTechParis and INRA, Paris, France

April 1st-5th 2019

A doctoral course “Robustness: from a wooly concept to operational measures” will be held on April 1-5 2019 in Paris and provided by AgroCampus, AgroTechParis and INRA. This doctoral module will discuss the concept of animal robustness as a complex, multi-level and dynamic concept, and its relevance in management strategies. The school is addressed to French and International PhD students, all biologists and animal scientists (Post docs, educational staff and professional) interested in the robustness concept and the modelling tools to characterize it. Basic notions on biology, mainly the concept of robustness is appreciated. You do not need to be modeller for participation in this school.

PhD students: The module is free of charge

Young scientists and professionals: 400 euros

The course registration includes course materials and coffee breaks. Lunches, dinners and accommodation are in charge of candidates.

Registration deadline: **February 2019.**

For more information and registration please visit the following [link](#).

ILRI and the Chinese Academy of Sciences to collaborate in livestock research



The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre (SAJOREC) of the Chinese Academic Sciences (CAS) have started research collaboration in agriculture, biodiversity, microbiology, and resource management. The new initiative follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding between CAS and ILRI on 13 December 2018 when CAS delegates led by the vice-president, Yaping Zhang visited the ILRI campus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In particular, the delegation visited the ILRI forages genebank and poultry research facility in the campus. Read the full article on [ILRI website](#).

News from Industry

15 start-ups in the spotlight at World Agri-Tech



At the upcoming [World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit](#) in San Francisco (March 19-20), 15 dynamic international start-ups will take the spotlight. These start-ups will present solutions ranging from soil health, crop optimisation, fertilisers and healthy biotics, to precision irrigation, insect monitoring, off road automation, AI and digitised farming operations. Read the full article on [FutureFarming](#).

Job Offers

Statistical Geneticist Position at BioStat Solutions in Frederick, MD, USA9

[BioStat Solutions](#) is looking for a Statistical geneticist to provide strategic development and analytical support to clients with respect to analyses of omic data. The position is full time. For more information read the [job vacancy](#).

3 PhD Fellowships animal genomics at University of Florida, USA

Three Ph.D. Fellowships supported by a [USDA National Need Fellowship \(NNF\)](#) Program Grant are currently available in animal genomics at the University of Florida. Applicants must be US citizens. Applications are currently being accepted and screening of applicants will be on-going until the positions are filled.

For more information please visit the [website](#) or contact Dr. Raluca Mateescu raluca@ufl.edu

Head of Monitoring and Evaluation at The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture ([IITA](#)) is looking for a Head of Monitoring and Evaluation to provide leadership for establishing and nurturing a strong, integrated and effective institutional M&E framework for IITA. The position will remain open until the appropriate candidate is identified. For more information and application please read [here](#).

4 research scientists at INRA Animal Genetic division, France

The Animal Genetics Division of INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique), France, has 4 openings for permanent (French government employee) research positions at the junior research scientist level (CRCN).

1) Mammary gland and milk extracellular vesicles: vehicles of genetic information (CRCN-2019-12-GA-4). Before applying please contact Ms Fabienne Le Provost (fabienne.le-provost@inra.fr)

2) Genetic models for high-throughput phenotyping (CRCN-2019-10-GA-3). Before applying please contact Ms H el ene Gilbert (helene.gilbert@inra.fr)

3) Genomic approaches for the characterization, management and valorization of the genetic diversity in an agro-ecological context (CRCN-2019-9-GA-2). Before applying please contact Mr Denis Lalo e (denis.laloe@inra.fr)

4) Genetics of resources allocations and agro-ecological transition in aquaculture (CRCN-2019-9-GA-1). Before applying please contact Ms Mathilde Dupont-Nivet (mathilde.dupont-nivet@inra.fr)

Deadline for application is **4th of March 2019**

For more information please visit the [job vacancies](#).

Research Director for Breeding and Genetics Department at Nofima,  s, Norway

Nofima is searching for a new research director for the Department Breeding and Genetics in the Aquaculture Division. Are you a confident leader motivated by achieving good results with others? If you have relevant education with experience from knowledge-intensive and industry-related business, then this is perhaps the position you are looking for. You should have experience from research, have a structured and delegating leadership style and good ability to build relationships and networks. Good communication skills in Norwegian, both written and oral will be emphasized. Nofima offers competitive terms, pensions and insurance schemes and flexible working hours. Some travelling must be expected.

