Animal Task Force

Fostering knowledge-based innovation
for a sustainable and competitive
livestock sector in Europe

EU Transparency Register number : 398736910798-22

Who we are?

Private sector organisations

animalhealth europe
FABRE-TP
FEFAC Experts in Animal Nutrition
FEFANA Specialty Feed Ingredients Industry
ipiff

Knowledge providers

AARHUS UNIVERSITY
SLU
INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL HUSBANDRY Belgrade - Serbia
Wallonie recherche CRA-W
CSIC
INIA
INSTYTUT GENETYKI I BIOTECHNOLOGII ZWIERZĄT Polskiej Akademii Nauk
Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology
INRAE
VÚŽV Institute of Animal Science
BF UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA Biotechnical Faculty
BISAS
crea Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria
Luke NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE FINLAND
iniav
BIOS science austria
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH
Agroscope
eagasc Agriculture and Food Development Authority
Norwegian University of Life Sciences
IBNA

In close cooperation with

food for life
TPorganics
Plants for the Future European Technology Platform
EATIP
EUP AH&W
AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP
GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES
eip-agri
FAO FIAT PANIS
EAAP European Federation of Animal Science
SCAR Standing Committee on Agricultural Research
GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

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ATF Presidency & Secretariat

- **Charlotte Lauridsen – President** (Since Nov.2025)
  Head of Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Aarhus University, Denmark

- **Giuseppe Bee, Vice-President** representing research organisations (since Nov.2021)
  Head of the Swine Research Unit of Agroscope, Switzerland

- **Isabel Casasús, Vice-President** representing research providers (since Nov.2024)
  Researcher - Animal Science Department / CITA Aragon, Spain

- **Joerg Seifert, Vice-President** representing private sector & farmers' organisations (since Nov.2025), General Secretary FEFANA

- **Ana Sofia Santos, Secretary General** (Head of R&I of FeedInov CoLAB, Portugal)
- **Susana De Magalhaes, Assistant to Secretary General** (Event Coordinator, Idele-Institut de l'Elevage, France)

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What we do?

ATF members
Research
&
private sector

- Providing input for EU research and innovation agendas
- Engaging in dialogue on sector innovation with key stakeholders in EU
- Enhancing cooperation in EU research & innovation
- Enabling knowledge exchange and act as a source of expertise

EU authorities
NGOs and
stakeholders

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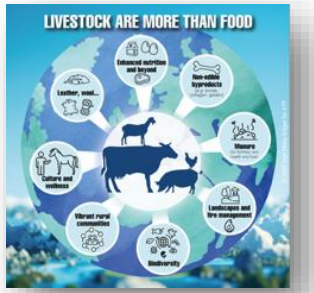
ATF Missions: engaging in dialogue and promoting R&I in the livestock sector

2020: What livestock has to offer to biodiversity and healthy soils

2021: Going beyond the feed vs food competition: crops and animals together to address food and nutrition security

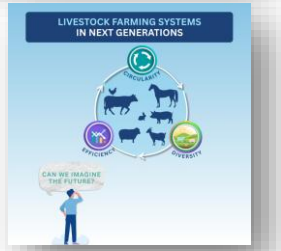
2022: Livestock emissions and the COP26 targets

2023: Sustainable livestock systems' – what does that mean?



2024: Livestock are more than food

2025: Livestock Farming Systems in next generations: can we imagine the future?



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YEAR 2026

Livestock farming in a continuously changing world

6th one-day ATF symposium

at the annual EAAP meeting co-organised with the Livestock Farming Systems and Sheep & Goat study commission

Hamburg, Monday 07 September 2026

16th ATF Seminar

Brussels, Wednesday 25 November 2026

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Input to EU R&I agenda: Horizon Europe

Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda 2021

Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda 2024

Vision Paper 2024

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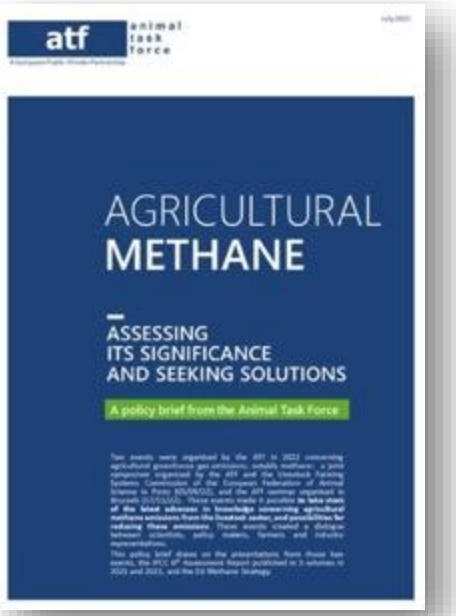
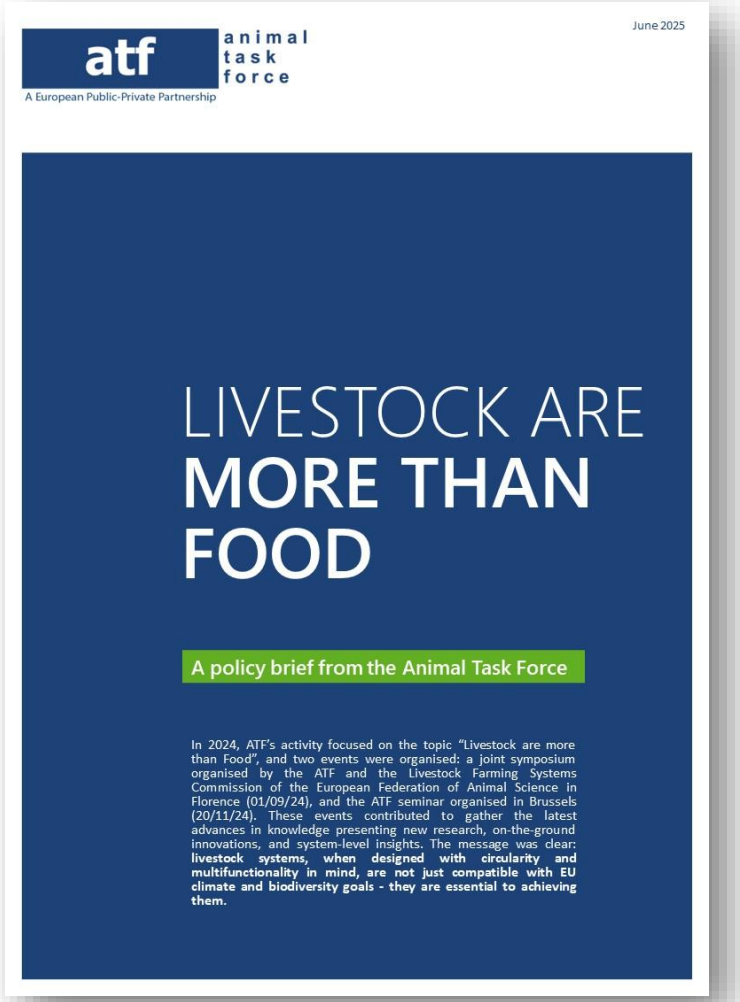
Input to EU R&I agenda: Horizon Europe

Policy brief on biodiversity 2021

Policy brief on agricultural Methane, 2023





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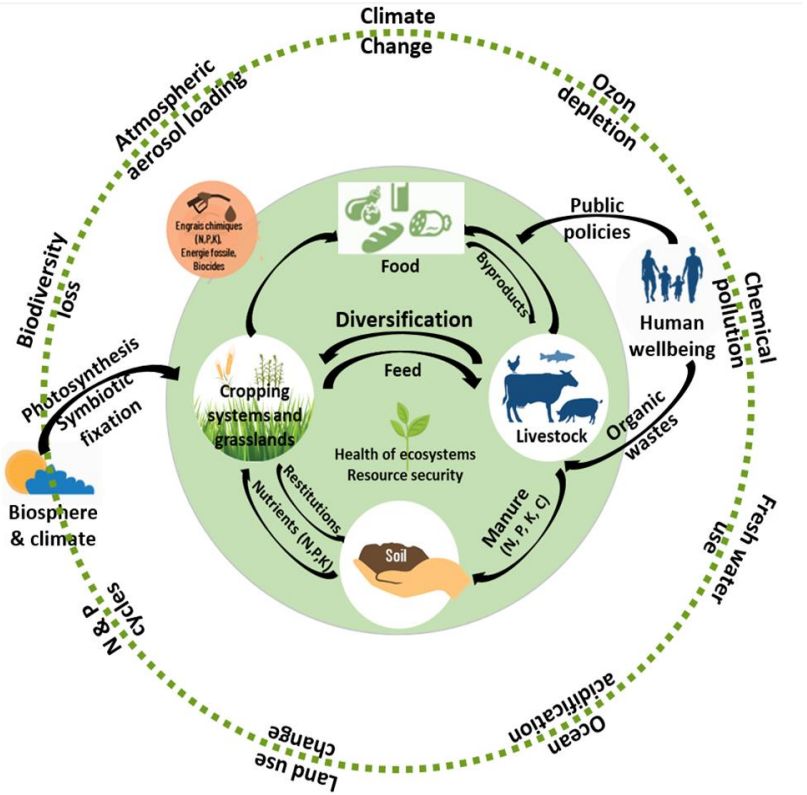
What will be the role of livestock in future farming systems?



