

Nourishing Europe: The Importance of Animal Proteins

Appeal of the Livestock Supply Chains to European Institutions

26th March 2025

European agriculture is recognized worldwide for its efficiency, crucial role in food security, and ability to innovate and address environmental challenges through balanced and sustainable solutions. Livestock farming, as recognized by the recent Vision for Agriculture and Food, is an essential part of EU agriculture, sharing the same natural cycle, to which it clearly brings important benefits that should be fully valorized and unlocked, to enhance biodiversity and economic and social vitality of rural areas. Agri-food production is based on a constant integration between animal and plant production— two systems closely linked in production and complementary in nutrition.

The European strategy for food, particularly protein production, must ensure a balance between various sources to guarantee food security, public health, and the sustainability of production and economic and social systems. An excessively unbalanced approach favoring plant proteins to the detriment of animal ones risks upsetting this balance, potentially affecting food security and health.

We call on the European Commission to develop a comprehensive EU Food Strategy that supports diversity in agricultural production, including livestock, mixed farming and sustainable intensification methods that optimize resource efficiency without compromising food security or rural livelihoods.

Why should we support an action plan that values animal proteins? We summarize it in three key points.

1. Threat to Food Security and Nutritional Sufficiency

- Meat, dairy, and eggs must be valued, harmful prejudices must be avoided, and dietary guidelines based on sound science must be promoted to protect consumers and producers.
- Livestock farming plays a crucial role in circular agricultural systems, utilizing marginal lands unsuitable for crops, converting 86% of inedible by-products into high-quality proteins, and providing essential nutrients that are difficult to obtain exclusively from a plant-based diet alone.
- Scientific evidence confirms that animal-based foods are important for human health, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with nutritional deficiencies.
- Nutritional deficiencies and the rise in cardiometabolic diseases represent a global challenge exacerbated by reduced access to quality nutrients. Inadequate food policies may intensify this phenomenon, with serious consequences for public health.

2. Economic and Social Impact on European Farmers

- A forced transition that shifts the production and food system away from animal-based agriculture would have devastating consequences for rural areas, especially in many European regions where livestock farming is an important economic and social pillar.
- European farmers have been investing for years in innovation, precision agriculture and regenerative animal farming to promote balanced and sustainable production, ensuring high-quality and healthy food while countering the spread of ultra-processed foods. To continue on this path, they need effective support policies.
- Reducing domestic production of animal products – while demand is growing - would favor imports, leading not only to a loss of competitiveness for European farmers but also increased global emissions, as GHGs are not subjected to borders.

3. Environmental Sustainability: Recognizing the Complexity of Agro-Livestock Systems

- Recognize farmers' consistent and significant achievements in promoting increasingly sustainable production, avoiding ideological biases that jeopardize livestock farming unfairly favor plant-based alternatives or alleged replacements.
- When assessing the whole impact of livestock production, it is essential to support scientifically sound environmental assessments that consider the entire life cycle of products rather than promoting biased narratives that ignore the contribution of well-managed livestock production to sustainability.
- Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) show that innovative livestock practices, precision farming and pasture-based livestock systems improve soil fertility, enhance carbon sequestration, and preserve biodiversity. The assumption that a shift only to plant-based diets would automatically reduce the environmental footprint is a misconception.
- Unlike fossil-based greenhouse gases, which remain in the atmosphere for centuries, methane produced by ruminants disappears within a decade. Recognizing this difference is essential to define balanced environmental policies based on scientific evidence and avoid oversimplifications that promote one-sided solutions, such as the indiscriminate increase in plant-based food consumption without a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impact;
- Livestock farming utilizes non-agricultural land and is complementary to other types of agricultural production. Therefore, a differentiated approach is needed, rather than directly comparing different systems without considering their specificities and contributions.
- In organic farming, the only fertilizer allowed by regulations is of natural origin, derived from livestock. Livestock, therefore, plays a crucial role. Manure – digestate in particular - nourishes the soil naturally, eliminating the need for chemical fertilizers. Consequently, reducing livestock leads to lower availability of natural fertilizer, resulting in greater reliance on chemical fertilizers.

Europe needs to support a diversified and resilient food system that harmoniously integrates crop and livestock production. Only in this way can true sustainability be achieved, ensuring food security and promoting prosperity for both farmers and consumers. This strategy is based on sound science and experimental methods, considering the unintended consequences of ideological policies in recent years, which have weakened European competitiveness, increased inflation, and impoverished the agricultural sector.

We therefore urge EU policymakers to:

- Develop a holistic EU Food Strategy based on the scientific method of experimentation, integrating both crop and livestock farming while ensuring fair treatment for all agricultural sectors.
- Support scientifically based environmental assessments that consider the full life cycle of food products, avoiding misleading interpretations that unfairly penalise livestock farming, potentially encouraging imports and thus increasing emissions.
- Support science-based nutritional assessments that confirm the importance of animal-based foods for human health, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with nutritional deficiencies.

