

Special Issue

Natural Antioxidants in Small Ruminant Nutrition: Revolutionizing Meat and Dairy Quality

Message from the Guest Editors

The fortification of animal diets with natural antioxidants presents a promising avenue for enhancing the quality of animal-derived products, protecting them against oxidation and bacterial spoilage, and safeguarding consumer health against foodborne diseases. Natural bioactive compounds have the potential to ensure the safety and quality of animal products by serving as biopreservatives against the deterioration caused by oxidation, spoilage bacteria, and foodborne pathogens. As a result, natural bioactive compounds are being increasingly studied and consistently evaluated in small-ruminant production systems to promote animal health and welfare status, as well as improve milk and meat quality, extend their shelf life, and increase their market value, aligning with the principles of sustainable production, the green economy, and environmental protection. Dietary supplementation with natural antioxidants has, therefore, emerged as an effective strategy to enhance milk and meat quality and safety, as bioactive compounds tend to accumulate where they are most needed.

Guest Editors

Dr. Panagiotis Simitzis

Department of Animal Science, Agricultural University of Athens, 11855 Athens, Greece

Dr. Athanasios I. Gelasakis

Laboratory of Anatomy and Physiology of Farm Animals, Department of Animal Science, Agricultural University of Athens (AUA), 75 Iera Odos, 11855 Athens, Greece

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

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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.

Editor-in-Chief

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

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