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Rumen Microbiome and Metabolome in Dairy Cattle

Guest Editors:

Dr. Marina Martínez-Álvarez

Institute for Animal Science and
Technology, Universitat
Politécnica de València, 46022
València, Spain

Dr. Gemma Miller

Department of Agriculture,
Horticulture and Engineering
Sciences, SRUC (Scotland's Rural
College), Roslin Institute
Building, Easter Bush, Edinburgh
EH25 9RG, Scotland, UK

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Message from the Guest Editors

There is an increasing need for innovation in dairy production to address food insecurity in the face of rapid climate change and population growth in low- and middle-income countries. The rumen microbiome plays an important role in the digestion and absorption of nutrients from the feed in cattle and also in their health status. Therefore, its study is of paramount importance in optimizing milk production efficiency, milk quality, and the environmental impact of dairy farming. Among the most abundant metabolites produced during microbial fermentation in the rumen are volatile fatty acids, which are the main source of energy for the animal, amino acids, carbohydrates, minerals, and vitamins. The metabolism of the microbiome also plays an important role in the animal's absorption of these nutrients, as well as in the production of hormones and other bioactive compounds. The composition and diversity of the rumen microbiome are influenced by the type of feed, dietary supplements, antibiotics, environment, and genetics of the animal. In this issue, we make the case for innovative research to impact the rumen microbiome and contribute to addressing this urgent global challenge.



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Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

1. Curtin University Sustainable Policy (CUSP) Institute, Curtin University, Kent St., Bentley, Western Australia 6102, Australia
2. Former Foundation Professor of Animal Welfare, University of Queensland and Foundation Director, Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Contact Us

Animals Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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