Grazing Animals: Lowering Environmental Impact

Guest Editors:

Dr. Giacomo Pirlo
CREA Research Centre for Animal Production and Aquaculture, Lodi, Italy

Dr. Sara Carè
CREA Research Centre for Animal Production and Aquaculture, Lodi, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

By 2050, the planet's population is forecast to grow from the current 7 billion to more than 9 billion, while the amount of agricultural land is expected to shrink. Simply put, this means that we will need to produce more food with less resources in order to feed the world. For the livestock production to continue to be part of the solution, it must develop environmentally sound production systems.

Ruminants have the distinctive ability to transform non-edible biomasses into nourishing foods, and this is an aspect that should be exploited to face the world's environmental, economic, and social challenges.

Many researches have emphasized the positive roles of grazing systems: they preserve plant and animal biodiversity, store huge amounts of organic carbon that would otherwise be dispersed in the atmosphere, contrast erosion, and save water. In addition, grazing systems furnish several ecosystem services that support the economy of rural communities, and provide high-quality foods. We need innovative solutions to make grassland systems more efficient and productive to meet the growing demand for animal foods.

Special Issue

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips
1. Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Kreutzwaldi 1, 51014 Tartu, Estonia
2. Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute, Kent St., Bentley 6102, Australia

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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