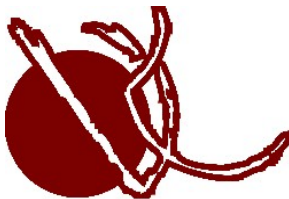


EurSafe News

European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics



EurSafe News
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Editorial

Dear EurSafe members,

It is with great pleasure I present this issue of EurSafe News. The new editorial board is hoping to make this quarterly circular something to look forward to and I believe this issue is a good step in that direction.

I personally feel that EurSafe News should be a thought and discussion provoking extra that comes with your EurSafe membership. Therefore, I invite you all to keep sending us short position papers, opinions and replies, even if not immediately connected to the next Newsletter's theme. This will keep our Europe-wide (and even world-wide) interactions lively until we meet again at the next EurSafe conference. EurSafe News might even be the place to get some early feedback on some of your new ideas and insights.

I am pleased to introduce three short papers relating to this quarter's theme, animal ethics. *Luy and Depner's* contribution, which will also be published in several German veterinary newsletters, urges us all to radically rethink our approach to animal disease control.

Millar and Wilkie report on a new Animal-Human Study Group that was recently set up in the UK and *Evers and Aerts* share some thoughts on how to bridge the gap between animal production, ethics and society. You will also find more information on EurSafe2007 in this edition of EurSafe News, and, as always, you will find an overview of interesting conferences, publications and funding calls.

The EurSafe News' March issue will be edited by Tassos Michalopoulos; its theme will be "Communicating food ethics". All contributions, thematic or other, should be sent to Tassos.Michalopoulos@wur.nl before February 15, 2007.

Best wishes to you all,

Stef Aerts
Chief editor & issue editor

EurSafe Executive Committee Update

Building on the success of the 6th EurSafe Congress 2006 in Oslo organised by Professor Matthias Kaiser (NENT, Norway) and his team, the EurSafe Executive Committee is delighted to announce the dates of the 7th EurSafe Congress.

The 7th EurSafe Congress on Sustainable Food Production and Ethics will be held in Vienna, Austria on 13-15 September 2007 (<http://www.nas.boku.ac.at/eursafe2007.html>).

The conference is organised by Dr Christoph Winckler, (University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences - BOKU), and colleagues from the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna,

University of Vienna (Faculty for Life Sciences) and the Austrian Scientists for Environmental Protection Society. In order to give EurSafe members further details of the organisers' backgrounds and research interests, our Austrian hosts have kindly provided brief introductions below.

The Executive Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members for their support and contributions in 2006. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we are looking forward to seeing you all in Vienna next year.

Kate Millar on behalf of the Executive Committee

Organising Committee, 7th EurSafe Congress (13-15 September 2007)

Dr. Christoph Winckler is head of the Division of Livestock Sciences, in the Department of Sustainable Agricultural Systems of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU) Vienna. He works on animal welfare assessment systems, epidemiology of production diseases and environmental impact of veterinary drugs, Dr Winckler also contributes to the development of sustainable and ecological agricultural

systems, which provide food, renewable resources and energy. The main research topics of the Division of Livestock Sciences include: farm animal health and welfare, organic livestock farming, sustainable feeding systems, animal breeding, conservation genetics and livestock farming systems in the tropics and subtropics.

Dr. Susanne Waiblinger, specialist in animal husbandry and welfare, leads the cattle welfare and human-animal relationship group and Dr. Knut Niebuhr leads the poultry welfare group at the Institute of Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare (ITT). This Institute is part of the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Food Science of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. Main tasks of the Institute are teaching, research and counselling in the field of animal behaviour, welfare and health in relation to housing, management and human-animal relationship, as well as organic animal husbandry and animal welfare ethics.

