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EDITORIAL

Domestication of ruminants is in the heart of human society

Cattle, Sheep and Goats were all domesticated in a single place in the world about 13 000 years ago. This has very probably taken place in the mountains of Anatolia, in present day Turkey, North of Syria and Iraq, from wild animal populations which have now disappeared. This process was strongly associated with the transforming of our European human ancestors from a hunter-gatherer society into an agricultural one. Livestock were a part of the process which also included plants such as wheat and barley along with food processing. From that geographical and temporal starting point until the beginning of the eighteen century, the innovations originated from this middle-East centre of differentiation dispersed progressively to the Northern extremity of Europe, i.e. the Orkney Islands in the actual Scotland, as well as the South-West coast of Africa and the whole of Asia. This spreading of farming of domestic ruminants was associated, in Europe, to a « Milk revolution ». This Milk Revolution was accompanied by increase of milk production of dairy animals, processing of milk into cheese using biological and technological innovations and the ability to digest lactose in human adults (Curry et al; Nature 2013, 500: 20-22).

Even though the progresses done by the archaeological sciences allow to better understand the steps of these processes, I can imagine what could have been the conditions for emergence and development of our domestic ruminants. Was this innovation the result of a single future herdsman who was previously a hunter-gatherer? This may have occurred as this society was based on hunting as attested by the archaeological remains of equilibrated numbers of male and female individuals. However, one day, one among these hunter-gatherers captured an animal in the wild and kept it in captivity and this may have been the starting point of all domestication. This is a hypothesis. But I can also imagine that the starting point for domestication of ruminants can be the necessity of providing milk to young humans and that the first hunter-gatherer to domesticate ruminants was not a man, but rather a woman. Thus I can imagine that this first woman captured a young pregnant she-goat or ewe-lamb and raised it until delivery and breeding of their progeny. Her success was based on her ability to kindly and adequately manage the first impregnated animals and was a major reason for the success of domestication.

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Editorial (continues)

This was done such a so long time ago that we have lost the memory of this initial event but we know that this was the starting point of an incredible adventure between domestic animals and humans. The first domesticated ruminants had given many things to humanity, milk and meat products as consumed nowadays, but also wool and fleece, skin, horns and bones directly coming from slaughtering. Also animals provided manure and assistance with work and all what we consider now as sub-products which were used for millenaries to provide services to human societies. Our human development was based on livestock for many years. In addition to the domestication of animals, the new agricultural societies increased the quality of the soils by using manure and by developing culture rotations, as well as improved human nutrition by providing to young humans edible and easily digestible proteins for brain and body development.

Livestock have provided a lot of material things to humans but I believe that it has also kept the link with our animal origins. In many religions, domestic animals are a symbol of the link between humans and God and have a special place in the relationships between them. Until the modern era of the industrial revolution, all families raised livestock and all children were raised in very close proximity to young and adult animals within their house or close to it. This closeness to animals has been observed in many parts of the world. However, this link has been broken in industrial societies in which pets have replaced livestock in some ways. I believe that one of the actual questions that has recently been raised about livestock, is their impact on the planet and its place in our modern societies. This questioning comes in part from the increased distance between humans and domestic animals. While in the past, animals were a part of the loving sentient being and we bred them and slaughtered them under good conditions, a portion of our society grew distant from the domestic animals and now ignored them, and society slaughtered these animals with less compassion. This increased distance is unavoidable, but we should take care, as animal scientists, to do two things to attenuate the problem.

First, we need to explain that since their domestication about 13 000 years ago, livestock species are at the heart of our societies. Moreover, even though there is an increasing distance between individual humans and animals, domestic animals remain an essential part of our modern society. Second, we need to embrace the fact that our domestic animals are living beings which have behavioural requirements which must be taken into consideration in our future livestock systems.

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WAAP Twitter account is online!

The WAAP Twitter account is now available! Don't miss the latest news visiting the [WAAP account](#).

