

Special Issue

Decision Models in Livestock Production Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

Livestock production has been evolving rapidly in recent years. The next decade will be critical in food security and sustainable production. The increase of meat demand, regulations, and concerns about consumer safety, animal welfare, and sustainability provoke an increase of the complexity in livestock management. In addition, the Internet of Things (IoT), Agriculture 4.0, and precision livestock farming (PLF) refer to new information technologies capable of collecting, storing, and processing data into information which has never before been available to decision makers. This context requires new or adapted decision models fitted to a wide variety of livestock production systems capable of competing among production systems and satisfying market demand in an environmentally sustainable way. Operational research (OR) and decision support systems (DSS) may illustrate approaches integrating different decision models seeking to help a variety of stakeholders' profiles of livestock production systems in their decision-making process.

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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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