Dr. Alexander Haslberger is working group leader at the Department for Nutritional Sciences and the Center of Ecology, within the Faculty for Life Sciences at the University of Vienna. He is also an expert advisor for the Fed. Ministry of Health and Women Affairs, Austria and

for WHO in the area of modern food biotechnology. The Faculty of Life Sciences' research interests include areas of molecular and conservation biology, nutritional research and medicinal chemistry.

Dr. Fritz Schiemer, Professor at the University of Vienna, Head of the Department of Limnology and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, is one of the presidents of the Austrian Scientists for Environmental Protection (Forum Österreichischer Wissenschaftler für Umweltschutz). The Society was founded in 1985 as a non-profit organization. The members maintain an interdisciplinary dialogue trying to find overall answers to a number of environmental hazards; key topics include sustainable development, biodiversity and nature conservation, genetic engineering, energy, traffic, climate and nanotechnology.

Animal ethics contributions

The need for a paradigm shift in the control of classical swine fever

Jörg Luy & Klaus R. Depner

Introduction

Classical swine fever (CSF) is one of the diseases of pigs that cause major economic losses, in particular in countries with an industrialised pig production. It is listed as one of the highly contagious list A diseases for Suidae. The CSF epidemic in the Netherlands in 1997/1998 illustrates the economic losses and the ethical dimension of the disease. More than 12 million pigs had to be killed and destroyed and the total sum of direct losses amounted to US \$ 2.3 billion. However, only less than 10 % of the pigs were directly affected by the disease. During the last decade large scale culling was also conducted in Austria,

Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Spain.

The CSF policy in the European Union (EU) defines freedom from CSF as freedom from CSF antibodies. Pigs with CSF antibodies are assumed to be a risk factor. Consequently, there is a general request for seronegative pig populations to permit the international trade of pigs and pig products. Vaccination is impossible since the antibodies in vaccinated individuals would be interpreted as "proof" for the presence of CSF. To keep a population seronegative, killing and innocuous disposal of all pigs within a specific radius around a CSF outbreak (culling) is a common practice in areas with a high pig density. This strategy,

which is now about 20 years old, is being challenged by two fundamental changes. The first important change is public perception. While stamping out the virus still remains the ultimate goal, the culling of healthy pigs has become an important ethical issue. Secondly, significant advances in diagnosis and modern vaccines now allow for a selected culling of infected herds.

Animal Ethics

Ethical aspects viewed from the perspective of the animals are usually designated as pathocentric (or zoocentric) while arguments from the perspective of affected humans complement this pathocentric core with “ancillary anthropocentric arguments“ which may, however, at no time limit the central protective sphere of the animals. The realization that the protection of life and the protection of well-being are two logically independent areas and that both pathocentric and anthropocentric aspects must be ethically differentiated leads to the 2 x 2 representation in tables 1 and 2 of a

general framework for animal ethics (italics reflect the morals in Germany today; TierSchG = German Animal Welfare Act)

Killing animals

For ethical reasons every killing of an animal must be carried out as euthanasia, i.e. with “no more than unavoidable agitation, pain, suffering or harm” and whenever possible under “anaesthetisation” (Article 3 of the German Ordinance on Animal Protection at Slaughter, Article 4 TierSchG). A pain- and fear-free killing of animals does not contradict pathocentric principles by definition (pathos = suffering); protection of life only matters if and when death affects the well-being (of the animal to be killed or of other individuals). Arguments for a “right to life” for animals from our point of view still have the status of a hypothesis. But concerning the death of animals there is an ancillary anthropocentric norm: it is wrong to kill an animal without “good reason” (e.g. Article 17 no. 1 TierSchG).

Table 1: Framework for animal ethics

General framework	Protection of animal life	Protection of animal well-being
(zoocentric) pathocentric aspects	No right to life.	Keeping of animals according to the nature and the needs of the species (Article 2 TierSchG). – Killing of animals only as euthanasia, i.e. with as little fear and pain as possible (Article 4 TierSchG). – According to general opinion, the protection of an animal’s well-being is placed above the protection of its life (Animal Welfare Report of the German Government 1999).
anthropocentric aspects	Anyone who kills a vertebrate without good reason shall be liable to up to three years imprisonment or a fine. (Article 17 no. 1 TierSchG).	Anthropocentric aspects may not limit the central protective sphere of the animals.

