

Special Issue

Priming the Dairy Cow for Lactation: Insights into Metabolism, Immunity, and Performances Related to Strategies for the Optimization of the Transition Period

Message from the Guest Editors

Around parturition, dairy cows face metabolic and physiologic challenges, which require both homeostatic and homeorhetic mechanisms to accommodate the sudden demands of the mammary gland. Cows are also faced with a dysfunctional immune system and an increased inflammatory state, as a consequence of adaptation from a non-productive period (dry) to the onset of a new lactation for multiparous cows and the first lactation for heifers. The cows' ability to react to these factors often determines their profitability. Therefore, characterizing and attempting to better address the underlying physiological mechanisms behind their responses will give us the ability to reduce unnecessary losses within a given production system, while maximizing performance and efficiency. We invite researchers to share their recent findings on the development of specific nutritional, pharmacological, and management strategies to support metabolic adaptations during the transition period. Original and review papers are welcome.

Guest Editors

Dr. Vincenzo Lopreato

Department of Animal Sciences, Food and Nutrition (DIANA), Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Via Emilia Parmense 84, 29122 Piacenza, Italy

Dr. Andrea Minuti

Department of Animal Sciences, Food and Nutrition (DIANA), Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Via Emilia Parmense 84, 29122 Piacenza, Italy

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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. 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

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