Livestock are an essential component of sustainable and circular agri-food systems

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Vision for Responsible Livestock

5 Core Principles

- Keep resource use within planetary boundaries
- Enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Ensure high animal health and welfare standards
- Support farmer wellbeing and vibrant rural livelihood
- Provide affordable, safe, nutritious food

Strategic Alignment

- Aligns with the European vision for agriculture and food, supporting socio-economic resilience in rural areas and a competitive livestock sector
- These priorities are essential for the future of livestock and will inform the forthcoming Livestock Strategy.

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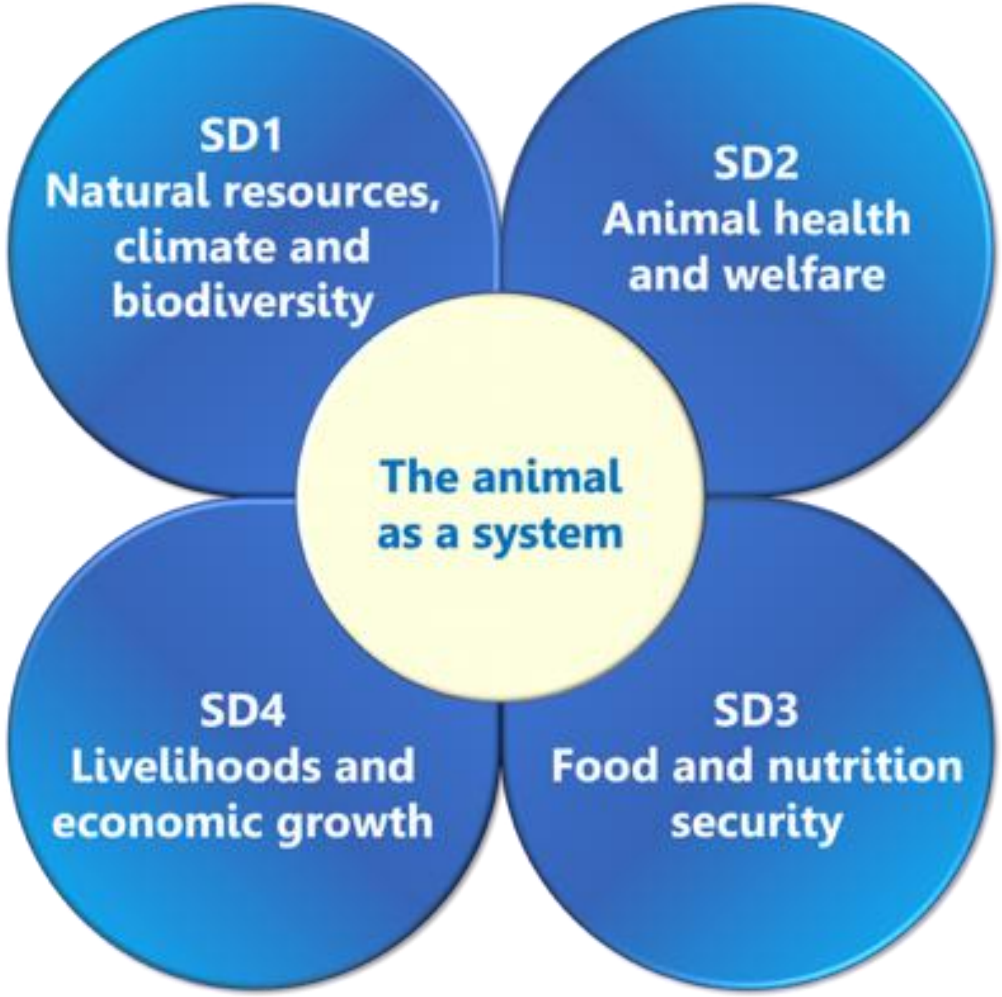
ATF SRIA Suggested priorities

Four sustainability domains (**SD**) and a cross-cutting issue



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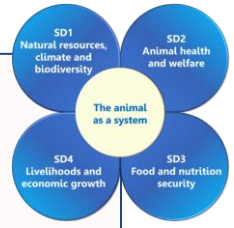
SD1: Environmental Sustainability & Resource Efficiency



