

Special Issue

Advances in Feed Additives for Enhancing Early Lactation Performance in Ruminants

Message from the Guest Editor

The early lactation period is a crucial stage in ruminants, characterized by metabolic imbalances, immunosuppression, and variable milk production, all of which compromise health and productivity. Historically, antibiotics were routinely used in early lactation for pathogen control and inflammation management. However, given the risks of antimicrobial resistance and food safety, replacing antibiotics with feed additives has emerged as a dominant approach in livestock production. The proper utilization of nutritional additives helps to optimize energy and metabolism, boost immune function, and maintain intestinal health. In this Special Issue, original research articles and reviews are welcome. Research areas may include (but not limited to) the following: Nutritional regulation and metabolic improvements; Immunomodulation and stress resistance; Rumen health and fermentation enhancement; Molecular mechanisms of lactation performance; Antibiotic alternatives; Sustainability and environmental impacts.

Guest Editor

Dr. Kang Zhan

College of Animal Science and Technology, Yangzhou University,
Yangzhou 225009, China

Deadline for manuscript submissions

28 February 2026



Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/241515

Animals
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
animals@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
animals](https://mdpi.com/journal/animals)





Animals

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/
animals](https://mdpi.com/journal/animals)



About the Journal

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.

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

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, Embase, PubAg, AGRIS, Animal Science Database, CAB Abstracts, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q1 (Veterinary Sciences) / CiteScore - Q1 (General Veterinary)