

Special Issue

Improving Sustainability, Welfare, and Meat Quality in Livestock Production

Message from the Guest Editors

Meat is the most valuable source of highly digestible nutrients for people, and sustainable livestock production is the clue to sustainable food production. However, livestock housing systems have different potential when it comes to being sustainable and to offering animals a high level of welfare. Both the environmental conditions on the farm and the welfare of livestock will affect the performance of animals reared for meat, as well as the intrinsic meat quality attributes. Outdoor housing is related to increased exercise and a specific diet, in most cases with certain breeds or breed crosses. These kinds of housing systems have greater potential to produce high-quality meat, usually characterized by specific flavor and aroma. Some indoor systems also have the potential to offer a high level of welfare. However, aside from the influence of deep-bedded housing on fattening performance, the effect on the quality of meat has not been proven. This Special Issue focuses on alternative, extensive animal husbandry practices that allow for the production of high-quality meat while maintaining high welfare standards and being in balance with the environment.

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Agriculture (ISSN 2077-0472) is an international, cross-disciplinary and scholarly journal on the science and technology of crop and animal production, and management of the natural resource base for agricultural production. We invite submissions from authors according to the aims and scope of the journal described in more detail on this page. *Agriculture* is published in an open access format – articles are published on the journal's website immediately after acceptance, giving the scientific community and the public unlimited and free access to the content.

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