Main take-away messages from the ATF – EAAP (LFS-S&G) symposium at EAAP2026 in Hamburg

European resilient livestock farming systems in a continuously changing world



Isabel CASASUS (CITA Aragón) - ATF Vice-President
Giuseppe BEE (AGROSCOPE) - ATF Vice-President

EU Transparency Register number : 398736910798-22

SYMPOSIUM

The symposium at a glance

7 September 2026
Symposium session

EAAP Annual Meeting
Hamburg, Germany

Organisers
ATF with the EAAP Commissions on Livestock Farming Systems and on Sheep & Goat

Opening
Charlotte Lauridsen (ATF President) and Joël Berard (EAAP President)

PROGRAMME

Global view: Badi Besbes, FAO
The new era is now: sustainable livestock through global collaboration

Market view: Eva Gocsik, Rabobank
Navigating the future of animal protein in a changing global landscape

Feed chain view: Ruth Hayler, FEFANA, with input from FEFAC
Ensuring EU feed security and safety in a changing global environment

Research view: Michele Moretti, University of Pisa
Exploring the missing middle in Europe's protein transition

Farmer view: Kirsten Wosnitza, farmer, AbL (Germany)
Social and economic challenges: how can generational renewal be achieved?

Policy view: Carlos Martín Óvilo, European Commission, DG AGRI
EU vision for agriculture and food, simplification and livestock strategy

Panel discussion: Speakers and audience
Moderated by the session co-chairs

CONTEXT

Why resilience, why now

Pressures arrive together

- Climate change
- Geopolitical instability
- Volatile markets
- Feed import dependency
- Disease risks
- Environmental regulation
- Changing expectations
- Fewer farmers

Livestock keeps its role

- Food and nutrition security
- Rural economies and jobs
- Circularity
- Landscape and territory
- Environmental and social functions

The question is not whether Europe needs livestock.
It is which systems, where, for which functions, and who pays.

TALK 1 · GLOBAL VIEW

Livestock growth must be managed, with youth on board

The new era is now | Badi Besbes, FAO

1 Demand keeps rising

Population, income and urbanisation drive it.
Livestock is central to livelihoods and nutrition.

2 Growth must be managed

Water, land, soil, climate and biodiversity are at stake.

3 Youth is the key to the future

Rural populations are ageing.
Attract, empower and keep young livestock keepers.

FOCUS



The next generation of livestock keepers is essential for innovation, resilience and sustainability.

Source: FAO abstract, EAAP 2026

TALK 2 · MARKET VIEW

Europe must shift from volume to value

The future of animal protein in a changing global landscape | Eva Gocsik, Rabobank

1 Europe goes against the global trend

Global demand grows, but EU demand softens as population and income growth stall.

2 A high-cost producer under pressure

Rising standards, disease and geopolitics.
Herds decline and the industry consolidates.

3 Innovation is the answer

Genetics, health, nutrition and digital tools, linked by AI and data.
Uptake needs incentives.

KEY FIGURE

25 to 30%

lower pig production costs in Brazil than in Germany

Spain, the Netherlands: same as Germany.
Denmark: 7 to 9% higher.

Source: InterPig, RaboResearch 2026

TALK 3 · FEED CHAIN VIEW

Feed volatility is structural: secure supply now

Ensuring EU feed security and safety | Ruth Hayler, FEFANA, with input from FEFAC

1 Volatility is structural

Geopolitics, climate and trade disruption hit feed supply at the same time.

2 EU feed capacity is eroding

High input costs and regulatory friction deter investment and deepen import dependency.

3 Act now and keep safety high

Diversify sourcing, simplify approvals, use co-products.
The science exists, but uptake lags.

KEY FIGURE

6%

of its lysine needs is produced in the EU

0% of threonine and of vitamins B9, C and K3

Source: FEFANA, EAAP 2026

TALK 4 · RESEARCH VIEW

Optimise the system, not only the product

Exploring the missing middle | Michele Moretti, University of Pisa

1 Simple answers can leave the system unchanged

Watch for substitution, rebound and leakage of impacts through trade.

