

Special Issue

Freewalk: Can Innovative Dairy Housing Systems Satisfy the Needs of Cows, Farmers and Consumers?

Message from the Guest Editors

FreeWalk refers to dairy housing systems that enhance the freedom of movement of the cows. Unlike in cubicle systems, cows in FreeWalk barns are provided with a large, open and freely accessible area to walk, stand and rest. Recent research highlighted that FreeWalk housing has the potential to improve animal welfare. Consumer research also showed that FreeWalk housing, especially when combined with pasture access, can improve societal acceptance of dairy farming.

The aim of this Special Issue is to bring together the latest findings concerning the role of FreeWalk housing in modern dairy production systems. Original research papers, as well as literature reviews from different research areas, such as barn design, farm management, farm machinery, precision technologies, animal health, animal welfare and animal behaviour with a link to FreeWalk housing systems for dairy cows, are invited to this Special Issue. Additional topics and interdisciplinary studies regarding the environmental, economic and social impact of FreeWalk systems will also be considered.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

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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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