Animal disease control – Prevention

The need to protect the well-being of animals contains the obligation to safeguard animals against infectious diseases. The Swedish and the British Animal Welfare Acts state this outright: “Animals shall be treated well and shall be protected from unnecessary suffering and disease” and “an animal’s needs shall be taken to include [...] its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease”. Freedom from pain, injury or disease (“by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment”) also belongs to the famous “5 Freedoms”.

Euthanasia of infected individuals

In veterinary medicine euthanasia in the interest of patients with irremediable pain or suffering (= veterinary indication) has always been the ultima ratio. If in particular cases (as with CSF) neither therapy nor slaughter and consumption are either possible or reasonable ways to deal with an epidemic, then there is no alternative to euthanasia and innocuous disposal of the infected herds. Hence, this procedure is ethically justified even if it affects large numbers. However, the killing

of “suspect” or “susceptible” animals as part of the veterinary disease control policy in Europe comes in Germany into conflict with Article 17 no. 1 TierSchG. This is further compounded by the ethically questionable large-scale destruction of food. The obligation to differentiate between infected and uninfected animals arises from the fact that the preceding impact of (almost every kind of) husbandry on their well-being cannot be ethically justified if it is followed by the killing and innocuous disposal of healthy animals. To carry out justifiable killings as euthanasia is an ethical obligation and as such also applies to mass culling carried out as part of a veterinary disease control programme. Hence, governmental authorities must deal with the practical difficulties in this regard before an outbreak. “Economic reasons” may not be cited for the non-use of anaesthetisation. Ethically unacceptable is, for instance, suffocation without anaesthetization (e.g. avian influenza in Turkey 2006 or Thailand 2004). One consequence of these considerations and the necessarily fast implementation is that devices for mass euthanasia must be held in stock regionally.

Table 2: Framework for animal ethics

Veterinary disease control	Protection of animal life	Protection of animal well-being
(zoocentric) pathocentric aspects	No right to life.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obligation for prevention (e.g. vaccination). 2. <i>Killing of infected animals is an alternative to therapy when carried out as euthanasia (anaesthetisation).</i>
anthropocentric aspects	Killing is an option, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. when neither therapy nor slaughter and consumption are possible or reasonable alternatives, 2. <i>when restricted to infected herds, and</i> 3. <i>when public advantages exceed the entire sum of disadvantages.</i> 	Economic reasons can not serve as a justification for non-anaesthetisation.

Commensurability of legal means

In Germany the legally prescribed killing of livestock in the case of epidemics comes under restriction of commensurability (e.g. Article 14 Ordinance on the control of swine fever). There are two major aspects. Breeders not only loose their animals, all the breeding-work (their specific gene-pool) is also eliminated. In the Netherlands, for example, the avian influenza epidemic in 2003 led to the killing of 30 million birds. There was great resistance to the culling, especially on the part of people who raise birds as a hobby. The birds of 16,521 hobby-owners were culled, while only 22 of them (0.13%) owned actually infected animals. The second aspect is that mass killings may only be arranged and paid by the government if public advantages exceed the entire sum of disadvantages. Since there are some doubts about the cost benefit ratio of the current policy, a cost benefit analysis should be carried out and documented in every case.