Canadians inaugurated the “Joint WAAP Session”!

During the ASAS/CSAS meeting held this week in Austin, Texas (USA), the joint session CSAS and WAAP took place. Last year WAAP approved the possibility to organize joint session with its members and The Canadian Society of Animal Science was the first WAAP member to take the opportunity to organize it, as decided by the General Assembly of the World Association for Animal Production. The session, chaired by Christine Baes from University of Guelph, had five invited speakers lecturing about animal farming efficiency experiences from different part of the world and about different species. Other members are invited to propose to WAAP to organize the next joint sessions. Possible proposals for joint sessions to organize during the year 2020 are welcome and will be reviewed next months.



Joint WAAP session

2019 WAAP General Assembly

The 2019 General Assembly of the World Association for Animal Production will be held at the premises of the EAAP Annual Meeting in Ghent (Belgium). The General Assembly is planned for Tuesday, August 27th, at 14:30. Items to be discussed will be mainly about WAAP membership, services provided by WAAP to its members, financial documents to approve and the joint session that WAAP organized with the Canadian Society of Animal Science few weeks ago in Austin, Texas (USA) and possibly future joint sessions. Representatives of all WAAP members are invited to participate.

From WAAP Members

From American Dairy Science Association (ADSA)

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association® will be held in West Palm Beach, Florida (USA) on 21-24 June 2020, and is the most comprehensive dairy science meeting in the world. As a global forum for professionals, educators, and students, the meeting will attract more than 1,800 dairy foods and production specialists from around the world with common but diverse interests in the future of dairy science

From Latin American Association of Animal Production (ALPA)

The Latin American Association of Animal Production (ALPA) in cooperation with the National Association of Zootechnicians of Colombia (ANZOO) and the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of La Salle, invites all interested persons in animal science to participate to the largest academic event related to animal production in Latin America. Within the framework of "ALPA 2020 Colombia", the XXVII ALPA Meeting, the IV Colombian Congress of Zootechnics and the XV National Meeting of Zootechnicians will be held. The academic agenda can be complemented by pre-congress technical tours and cultural and tourist activities as diverse as tours of the Colombian Caribbean, the coffee region, the plains of the Orinoquía, or the Colombian Andes. The appointment is in Bogotá (Colombia) from October 7 to 9, 2020, at the Headquarters of the University of La Salle.

From Animal Production Society of Kenya (APSK)

The Animal Production Society of Kenya announces that the XXIV International Grassland and the XI International Rangeland congresses will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, October 25 – 30, 2020. The theme of the Congress is "Sustainable Use of Grassland/Rangeland Resources for Improved Livelihoods". The aim of the congress will be to promote the interchange of scientific and technical information on all aspects of grasslands and rangelands: including grassland/rangeland ecology; forage production and utilization; livestock production systems; wildlife, tourism and multi-facets of grassland/rangeland; drought management and climate change in rangelands; pastoralism, social, gender and policy issues and capacity building, extension and governance. For more information, you can visit the website.

From South African Society for Animal Science (SASAS)

The [SASAS](#) renewed the Board of Directors! The newly elected President is Prof Norman Maiwashe and the Vice President Dr Trevor Dugmore.

From European Federation Animal Science (EAAP)

7th ATF-EAAP Special session at EAAP Annual Meeting in Ghent

The EAAP & ATF Special Session during the [EAAP Annual Meeting](#) is an opportunity to engage discussion with farmers, industries, scientists, policy makers and with the society. Discover the scientific Programme here and learn more about the session on the [ATF website](#).



70th Annual Meeting in Ghent (Belgium)

The 70th annual meeting of EAAP will be one of the largest animal science meeting ever with 74 scientific sessions, 1264 high quality presentations (686 theatre and 459 poster presentations) and, likely at least 1400 participants. The meeting will be held in Ghent in few weeks and participants will experience the Belgian hospitality and the nicest atmosphere to enlarge the working network. For more information, please visit the [website](#).

