

# Virtual Symposium “Farm animal cognition and its implementation into animal husbandry and management”

**Date:** March 25-26, 2021

Organized by the Leibniz Institute for Farm Animal Biology (Jan Langbein, Christian Nawroth), Germany and the Centre of Proper Housing of Ruminants and Pigs (Nina Keil), Agroscope Reckenholz-Tänikon, Switzerland

## Summary

The symposium aims to bring together scientists working in different fields of learning and cognition in various animal species. The presentations will cover topics on the current state of farm animal cognition as well as how knowledge on the cognitive capacity of animals can be applied into husbandry practices to tackle welfare issues. Roundtable discussions will offer the opportunity to reflect on these topics in the light of current limitations and future interdisciplinary approaches and applications.

## Keynote speakers

[Dr. Rebecca Nordquist](#), Utrecht University

“Early life management and cognition in pigs and poultry”

[Dr. Fay Clark](#), University of Bristol

“Cognitive challenge and welfare in zoo animals”

## Program

### **Day 1 (25.3.2021, Thursday)**

09:00 – 09:30\* **Opening**

**Chair:** Sandra Döpjan

09:30 – 10:30 **Plenary:** Nordquist “Early life management and cognition in pigs and poultry”

10:30 – 11:00 Rault “Development of the joint-log-lift task in pigs: hints on cooperation?”

11:00 – 11:30 Nawroth “A cognitive test battery to assess the impact of selection objectives on learning and cognition in goats”

11:30 – 12:00 Chincarini “Looking into the sheep brain: the use of fNIRS and its limits”

12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch break**

**Chair:** Liza R. Moscovice

13:30 – 14:00 Wondrak “Who is a happy pig? – Does social status influence decision making of free ranging pigs in a cognitive bias task?”

14:00 – 14:30 Baciadonna “Anticipatory behaviour as a tool for assessing goat emotions”

14:30 – 15:00 Dudde “Serotonin, Sociality, Fear and Learning in Chickens”

15:00 – 15:15 **Break**

**Moderators:** Christian Nawroth & Katrina Rosenberger

15:15 – 16:15 **Roundtable**

### **Day 2 (26.3.2021, Friday)**

**Chair:** Christian Nawroth

09:00 – 10:00 **Plenary:** Clark “Cognitive challenge and welfare in zoo animals”

10:00 – 10:30 Neave “Managing for the individual: personality of dairy animals can inform tailored feeding management”

10:30 – 11:00 Baragli “An innovative perspective on animal-human multimodal emotional interplay: the horse as a model”

11:00 – 11:30 Tallet “Acoustic communication between humans and farm animals”

11:30 – 13:00 **Lunch break**

**Chair:** Jan Langbein

13:00 – 13:30 Manteuffel “Signal feeding: automated operant conditioning as the key element of a feeding system”

13:30 – 14:00 Rosenberger “Cognitive testing as enrichment for farm animals? Assessment of welfare outcomes and their relevance for housing”

14:00 – 14:30 Rorvang “Learning and cognition in cattle and its potential to optimize future housing conditions”

14:30 – 15:00 Krueger “Do husbandry and management create needs or offer opportunities for innovation in equids?”

15:00 – 15:15 **Break**

**Moderators:** Nina Keil & Jan Langbein

15:15 – 16:15 **Roundtable**

\* All slots represent Central European Time (CET)

## Uploading/sending your presentation

Please send us your final slides approximately 1 week before the symposium (so in case of emergency, we would still be able to present the slides if screensharing does not work).

## Presenting your talk

Please aim for a talk of 15-20 min, leaving 10-15 min for Q&As. Presentations will be given live, not pre-recorded (unless you prefer otherwise). Conditioned upon agreement of the individual participants, we will record all presentations and want to deposit on a public repository (Zenodo, Youtube, etc). We will send out a consent form shortly.

## Other information

Conditioned upon agreement of the individual participants, we aim to publish an extended abstract book of the presentations (plus potential graphs/pictures, further reading suggestions, etc) in a special issue published by the [International Society of Livestock Husbandry \(IGN\)](#). Since this [publication](#) is primarily addressed to the German-speaking public, we will translate the extended abstracts (max 2 pages) into German.

This announcement will be updated regularly (17. February 2021).

After the workshop, all information (including abstracts and slides of individual presentations) will be made accessible via this link to the Open Science Framework: <https://osf.io/pu6tj/>