Mitigate GHG emissions and carbon sequestration

- Maximise the livestock sector's potential to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions
- Enhance soil carbon sequestration through improved livestock management

Optimise resource use and circular nutrient cycling

- Maximise resource use efficiency and quality while minimising non-renewable inputs
- Exploit manure nutrient content and organic waste from the agri-food sector
- Reduce nutrient losses to water bodies and air

Reduce competition for arable land

- Minimise direct competition between livestock and humans for arable resources
- Develop synergies between livestock and crops to improve feed/nutrient efficiency

Restore biodiversity and promote high natural value farmlands

- Contribute to biodiversity restoration and foster domestic biodiversity in diverse ecological and economic contexts
- Enhance livestock roles in circular approaches and develop new crop-livestock interactions
- Support adaptation pathways to climate change

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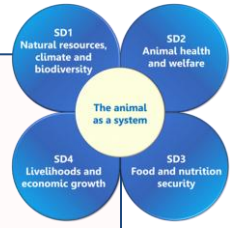
SD2: Animal Health, Welfare & One Health



Integrated animal health and welfare management

- Design and implement integrated management strategies for animal health and welfare
- Reduce economic loss and animal suffering related to production diseases
- Develop evidence-based alternatives to mutilation practices

Responsible veterinary medication use

- Engage in prudent and responsible use of veterinary medication
- Prevent and build resilience to pandemics through One Health approaches
- Combat animal disease emergence with global integrated strategies

Promote positive animal welfare expression

- Develop farm, transport, and slaughter practices that favor positive welfare expression
- Respect animal integrity and support the physical and mental health relationship
- Enable animal choice and environmental control to enhance overall welfare

One Health approach integration

- Combine animal health and welfare advances with environmental benefits
- Link ethological progress to improved outcomes across health, welfare, and environment
- Formulate comprehensive global approaches to address interconnected health challenges

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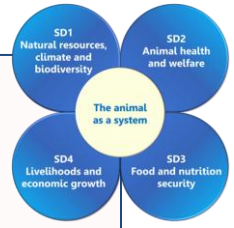
SD3: Sustainable & Healthy Food Systems



Understand livestock contribution to food system sustainability

- Elucidate how and to what extent livestock systems contribute to sustainable and healthy food systems
- Leverage the multi-functionality of livestock in integrated food production

Emphasise nutritional density and food quality

- Highlight the nutritional density and intrinsic quality of animal-based foods
- Address the growing importance of nutrient-dense foods for Europe's ageing population
- Clarify the role and place of animal origin products in contemporary diets

Address contemporary food controversies

- Navigate controversies concerning the role of animal products in healthy diets
- Provide evidence-based perspectives on animal-based foods in sustainable food systems
- Support informed policy and consumer choices about dietary composition

Support nutritional health across diverse populations

- Ensure animal-based foods contribute meaningfully to public health objectives
- Recognise the importance of nutrient density for vulnerable populations (elderly, etc.)
- Position livestock products as part of balanced, sustainable food systems

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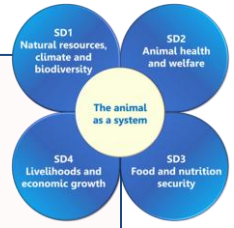
SD4: Economic Sustainability, Livelihoods & Societal Roles



Create attractive employment and economic viability

- Design economically viable livestock systems that create attractive employment opportunities
- Improve livelihoods and economic sustainability across the sector
- Support resilience of farming systems to climate, health, and economic hazards

Enable system transitions and stakeholder coordination

- Design public policies and regulations to guide and support sectoral transitions
- Renew organisation and coordination mechanisms between stakeholders
- Facilitate the socio-technical system changes required for a circular economy

Strengthen societal roles of livestock farming

- Reinforce the roles of livestock farming within society
- Develop integrated approaches that address local (territorial) and global (planetary) challenges
- Support the multi-performance evaluation of farming systems

Advance sustainable agricultural policy and evaluation

- Develop holistic evaluation methods for multi-performance of farming systems (notably agroecological)
- Provide evidence to guide political agendas toward sustainability of European farming
- Balance local resilience and global environmental imperatives

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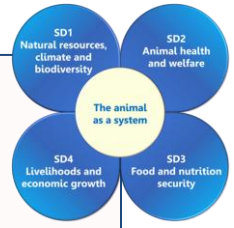
Cross-Cutting Issue: The Animal as a System