New tools

In order to avoid the mass culling of uninfected (healthy) animals a diagnostic strategy has to be used which guarantees that all and only pig herds with virus positive animals are removed. The diagnostic approach should no longer focus on the presence of antibodies (serological testing), but on the presence of the virus (paradigm shift). Modern diagnostic tools have the potential to replace the conventional methods used at present. Today Polymerase Chain Reaction

(PCR) enables veterinarians to differentiate clearly between infected and uninfected herds. Instead of culling, the herd can rapidly be tested by PCR and be released if no virus genome is found. The real time PCR based strategy has a higher reliability than serological testing or other conventional methods. Antibodies or cross reactions with other pest viruses do not falsify the diagnosis. Since antibodies are not of primary interest any more, vaccination could be used additionally under certain circumstances to control and eradicate an outbreak.

Conclusion

Modern diagnostic tools (PCR) enable veterinarians to differentiate between infected and uninfected pig herds. Based on PCR and potent vaccines a paradigm shift in the control of classical swine fever is therefore possible today. This paradigm shift is an ethical obligation in order to avoid the killing and innocuous disposal of healthy animals.

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The British Sociological Association (BSA) Animal/Human Studies Group (AHSG)

Kate Millar & Rhonda Wilkie

Introduction

Interdisciplinary work on ‘Animals and Society’ is a growing area of academic research. However, the research field appears to be dominated by US Research Centres with only a moderate amount of work being conducted by a handful of research groups in Europe.

In order to create a network for researchers in the UK, the British Sociological Association (BSA) Animal/Human Studies Group (AHSG) was formed in June 2006 led by Dr Rhoda Wilkie, University of Aberdeen. The AHSG is a new forum for academics, researchers and students, who are interested in exploring, discussing and/or actively researching the multifaceted and challenging area of animal/human related-issues. Although the group has a strong sociological focus it encourages a broad membership, and a number of non-sociologists play an active role in the group.

The aims and objectives of the AHSG are to:

- legitimate and institutionalise animal/human issues and research in sociology;
- raise the profile of animal/human issues and research in mainstream sociology;
- create a specialist research/academic forum and useful resource for specialists, other sociologists and those working in cognate disciplines;
- provide opportunities for networking and interdisciplinary exchange;
- develop and consolidate existing areas of research, identify gaps in the emerging animal-human studies

research agenda and foster future research collaboration

- develop sociologically informed perspectives and reflect on how these fit into existing perspectives and;
- create a research database of animal-related research projects (including PhDs) carried out by sociologists initially in the UK

Inaugural Meeting

The official launch of the Group and the first meeting of the AHSG entitled ‘Developing and Consolidating Animal/Human Issues and Related Research within the Social Sciences: A Preliminary Workshop’ was held on 26 September 2006 at the University of Nottingham. The meeting was hosted by the University’s Institute for the Study of Genetics, Biorisks and Society (IGBiS) (Professor Robert Dingwall) and the Centre for Applied Bioethics (Dr Kate Millar). Its key purpose was to allow the founding members the opportunity to explore the Group’s potential and how the Group might develop and consolidate animal/human issues and related research.

Joining the Group

Members (35 as of November 2006) will meet at least twice a year at workshop / seminar / conference-type sessions which will also foster networking opportunities for those involved in the group. Membership of the AHSG is free for all BSA members, students and unwaged, but non-BSA members with institutional support are asked to pay a one-off joining fee of £27. All members of the study group automatically receive a quarterly e-

mail newsletter and are registered on the study group's emailing list. To join complete the membership form on the AHSG website:
www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/AHSG.htm

Future Activities

The AHSG hopes to organise a session at the BSA Annual Conference 'Social Connections: Identities, Technologies, Relationships' to be held at the University of East London, 12–14 April 2007. For further information and details please see the AHSG website:

www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/AHSG.htm

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Mind the gap – animal welfare in practice

Stef Aerts & Johan Evers

Animal production & economy

Animal production and agriculture in general are economic activities. Despite 'romantic' perceptions of their role in our society, this economic background should be a basic element in any discussion about them. One should not be surprised that for those who are professionally involved it is even the reference point in such discussions.

