



Nutrition, Energy and Protein Metabolism in Small Ruminants

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Message from the Guest Editors

Sheep and goats make up about 55% of the global ruminant domestic population. These species have high intake levels and high selective feeding behavior, overcoming the disadvantages of the high passage rate of digesta. Glucose and lipid metabolism are peculiar, with differences between sheep and goats in both aspects related to nutrient partitioning among the mammary gland and body reserves and to the fatty acid profile of meat and milk fat.

From these premises stems our invitation for original papers and reviews addressing research on the nutrition, energy and protein metabolism of small ruminants, oriented toward understanding the biological mechanisms of feed utilization and of physiological constraints limiting production levels or affecting the quality of meat, milk, and dairy products. Proposals that focus on the energy and protein evaluation of conventional and alternative feeds and diets, and their effects on animal performance and metabolism, will be welcome. Moreover, studies on environmental impact issues, such as enteric methane production and nitrogen excretion, and aspects regarding the nutrition of minerals, vitamins and amino acids, will be greatly appreciated.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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