We call on the European Commission to base future food policy on the scientific method of experimentation, moving away from ideological approaches that have unintended consequences and risk undermining the competitiveness and resilience of the agri-food system. This is the only way to ensure healthy, balanced and sustainable diets for European and global citizens in the long term.



1. International Butcher Confederation

2. The Liaison Centre for the Meat Processing Industry in the European Union - Clitravi



3. Danske Slaghterier



4. International Meat Secretariat



5. Interprofession nationale porcine - Inaporc



6. EAT Europe



7. Farm Europe



8. Asociatia Romana Acarnii



9. Romalimenta



10. Die Fleischer



11. Organizzazione Interprofessionale INTERCARNEITALIA



12. Associazione di Organizzazioni Produttori – AOP ITALIA ZOOTECCNICA



13. ASSOCARNI - Associazione Nazionale Industria Commercio Carni e Bestiame



14. ASSITAMA Associazione Italiana Aziende di Macellazione



15. Associazione Produttori Zootecnici Calabria - OP APZ Calabria



16. Cooperativa Produttori Arborea – OP ARBOREA



17. Organizzazione Produttori Azove – OP AZOVE



18. Associazione Produttori Asprocarne Piemonte



19. Associazione Produttori Carni Bovine UNICARVE



20. Organizzazione Produttori Assobovini – OP ASSOBOVINI



21. Organizzazione Produttori Vitello di Marca- OP Vitello di Marca



22. Organizzazione Produttori Vitellone dei Marca - OP Vitellone di Marca



23. Organizzazione Produttori Bovinmarche – OP Bovinmarche



24. Organizzazione Produttori Carni Sicilia - OP Carni Sicilia



25. Organizzazione Produttori Bovini da Carne di Qualità Certificata Unicarve – OP Unicarve



26. Cooperativa Zootecnica Scaligera - OP Scaligera





27. Consorzio Carni Qualità Piemonte

28. Associazione Produttori Vitelli a Carne Bianca - ALLEVIT 



29. Cooperativa agricola TERRAMADRE



30. Associazione Produttori del Boccarone



31. EUROPEAN LIVESTOCK AND MEAT TRADES UNION - UECBV

32. Kárpáti Borzderes Tenyésztők Egyesülete (Carpathian Brown Cattle Breeders Association)



33. Bábolna Brojler Kft. - Bábolna Brojler Ltd.



34. Bocskai Halászati Kft. - Bocskai Fishing Ltd.



35. Baromfi Termék Tanács - BTT (Poultry Product Board)



36. EAAP – EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

37. Limousin és Blonde D'Aquitaine Tenyésztők Egyesülete - Association of Hungarian Limousin and Blonde D'Aquitaine Breeders





38. Nyúl Terméktanács (NyTT) – (Rabbit Product Board)

39. Magyar Juh- és Kecsketenyésztők Szövetsége (MJKSz) - Hungarian Sheep and Goat
Breeders Association



40. MAGYAR SZÜRKE SZARVASMARHÁT TENYESZTŐK EGYESÜLETE - MSZTE

MAGYAR SZÜRKE SZARVASMARHÁT
TENYESZTŐK EGYESÜLETE

41. Magyar Bivalytenyésztők Egyesülete (MBTE) - Association of Hungarian Buffalo
Breeders



42. Tej Szakmaközi Szervezet és Terméktanács (TTT) – (Milk Interprofessional Organization and Product
Board)



43. Juh és Kecse Ágazatért Szakmaközi Szervezet - Interbranch Organisation for the Sheep and Goat
Sector



44. Magyar Állattenyésztők Szövetsége - MASZ – (Association of Hungarian Livestock Breeders)



45. Magyar Haszonállat-Génmegőrző Intézet (MGE) - Association of Hungarian Farm Animal Gene Conservation



46. Mangalicatenyésztők Országos Egyesülete (MOE) – (Association of Hungarian Mangalica Breeders)



47. Magyartarka Tenyésztők Egyesülete (MTE) – (Association of Hungarian Simmental)

48. Nemzeti Agrárgazdasági Kamara - NAK (Hungarian Chamber of Agricultural (HCA))



49. Bábolna Tetra Kft. - Bábolna Tetra Ltd.

50. Tej Szakmaközi Szervezet és Terméktanács (TTT) - Milk Interprofessional Organization and Product Board - TEJ SZIV



51. Vágóállat és Hús Szakmaközi Szervezet és Terméktanács (VHT) - Livestock and Meat Interbranch Organisation and Product Board (LMPB)



52. Svaz Chovatelů Holštýnského Skotu - Holstein Cz



53. Sdružení drůbežářských podniků



54. Ceskomoravska Drubezarska Unie - Cmdu



55. Ceskomoravsky Svaz Mleakarensky - Cmsm



56. Svaz Chovatelů Českého Strakatého Skotu - Cestr



57. Schp



58. Cesky Svaz Chovatelů Masneho Skotu - Cschms



59. Botillo del Bierzo IGP



60. Queso Cabrales DOP



Queso Cabrales
Consejo Regulador D.O.P.