Raise of the animal Impact Factor

The 2018 Impact Factor of the EAAP journal Animal was computed recently showing that increased up to 2.026. Currently the journal is 7th out 57 scientific magazines in the Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science category, and 19th out of 133 scientific magazines in the Veterinary Science category. This is an excellent news for the journal.

News from Science

First release of the FAANGMine Data Mining Warehouse

FAANGMine is a new project supported by the National Science Foundation to address the need for a high-performance data mining resource that enables fine-grained querying and integrating the heterogeneous FAANG data with existing information, such as functions of known genes and research datasets. The first release of the FAANGMine Data Mining Warehouse (V1.1) is now available [here](#).

Can floor type affect cattle performance?



Although much work has been done to investigate the effects of various environmental factors on animal health and performance, seldom was the effect of the house floor taken into account. In this article we review some flooring systems used for cattle kept indoors and the advantage of each system in terms of animal health, behaviour and performance compared to the traditional concrete floors. Read the full article on [DairyGlobal](#).

News from Industry

FAO-IAEA “International Symposium on sustainable Animal Production and Health- Current Status and Way Forward” - Call for papers

The “International Symposium on Sustainable Animal Production and Health — Current Status and Way Forward” will be held at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria from June 22nd to 26th 2020. Deadline for the submission of synopses: **30th September 2019**. Detailed information can be found [here](#).

Robotics revolution happening now



In the developed world it is becoming increasingly hard to source labour to do some of the less pleasant tasks on poultry farms, and some argue that a key way to improve welfare is to improve the amount of environmental monitoring that takes place on farm. Here, we review a project to develop a device, and consider some alternatives that are already on the market. Read the full article on [PoultryWorld](#).

Job Offers

Research Associate at the the University Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany

The Department of Livestock Population Genomics at the Institute of Animal Science of the [University Hohenheim](#) invites applications for a Research Associate starting from October 1st, 2019. For more information, please contact Prof. Dr. M. Hasselmann (martin.hasselmann@uni-hohenheim.de). The review of applications will begin by **August 15th, 2019** and late applications are considered until the position is filled.

Research Fellow at Roslin Institute, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Roslin Institute is searching for a Research Fellow to join a poultry genomics project within the [Roslin Institute](#) and the [Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health](#). The project is funded by the UK Department for International Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, under the CTLGH initiative to develop genomic tools to improve tropical livestock for the benefit of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. Closing date for application: **August 7th, 2019**. For more information visit the [job vacancy](#).

Associate Professor in Animal Science at UniLaSalle, Beauvais, France

[UniLaSalle](#) is looking for an associate professor in animal sciences to join the College of Agrosociences and the research team PETALES within the research unit “Processing and agro-resources (EA 7519)” in Beauvais. Interested candidates should send their application at Rh@unilasalle.fr by **September 15th, 2019**. For further information, please read [here](#).

Publications

1. Cambridge University Press

Animal: Volume 13- Issue 7 – July 2019

2. Cambridge University Press

Animal: Volume 13- Issue 7 – July 2019 – Article of the month “Use of geographic information system tools to predict animal breed suitability for different agro-ecological zones”

3. Wageningen Academic

“Poultry and Pig nutrition – Challenges of the 21st century”, 16 July 2019

4. New technical articles have been recently published on Engormix

I. “Improving broiler performance with a strategy that reduces the endotoxin related triggering of the immune system”

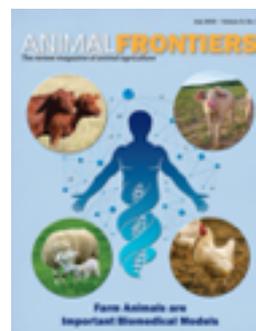
II. “Plant bioactives to reduce post-weaning diarrhoea in piglets”

III. “Farm Bill Funding for Animal Disease Prevention Management”

IV. “Feeding Behaviour of Dairy Animals”

5. Oxford University Press

Animal Frontiers: Volume 9, Issue3 – July 2019
“Farm Animals are Important Biomedical Models”



Meetings and Conferences

July 29th – August 2nd, 2019 in Accra, Ghana
7th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture (AACAA)

The conference is being organised by the All Africa Society for Animal Production (AASAP) in association with the Ghana Society of Animal Production (GSAP), the Ghana Animal Science Association (GASA), and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The main theme is “Innovations to secure the future of African animal agriculture in a globalizing world”. More information can be found [here](#).