In order to survive, agriculture has continuously adapted to societal and political changes. As a result, animal production in Europe has grown and intensified enormously during the last century. Unfortunately, this has seriously limited the farmer's freedom of choice. It is almost as if he (or she) can only choose (1) to be a farmer, and (2) which animal species to keep; after that, the international economic reality nearly forces him to work with the most productive breeds, in the most productive production system.

Animal production & society

As any economic sector, agriculture functions in a societal context. Throughout

Europe there is an increase in the societal attention for animal welfare, even if it is not the top priority. The rise in animal welfare related legislation and in animal welfare and animal rights organisations' membership numbers is a clear indication for this.

There are many reasons for this increasing societal concern. The lack of a direct relation between the majority of our society and animal production certainly is one of them. In Belgium for example, only 1,8% of the active population is involved in agriculture. It seems reasonable to believe that most of the others judge the value of an animal by the standards of the animals they do know: pets, zoo animals, hobby animals etc. A collision with our current animal production practices is then inevitable, as the high animal-per-stockholder ratio makes individual attention increasingly difficult.

The contemporary intensive animal production methods are often considered deleterious for animal welfare and an evolution towards a vegetarian or vegan society is repeatedly cited as the solution. Most stockholders take this as a direct attack and a personal insult ("They're hypocrites!"). Indeed, in many cases it

seems that price is the single most important argument to convince the consumer, and not the production method. Whether this observation is correct, is – evidently – a source of a 'lively' debate, a debate we will not focus on here. But the tension resulting from it shapes the animal welfare context.

Animal production & ethics

For quite some years now, animal welfare is a hot topic in research, including agricultural and food ethics. This has resulted in an insurmountable number of papers, books and conferences, and there is no reason to believe this will change any time soon. Unfortunately, and this might be a viewpoint characteristic for an ethics centre grown out of an engineering faculty, much of the ethical and 'exact' scientific research is far from readily applicable in concrete farm circumstances where every decision needs to be an answer to all demands at the same time. Translating ethical concerns and scientific knowledge into something that is useful on farm is the only thing that will enable us to close the gap between animal production, ethics and society. Fundamental and applied research is necessary and valuable, but there is an urgent need for a direct, practice-oriented ethical and scientific vision on animal welfare.

Animal production & cooperation

The most important element in such a practice-oriented approach is the will to cooperate and act. There is no reason why it would be impossible for the animal production sector to work together with animal welfare proponents. It is certainly easier to focus on spreading one's own well-known opinion, but this will not bring about the desired (or necessary) changes. The best chance we have of achieving a decent amount of animal welfare in farm

animals is to work together to find real win-win options that guarantee the farmer's income while improving animal welfare. An honest and constructive collaboration between the animal production sector, welfare proponents and scientists is necessary to identify these options. This consortium should focus on resolving farmer's day-to-day problems and not on finding alternative ways to measure, rank or compare farms. We've got those, let's start using them where they are most needed: on the farm.

This may seem naïve and maybe it is, but only a constructive positive realism will be to bridge the gap instead of widening it. It will be a long-term project, requiring a long-term vision in which relevant parties should be represented. Not only stockholders, animal welfarers and scientists, but also politicians, the distribution sector, and all other members of the animal production chain.

Conclusion

Animal welfare is an important element on Europe's social and political agenda, much more so than in any other part of the world. The clash between the different societal groups about it is therefore – to say the least – contra productive. Pushing towards more animal welfare while ignoring the economic reality is not helping any human or animal, but blocking all suggestions in this area is not either. It would be better if all actors would consider animal welfare as a challenge rather than a threat. Cooperation, albeit in small and concrete areas, will prove to be the only viable option.

