

Special Issue

New technologies to improve the sustainability of livestock farming (precision livestock farming)

Message from the Guest Editors

The livestock sector is an important user of natural resources. Due to the link between animal health and the antimicrobial resistance of humans, we need to guard animal health while the worldwide demand for animal products is increasing by 70% in 2050. Livestock farming should be oriented towards more sustainable systems and more efficiency: more animal products with less feed input. We believe that greater animal welfare is crucial to reaching greater efficiency, today the metabolic energy going into animal discomfort should go in animal products. The application of precision livestock farming could be a good approach to reach the health and environmental sustainability of livestock farming. PLF technologies offer a tool to farmers through continuous automated monitoring and control of environmental, physiological and behavioural variables, helping ensuring livestock health, performance and well-being in relation to their environment. Ensuring an animal's good health and welfare is a necessary condition to obtaining good productive and reproductive performance, lowering the environmental impact per unit of animal product.

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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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