August 5th – 9th, 2019 in Bergen, Norway

53rd Congress International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)

The Congress ISAE2019 will take place at Radisson Blu Royal Hotel in Bergen, Norway on 5th-9th August 2019 and it's organized by Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). For more information visit the [website](#).

August 26th – 28th, 2019 in Berlin, Germany

13th EPIZONE Annual Meeting

The EPIZONE annual meeting will be held from 26-28 August 2019 in Berlin, Germany, and will be hosted by the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), the German Federal Research Institute for Animal Health. Theme of the 13th Annual Meeting will be 'Breaking Walls'. For more information please visit the website.

August 26th, 2019 in Ghent, Belgium

7th ATF-EAAP Special Session

Since 2013, the EAAP & ATF Special Session during the EAAP Annual Meeting aims to bring together animal science with practice of animal production and connect researchers, policy-makers, industry representatives and societal organisations. This year the topic will be: "Towards a climate smart European livestock farming". 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. For more information visit the website.

September 9th - 10th in Paris, France

3rd Animine Academy workshop

The 3rd Animine Academy will be held in Chateau de Maffliers, few kilometres north of Paris. The workshop will have only high quality presentations with six renowned invited scientists. Each 45 minutes talk will be followed by 45 minutes of discussion with the audience. To get information and register please visit the specific 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 Turin, Italy

23rd Congress of the European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition

September 18th – 20th, 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey

12th World Buffalo Congress

September 19th – 21st, 2019, China

3rd China Swine Science and technology Conference

September 23rd – 25th, 2019 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Feed Additives Europe 2019

September 23rd – 27th, 2019 in Montepulciano, Tuscany, Italy

Workshop Genetic Data Analysis for Plant and Animal Breeding

October 9th – 11th, 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia

12th International Symposium on Modern Trends in Livestock Production

October 16th – 19th, 2019 in Florence, Italy

X International Symposium on the Mediterranean Pig (X-PIGMED-2019)

October 23rd – 25th, 2019 in Dodoma, Tanzania

42nd Annual Scientific Conference for the Tanzanian Society of Animal Production

October 23rd – 25th, 2019 in Prague, Czech Republic

11th European Symposium on Poultry Genetics

October 22nd – 26th, 2019 in Varadero, Cuba

5th International Convention AGRODESARROLLO 2019

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

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

June 22nd- 26th,2020 in Vienna, Austria

FAO-IAEA “International Symposium on sustainable Animal Production and Health- Current Status and Way Forward”

November 11th – 13th ,2019 in Brisbane, Australia

3rd International Tropical Agriculture Conference - TROPAG2019

June 21st- 24th,2020 in Florida, USA

2020 ASDA Annual Meeting

November 25th- 27th,2019 in Langkawi Kedah, Malaysia

39th Malaysian Society of Animal Production Annual Conference

October 25th- 30th, 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya

XXIV International Grassland and the XI International Rangeland congresses

November 26th- 28th,2019 in Paris, France
Insectinov3 Conference

January 13th- 15th,2020 in Bangkok, Thailand

WMFmeetsASIA – the 12th Conference of The World Mycotoxin Forum

January 27th- 28th,2020 in Atlanta, USA
13th International Feed Regulators Meeting (IFRM)

January 27th- 28th,2020 in Atlanta, USA

13th International Feed Regulators Meeting (IFRM)

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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