Contacts

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Conferences & courses

Winter 2006

Jan 17-19

Annual Conference of the Philosophical Society of Southern Africa (Stellenbosch, South Africa)

The conference will be hosted by Department of Philosophy, University of Stellenbosch

<http://academic.sun.ac.za/philosophy/conference.htm>

Jan 24-26

Animal Health Research: Recent Developments & Future Directions (Cambridge, UK)

Organised by the Wellcome Trust

http://firstcontact.hinxton.wellcome.ac.uk/display_info.asp?id=62

Jan 25-27

Egenis 3rd International Conference 2007. Genomics - Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Regulation of the Biosciences (Exeter, UK)

Hosted by the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society (Egenis), University of Exeter

<http://www.centres.ex.ac.uk/egenis/events/governinggenomics/index.htm>

Feb 4-9

Principles of Biosafety Research for the Release of Genetically Engineered Crops (Khartoum, Sudan)

Regional workshop organised by Ministry of Science and Technology (Khartoum, Sudan) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

http://knowledge.cta.int/en/st_networking/news/events/principles_of_biosafety_research_for_the_release_of_genetically_engineered_crops

Feb 26-Mar 2

Sustainable Aquaculture. Aquaculture 2007, World Aquaculture Society (San Antonio, Texas, USA)

<http://www.was.org/meetings/ConferenceInfo.asp?MeetingCode=AQ2007>

Mar 11-16

1st Advanced Course on Strategic Communication and Applied Ethics in Nanobiotechnology (Oxford, UK)

Organised by Nanobiotechnology: Responsible Action on Issues in Society and Ethics (NanoBio-RAISE)

<http://nanobio-raise.org/groups/editors/menus/resources/40/view>

Mar 19-20

3rd National Conference on Obesity and Health. A Multidisciplinary Conference on the Management of Obesity (Manchester, UK)

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 January 2007

http://www.obesityandhealth.co.uk/call_for_papers_2007.asp

Mar 20-23

Improving Sustainability in Organic and Low Input Food Production Systems (Stuttgart, Germany)

3rd International Congress of the European Integrated Project Quality Low Input Food (QLIF)

<http://www.ecoweblog.elr.dk/>

Spring 2007

Apr 2-4

2007 BSAS Annual Conference
(Southport, UK)
British Society of Animal Science
http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/

Apr 15-18

Twelfth ASDA DISCOVER Conference on Food Animal Agriculture: Integrating Nutritional Management into Environmental Stewardship (Nashville, Indiana, USA)
American Dairy Science Association
http://www.adsa.org/discover/12th%20discover_2007.htm

Apr 22-25

ECO 2007. 15th European Congress on Obesity (Budapest, Hungary)
<http://www.eco2007.org/>

May 7-12

Helsinki 2007. European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Joint Sessions (Helsinki, Finland)
Workshop 17: Social Justice: Ideal Theory, Non-ideal Circumstances. Hosted by the Department of Political Science at the University of Helsinki
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/events/jointsessions/helsinki/index.aspx>

May 9-11

International Symposium on Functional Foods in Europe – International Developments in Science and Health Claims (Malta)
<http://europe.ilsa.org/events/upcoming/functionalfoods.htm>

May 14-18

ICGEB Biosafety. Introduction to Risk Assessment for the Deliberate Release of

GMOs: Assisting Decision-making in a Biosafety Framework (Ca' Tron di Roncade, Italy)
Organisers: Biosafety Unit, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy
http://www.icgeb.org/MEETINGS/CRS07/BSF1_14_18_May.pdf

May 24-26

Earth System Governance: Theories and Strategies for Sustainability'. 7th Annual Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)
<http://www.2007amsterdamconference.org/>

May 30-Jun 3

Changing Ecologies of Food and Agriculture: Building on 20 Years of Scholarship
Joint 2007 Annual Meetings of AFHVS and ASFS (Victoria, British Columbia)
Proposals due 31 January 31 2007
<http://www.afhvs.org/2007call.html>

Jun 11-12

Searching for the Animal of Animal Ethics, IX Annual Swedish Symposium on Biomedicine, Ethics and Society (Stockholm, Sweden)
Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1 March 2007
<http://www.bioethics.uu.se/symposium/2007/>