CASTAÑA DE GALICIA
INDICACIÓN GEOGRÁFICA PROTEGIDA

61. Castaña de Galicia



62. Cordero de Extramadura - Corderex



63. Federación Empresarial de Carnes e Industrias Cárnicas - FECIC



64. Guijuelo DOP



65. Jamon de Trevelez IGP



Consello Regulador da DOP Arzúa-Ulloa



Consejo Regulador de la DOP Arzúa-Ulloa

66. Consello Regulador da DOP - Arzua Ulloa



67. Consejo Regulador Denominacion de Origin - Queso Mahon Menorca

68. Consejo Regulador Denominación de Origen - Manzana Reineta del Bierzo



69. Mexillon de Galicia DOP



70. Mel de Galicia IGP



71. Peras de Rincon de Soto DOP - La Rioja



72. Queso de la Serena DOP



73. Denominación de Origen - Queso Majorero



74. Queso Murcia al Vino DOP

D.O.P. QUESO DE MURCIA
D.O.P. QUESO DE MURCIA AL VINO



75. Queixo Tetilla DOP



76. Consejo Regulador Denominación de Origen - Queso Zamorano



77. Ternasco de Aragón - TA



78. Ternera Gallega IGP



79. Origen España



AGRÁRNÍ KOMORA
České republiky

80. Agrární Komora České republiky



81. Consorzio di Tutela della Bresaola Valtellina



82. Associazione Produttori Coppa di Parma



Český svaz
zpracovatelů masa

83. Český Svaz Zpracovatelů Masa - CSZM



84. Consorzio di Tutela - Culatello di Zibello

85. Polski Związek Hodowców i Producentów Bydła Mięsnego - PZHiPBM



86. Polskie Zrzeszenie Producentów Bydła Mięsnego - PZPB



87. Polska Federacja Rolna



88 Stowarzyszenie



89 Polskie Mieso - Polish Meat Association



90. Unia Producentów i Pracodawców Przemysłu Mięsnego - UPEMI



91 Polski Związek Hodowców i Producentów Trzody Chlewnej - POLSUS





KRAJOWA
RADA DROBIARSTWA
IZBA GOSPODARCZA

92. Krajowa Rada Drobiarstwa Izba Gospodarcza - KRDIG



FEDERACJA
BRANŻOWYCH
ZWIĄZKÓW
PRODUCENTÓW
ROLNYCH

93. Federacja Branżowych Związków Producentów Rolnych



POLSKA
PLATFORMA
ZRÓWNOWAŻONEJ
WOŁOWINY

94. Polska Platforma Zrównoważonej Wołowiny



95. Krajowy Związek Pracodawców - Producentów Trzody Chlewnej - POLPIG



97. Consorzio Finocchiona IGP



99. Istituto Salumi Italiani Tutelati - ISIT



100. Istituto Valorizzazione Salumi Italiani - IVSI



Zväz chovateľov osípaných
na Slovensku - družstvo

101. Zväz Chovateľov Osípaných na Slovensku Družstvo - CH Kampan

ANICE

ASOCIACIÓN DE INDUSTRIAS DE LA
CARNE DE ESPAÑA

102. Asociación de Industrias de la Carne De España - ANICE



ASSOSUINI

Associazione Suinicoltori Italiani

103. Associazione Suinicoltori Italiani - ASSOSUINI



104. Carni Sostenibili



Associazione Industriali
delle Carni e dei Salumi

105. Associazione Industriali delle Carni e dei Salumi - ASSICA

106. Organization for an European Geographical Indications Network -ORIGIN EU

oriGIn EU 

Organization for an european
Geographical Indications Network



SZSM

Slovenský zväz
spracovateľov mäsa

107. Slovenský Zväz Spracovateľov Mäsa - SZSM

108. Unione Nazionale Filiere Agroalimentari Carni E Uova - UNAITALIA



109. Consorzio Italiano Tutela Mortadella Bologna IGP



110. Consorzio del Prosciutto di Modena



111. Prosciutto di Carpegna



112. Prosciutto di Norcia IGP



113. Prosciutto di San Daniele



114. Prosciutto Toscano DOP



115. Salame Brianza DOP



116. Salame di Varzi DOP



117. Associazione Produttori Salame Felino



118. Salame Piemonte



119. Consorzio di Tutela Cacciatore Italiano DOP - Salamini Italiani alla Cacciatora



120. Consorzio di Tutela Salumi di Calabria DOP



121. Consorzio Salumi DOP Piacentini



122. Südtiroler Speck g.g.A. - Speck Alto Adige IGP

123. Consorzio Zampone e Cotechino Modena IGP



124. Parmigiano Reggiano



125. Grana Padano