Integrate high-throughput technologies in animal research

- Leverage high-throughput technologies to renew research paradigms at the animal level
- Improve accuracy of animal breeding and management for optimised performance
- Support resilient, diverse, and low carbon footprint production systems

Develop efficient, adaptive animals for variable conditions

- Breed for efficient animals capable of coping with variable production conditions
- Maintain product quality whilst enhancing environmental and climate resilience
- Implement new approaches in animal biology aligned with agroecological principles

Understand animal physiology and resilience mechanisms

- Refine understanding of genetic variability and physiological regulation mechanisms
- Integrate genomic variation, microbiomes, pathogens, and epigenetics into breeding strategies
- Understand the animal's capacity to orchestrate priorities, manage perturbation, and allocate resources across life stages

Renew breeding goals through genotype-environment interactions

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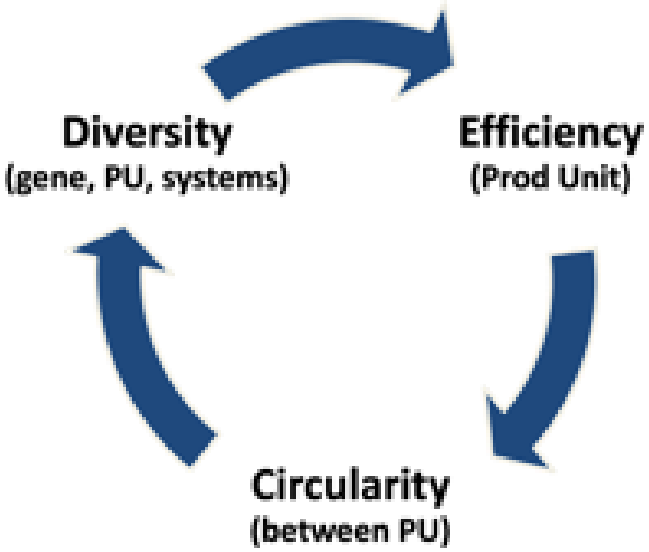
Three Pathways of Progress

DIVERSITY

Diversification across genetic, PU, and landscape scales

- Increases functional complementarities between production units
- Enhances resilience through biodiversity preservation
- Enables nature-based solutions with additional benefits
- Supports more efficient resource use, lower carbon systems, reduced antimicrobial use, and climate adaptation



EFFICIENCY

Improving biological efficiency at the appropriate PU level

- Reduces scarce resource use and physical flows into and out of the system
- Minimises negative impacts from resource extraction and waste
- Increases farm profitability (sustainable intensification approach)Can be applied at animal, herd, field, or farming system level with internal recycling

CIRCULARITY

Promoting exchanges between PUs to close nutrient and biomass loops

- Reuse of resources (plant biomass, manures) across units to avoid waste
- Regeneration of ecosystems by closing natural cycles
- Applies at scales from within-farm to between farms to between regions
- Livestock plays a crucial role as natural recyclers in agricultural systems

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Research Priorities

1. Natural resources, climate & biodiversity

- Climate smart systems & biodiversity restoration
- Livestock–cropping synergies in circular approaches
- Efficient & safe manure utilisation
- Livestock in organic farming

2. Animal health & welfare

- Cognitive & emotional capacities in management
- Welfare as prerequisite for health
- Immunity & microbiota management
- Responsible systems for welfare & health

3. Food & nutrition security (One Health)

- Animal-source food & human health
- Nutritional, sanitary & sensory qualities
- Functional & bioactive properties

4. Livelihoods & economic growth

- Drivers for livestock sector evolution
- Diversification for multifunctional farming
- Governance for sector change
- Evaluation frameworks for farm progress

5. Cross-cutting: The animal as a system

- Early phenotype development for robust animals
- Characterise genetic resources & diversity
- Towards multi-performing animals
- Research infrastructure for innovation

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Where ATF & ESAAF are complementary

Livestock, where it meets the whole system

- ATF brings livestock depth to ESAAF's whole-system view — the "animal" node
- Crop–livestock integration and circularity: the natural interface
  - Manure and nutrient cycles, feed–food competition, mixed systems
- One Health, food security and livelihoods: shared cross-sector themes

Our offer: align, not overlap

A ready, consulted livestock agenda — already mapped to EU partnerships and missions.

- ATF as ESAAF's livestock pillar — a shared reference point, no duplication
- Let's connect our agendas where livestock and the wider food system meet

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The Animal Task Force online

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