Jun 11-14

FELASA-ICLAS Joint Meeting 2007 (Cernobbio (CO) Italy)
Hosted by Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) and International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)
<http://www.felasa-iclas2007.com/>

Jun 12-13

3rd Annual Obesity Europe Conference
(Brussels, Belgium)
Organised by Epsilon Events Ltd
http://www.epsilonevents.com/eps_current_event.asp?id=30&type=current

Jun 16-19

ESHG 2007. European Human Genetics Conference (Nice, France)
European Society of Human Genetics
<http://www.eshg.org/eshg2007/index1.htm>

Summer 2007**Jul 3-6**

Animals and Society II. Considering Animals (Tasmania, Australia)
Deadline for submission of abstracts: 23 February 2007
<http://www.cdesign.com.au/animals2007/>

Jul 10-13

10th European Nutrition Conference (Paris, France)
Organised by the Federation of the European Nutrition Societies (FENS) and the Union Française pour la Nutrition et l'Alimentation (UFNA)
<http://www.fens2007.org/04-preliminary/preliminary.asp>

Jul 8-12

American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Annual Meeting (with ADSA, PSA, AMPA) (San Antonio, Texas, United States)
<http://adsa.psa.ampa.asas.org/meetings/2007/call.asp>

Jul 30-Aug 3

Applying Ethology to Animal and Ecosystem Management. 41st Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) (Yucatan, Mexico)

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 19 February 2007
<http://www.isae2007.com/>

Aug 12-16

Transgenic Animal Research Conference V1 (Tahoe City, California)
Hosted by the UC Davis Department of Animal Science and the UC Davis Biotechnology Program
Deadline for submission of abstracts: 20 June 2007
<http://www.cevs.ucdavis.edu/Cofred/Public/Aca/WebSec.cfm?confid=282&webid=1413>

Aug 20-24

Mobilities, Vulnerabilities and Sustainabilities: New Questions and Challenges for Rural Europe. XX11 ESRS Congress (Wageningen, the Netherlands)
European Society for Rural Sociology, Wageningen University
Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 December 2006; Deadline for final registration: 1 June 2007
<http://www.esrs2007.nl/>

Aug 21-25

6th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (Tokyo, Japan)
Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 March 2007
<http://www.knt.co.jp/ec/2007/wc6>

Aug 26-29

58th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Animal Production (EAAP) (Dublin, Ireland)
Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 March 2007
http://www.eaap2007.ie/reg_interest.htm

Sep 13-15

EurSafe 2007. Sustainable Food Production and Ethics (Vienna, Austria)
7th Congress of the European Society for Agriculture and Food Ethics

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1 March 2007

<http://www.nas.boku.ac.at/eursafe2007.html>

Sep 17-19

13th European Congress on Biotechnology (Barcelona, Spain)

Organised by the European Federation of Biotechnology

<http://www.ecb13.eu/index.php/>

Sep 17-19

World Conference on Research Integrity (Lisbon, Portugal)

Organised by European Science Foundation (ESF) and the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

http://www.esf.org/esf_genericpage.php?section=10&language=0&genericpage=2575

Sep 23-26

Harnessing Science for the Evolving Consumer: the Fit of Agricultural Biotechnology. ABIC 2007 (Alberta, Canada).

The Annual Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference (ABIC)

<http://www.abic.ca/abic2007/>

Sep 23-27

15th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (Nijmegen, the Netherlands)

<http://www.icaais.org/>

Sep 24-28

Workshop on Biosafety of GM Crops and the Evolution of Regulatory Frameworks: Issues and Challenges (Minas Gerais, Brazil)

Organised by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

<http://www.icgeb.org/MEETINGS/CRS07/BRASept07.pdf>

Sep 27-28

Expressions of Traditional Wisdom International Symposium (Brussels, Belgium)

Organised by Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences together with Royal Museum for Central-Africa and Royal Museums of Art and History of Belgium

