

Organic livestock production is growing rapidly throughout the world, and sales are anticipated to increase dramatically in the coming years. Although organic livestock production has made significant advances over the last several decades, navigating complex regulatory frameworks and dealing with challenges facing the sector such as securing high levels of health and welfare in organic livestock systems need to be addressed on an international level. In addition, the organic movement needs to take advantage of and share the vast knowledge about organic livestock management practices that has been accumulated, from feed supply to market management.

This conference will focus on important issues concerning organic livestock and animal husbandry. It will concentrate upon health and food safety in organic livestock production systems, marketing trends, innovation in organic livestock production systems and livestock breeding strategies. Key figures from around the world will present the diversity of organic livestock systems, including opportunities and challenges on the horizon.

## Main objectives of the conference

- Identification of best practices in organic livestock production and marketing
- Advancement of animal health and welfare in organic production systems
- Facilitating trade in organic livestock products

## Target groups

- Livestock producers, processors, retailers and traders
- Developers of standards and certification systems for organic livestock
- Governmental or intergovernmental organizations involved in the sector
- Researchers, consultants and other service providers
- Veterinarians and animal nutritionists

The main issues covered by the conference program include:

## Livestock standards and regulations

- Meeting organic livestock standards around the world
- Livestock conversion issues
- Prevention and treatment of diseases
- Feed

## Trends and opportunities in organic livestock production

- Statistics on organic livestock
- Consumer demand
- Markets
  - ◊ terms and definitions
  - ◊ market structure and analysis
  - ◊ quality assurance
  - ◊ processing and distribution
  - ◊ trends in consumer markets
- Price comparisons
- Economic studies
- Establishing market niches
- Increasing profits
- Barriers to organic livestock production
- Organic dairy marketing failures in the United Kingdom

## Animal health and food safety in organic livestock production systems

- Current inspection and certification systems for animal health and welfare
- Farm level practices on animal health and quality aspects of organic livestock production
- Parasite control with minimal medicine inputs
- Animal stress minimization

## Best practices for the production and management of various animal species

## Livestock breeding



### **Program Committee**

Jim Riddle, Program Coordinator, United States  
Mette Meldgaard, IFOAM World Board Member, Denmark  
Dr. Mahesh Chander, Senior Scientist at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), India  
Dr. Robert Koelher, University of Minnesota  
Professor Neil Macgregor, New Zealand  
Representative from FibL, Switzerland

### **Conference Venue**

University of Minnesota, Continuing Education Center

### **Call for papers**

Papers are invited on all the aforementioned conference topics. Case studies and practical experiences from the field are strongly encouraged, but it is hoped to receive a full range of papers, from those of a grassroots and political nature to scientific and technical articles.

Single spaced, one to two page abstracts should be submitted by March 28 2006 along with a CV of a maximum of two pages.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the conference Program Committee. Send abstracts to [jriddle@hbc.com](mailto:jriddle@hbc.com), with the subject "Abstract IFOAM Conference Animal Production".

Authors will be informed by May 1st 2006 if their abstract has been accepted, and will then be invited to submit a final paper.

### **Sponsorship opportunities**

Your company/organization is invited to take advantage of the opportunity to participate as a sponsor of the First IFOAM International Conference on Animals in Organic Production. More than 200 experts from all over the world are expected to participate.

### **General Conference Sponsorship**

Platinum – 20,000 Euros  
Gold Sponsor – 10,000 Euros  
Silver sponsor – 5,000 Euros  
Bronze sponsor – 1,000 Euros

### **Sponsorship of Participation**

Any contribution to costs for participation from Developing Countries and Southeast European Countries are welcome.

For further details about the conference, including opportunities for sponsorship, visit the IFOAM website at [www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org) or contact Neil Sorensen, Manager, Communications and Events, at [n.sorensen@ifoam.org](mailto:n.sorensen@ifoam.org)

### **Conference Secretariat**

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