For more information about the position, contact Divisional Director Bente E. Torstensen, tel: +47 91328 341 or bente.torstensen@nofima.no

Publications

1. Elsevier

Time of response to hormonal treatment but not the type of a spawning agent affects the reproductive effectiveness in domesticated pikeperch, Sander lucioperca. (available for free, link expired end February)



2. Cambridge University Press
Animal: Volume 13 - Issue 1 - January 2019 (available for purchase)



3. Cambridge University Press
Animal: Volume 13 - Issue 2 - February 2019 (available for purchase)

4. Cambridge University Press
Animal: Volume 13 - Issue 2 - February 2019 – Article of the month “Effects of a participatory approach, with systematic impact matrix analysis in herd health planning in organic dairy cattle herds”
(available for free by the end of February)

5. Cambridge University Press
Animal: Articles of the month year 2018

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

I. “Oregano essential oil as food additive for piglets: antimicrobial and antioxidant potential”

II. “Using Interval Timers to Control Evaporative Cooling Pads”

III. “An Over Review on Effect of Aflatoxin in Animal Husbandry”

IV. “Special cooling yards” for cooling cows and improve profitability of large-scale dairy farms”

Meetings and Conferences

May 7-8, 2019 in Zaragoza, Spain

18th Animal Production Conference



The conference is organized by AIDA (Asociación Interprofesional Para el Desarrollo Agrario) and will

take place at Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza (CIHEAM, Campus de Aula Dei). The latest advances in Animal Production R&D will be presented in several scientific sessions. For further information and registration, please visit the [event webpage](#).

**May 8-10, 2019 in Hinxton, Wellcome Genome
Campus, United Kingdom**

2nd Conference on Animal Genetics and Diseases

The second conference in this series will highlight recent advances in animal genetics and genomic technologies. It will bring together specialists working on the interface of genomics, genetic engineering and infectious disease with the aims of improving animal and human health and welfare. For more information, deadlines and registration please visit the [website](#).

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

9th World Congress of Coloured sheep

The 9th World Congress of Coloured sheep will take place from the 20th to the 22nd of May 2019 in Biella, Italy at the Santuario di Oropa. It is held every 5 years and brings together colored sheep breeders from all four corners of the world, to discuss various matters which are of interest to anyone interested in sheep breeding. For more information you can contact Mr. Nigel Thompson (nathompson@biellathewoolcompany.it) or visit the [website](#).

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

**23rd ASPA Scientific Congress on New Challenges
in Animal Science**

The congress is organized by the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Production (MVPA) of the University of Naples Federico

II and by the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences (SAFE) of the University of Foggia. It will integrate skills and scientific information of researchers with different background to discuss topics concerning animal science. Learn more visiting the [website](#).

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

ADSA 2019 Annual Meeting

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association® (ADSA®) will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is the most comprehensive dairy science meeting in the world. Abstract submission deadline **20 February 2019**. For more information visit the [website](#).

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

**17th International Conference on Production
Diseases in Farm Animals**

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

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

2019 ASAS-CSAS Annual Meeting and Trade Show

The 2019 ASAS-CSAS Annual Meeting and Trade Show will be held in Austin, Texas. Abstract submission deadline **26 March 2019**. For more information visit the [website](#).

August 26th – 30th, 2019 in Ghent, Belgium**70th EAAP Annual Meeting (EAAP 2019)**

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

September 3rd– 6th, 2019 in Leipzig, Germany**International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology**

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

September 8th -12th in Wroclaw, Poland**XIX Congress of the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH 2019)**

The XIX Congress of the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH 2019) will take place from 8 to 12 September 2019 in Wroclaw, Poland. The congress is aimed at agronomists and veterinarians and it will deal with several topics. The congress offers for EAAP members a very good possibility for international networking, in particular in the animal health context. For more information, visit the website.

September 9th – 12th, 2019 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil**6th EAAP International Symposium on Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition (ISEP 2019)**

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

ISEP 2019 website.

September 18th – 20th, 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey**12th World Buffalo Congress**

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

October 9th – 11th, 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia**12th International Symposium on Modern Trends in Livestock Production**

The 12th International Symposium “Modern Trends in Livestock Production” will be held in hotel Park in Belgrade, 9th-11th October 2019 in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia. Participants can take part with an oral or poster presentation. Deadline for full paper submission: April 30th, 2019. For more information and registration read the attachment.

October 16th – 19th, 2019 in Florence, Italy**X International Symposium on the Mediterranean Pig (X-PIGMED-2019)**

The X International Symposium on the Mediterranean Pig (X-PIGMED-2019) will be held in Firenze (Italy) on October 16th-19th, 2019. Deadline to submit abstract titles and topic 28th February 2019. For more information visit the website or contact the Scientific Secretariat at medpig2019@gmail.com



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

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

The 7th SAADC 2019 (Sustainable Animal Agriculture for Developing Countries) conference will be held in Nepal from November 8th-11th, 2019. The theme is: "Eco-friendly Animal Production for Profitable Smallholder Farming". For more information and registration please see the [website](#).

The **World Animal Science News** is the Official WAAP Newsletter. This interesting update about activities of the global animal science community presents information on leading research institutions in the entire world and also informs on developments in the industry sector related to animal science and production. The Newsletter is sent to all WAAP member organizations and to their associates. You are all invited to submit information for the newsletter. Please send information, news, text, photos and logo to waap@waap.it.

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