

Special Issue

Effects of Heat Stress on Animal Reproduction and Production

Message from the Guest Editor

Heat stress involves undesirable effects on primary and functional traits in ruminants and, as a result, on the general productivity and profitability of these livestock systems. The rise in hot days due to global warming makes it crucial to monitor animal heat stress using appropriate parameters and protect animals. This kind of thermal stress is associated with decreased feed intake, altered metabolism, compromised performance, impaired reproductive efficiency, and increased disease incidence. High metabolic heat production often requires robust thermoregulatory mechanisms to maintain body temperature inside the thermoneutral zone and thus the physiological homeostasis. Ruminants in intensive production systems are more sensitive to high temperatures, leading to metabolic imbalances and inflammation, which increase production and reproduction losses. Ruminant behavior changes under heat stress to avoid hyperthermia caused by high heat loads. This Special Issue looks at the main effects of heat stress on several productive and reproductive parameters in ruminants, as well as ways to mitigate them to avoid losses in terms of overall animal productivity.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 September 2025



Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/227464

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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