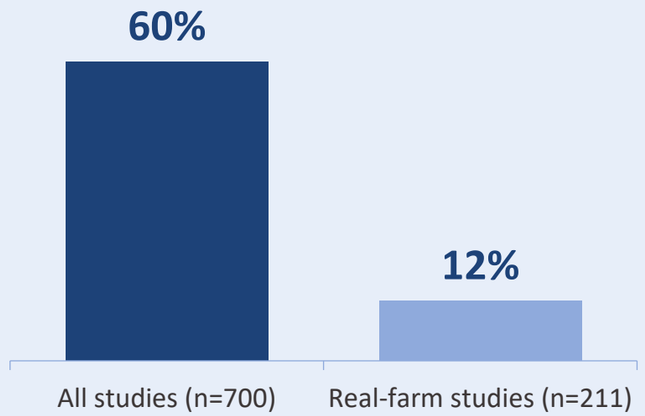
2 Efficiency is necessary, but not sufficient

Judge performance per hectare and per territory, with public goods, not only per kg.

3 Differentiate and share

Reduce, redesign or maintain by territory. Share responsibility along the whole chain.

KEY FIGURE



Share of studies showing both economic and environmental gains

Source: Minviel & Veysset (2026), in Moretti, EAAP 2026

EU Transparency Register number : 398736910798-22

TALK 5 · FARMER VIEW

No income, no perspective, no next generation

How can generational renewal be achieved? | Kirsten Wosnitza, farmer, AbL (Germany)

1 High barriers to entry

Volatile income, land access and prices, high capital needs, political uncertainty.

2 Workload and wellbeing matter

Long hours on family farms. Burnout is a real risk for farmers.

3 Pay for public goods

Young farmers want to act on their values. Support should reward what the market does not.

THE OPEN QUESTION

?

Between 14,000-litre cows and cow-calf on pasture, between manager and farmer: which pathways stay viable without overload?

Source: Wosnitza abstract, EAAP 2026

TALK 6 · POLICY VIEW

EU livestock strategy: from vision to implementation

EU vision, simplification and livestock strategy | Carlos Martín Óvilo, DG AGRI

1 Vision 2040

An attractive, competitive and resilient, sustainable and fair agri-food sector.

2 Five priorities

Resilience, competitiveness, sustainability, territorial diversity, excellence.

3 From strategy to practice

Simplification (Omnibus III and X) supports it.
The work now is implementation.

EU LIVESTOCK IN NUMBERS

40%
of agricultural added value

€400 bn
turnover

4 million
farms

7 million
jobs

Source: DG AGRI, EAAP 2026

PANEL DISCUSSION

One priority from each speaker

Capacity

Ruth Hayler
FEFANA

Keep feed manufacturing in the EU. That needs competitive conditions. Act in months, not years.

Income

Kirsten Wosnitza
Farmer, AbL

No solution fits all. Farming must pay. Reward farms for their performance, not per hectare.

Direction

Michele Moretti
University of Pisa

Decide which livestock systems we want, then how to pay for them. Implementation is the test.

Innovation

Eva Gocsik
Rabobank

Cutting production is too simple an answer. Resilience means less dependency.

Cooperation

Carlos Martín Óvilo
DG AGRI

Pool resources, absorb market shocks, gain scale and share risk through mutual funds.

CONCLUSIONS

General considerations

Five messages across all talks



1. **Livestock still matters**
   The debate is about which systems, where, for which functions, and who pays.
2. **Volatility is structural**
   Resilience means less dependency and better preparedness, not closed borders.
3. **Efficiency is needed, but not enough**
   Innovation must work at system level and reach the farm.
4. **Farming must pay**
   No income, no next generation. Reward public goods and share responsibility.
5. **Implementation and speed now decide**
   The strategy is in place. It must fit each territory and be delivered quickly.

CONCLUSIONS

What this means for research

Test on real farms

Only 12% of real-farm studies show both economic and environmental gains. Move from trials and models to farms.

Measure system performance

Per hectare and per territory, including public godos, not only per kilogram of product.

Close the uptake gap

Co-products and feed innovations exist. Work with industry to bring them into practice, with advice for young farmers.

Work with industry

Solutions reach farms faster when research and industry develop them together.

EU Transparency Register number : 398736910798-22

Thank you

All symposium presentations are available at

animaltaskforce.eu

Isabel Casasús (CITA Aragón)
Giuseppe Bee (Agroscope)