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1 February 2007

<http://www.kaowarsom.be/>

Autumn 2007**Oct 24-27**

Aquaculture Europe 2007: Competing Claims (Istanbul, Turkey)

Organized by the European Aquaculture Society

<http://www.easonline.org/agenda/en/description.asp?id=384>

Publications

Books

New:

Nature, Value, Duty: Life on Earth with Holmes Rolston, III (International Library of Environmental, Agricultural and Food Ethics) by Christopher J. Preston and Wayne Ouderkirk (Editors), Publisher: Springer, (November 2006), ISBN: 1402048777

RSE: Towards a Global Pact in the Land, by Gustavo Secilio (Ed.), Publisher: Faculty of Agronomy, University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires (October 2006).

Ethical Eye - Animal welfare by the Council of Europe, Publisher: Council of Europe Publishing, (2006) ISBN 92-871-6016-3

Why Care for Nature?: In Search of an Ethical Framework for Environmental Responsibility and Education, (International Library of Environmental,

Agricultural and Food Ethics), by Dirk W. Postma, Publisher: Springer, (2006), ISBN: 140205002X

Previously published:

Ethical Eye – Cloning by A. McLaren, C. Tudge, J.B. Gurdon, J. Byrne, K.H.S. Campbell, C. Sureau C, A. Kahn, D. Mieth, M. Tardu and A. Albert, Publisher: Council of Europe Publishing, (2002), ISBN 9287147027

Reports

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Funding calls

Transdisciplinary Research Seminar Competition

Title: Sustaining future ecosystem services

Organisation: ESRC and NERC

Deadline: 8 February 2007

Description: Applications are invited for the 2006/07 Transdisciplinary Seminar Scheme, supported by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). The objective of this scheme is to support the development of trans-disciplinary research across social and natural sciences. Applications under this year's competition will be expected to bring together economists, social and environmental scientists, other experts and stakeholders to explore and develop ecosystems services approaches and help to build research capacity for future inter-disciplinary research in this field.

http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/jointfunding/OtherResearchCouncils/nerc-esrc_transd.aspx?ComponentId=17368&SourcePageId=5964

Open Call for Research Networks.

Title: Open Call for Proposals to Support European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research

Organisation: European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST)

Deadline: The next collection date for Preliminary Proposals is 30 March 2007.

Description: COST invites proposals for Actions contributing to the scientific, economic, cultural or societal development of Europe. COST's main objective is to stimulate new, innovative, interdisciplinary and broad scientific networks in Europe. It brings together research teams in different countries working on specific topics. It finances networking of nationally funded activities in supporting meetings, conferences, short term scientific exchanges and outreach activities. COST therefore does NOT fund research itself. Proposals playing a precursor role for other European programmes and/or involving young groups' ideas are especially welcome. COST is organised in nine scientific and technical Domains (Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences; Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies; Earth System Science and

Environmental Management; Food and Agriculture, Forests, their Products and Services; Individuals, Society, Culture and Health; Information and Communication Technologies; Materials, Physical and Nanosciences; Transport and Urban Development). Proposals not fitting this broad disciplinary structure are also welcome and will be assessed separately.

<http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=721>

Research Fellowships

Title: Research fellowships for scientists and scholars

Organisation: Humboldt Research Fellowships

Deadline: Open Call

Description: Fellowships for highly qualified, foreign scientists and scholars of all nationalities and disciplines holding doctorates, aged up to 40, from abroad for a long-term research stay in Germany (up to 600 fellowships per annum). Applications may be submitted for long-term research stays of at least 6 and at most 12 months; an extension of up to 24 months is possible. Researchers of all nationalities and disciplines may apply to the AvH directly at any time. There are no quotas for individual countries and disciplines. Funding is not available for short-term study visits, participation in conferences, or training courses.

http://www.avh.de/en/programme/stip_aus/index.htm

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