Animal Sciences in NAFC – Research Inst. for Animal Production Nitra, Slovak Republic

Jaroslav Slamečka

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RIAP Nitra

- Institute of Livestock Farming Systems, Breeding and Product Quality
- Institute of Farm Animal Genetics and Reproduction
- Institute of Nutrition
- Institute of Small Farm Animals
- Institute of Apiculture
Institute of Livestock Farming Systems, Breeding and Product Quality

Research in resource efficiency

- Development and application of genetic evaluation of farm animals (beef cattle, pigs, sheep)

- In vivo prediction of quantitative and qualitative traits of meat production (ultrasound, genetic markers)

- Support of sustainable breeding and use of local breeds (seeking of possibilities for ex situ in vivo and in vitro conservation)
Institute of Livestock Farming Systems, Breeding and Product Quality

Research in responsible livestock farming systems

- Studies and optimization of livestock farming systems with emphasis on ecological and low input systems

- Economic analyses of different production systems

- Evaluation of the building microclimate in terms of harmful gases concentrations and development of procedures for reducing the livestock emissions
Institute of Livestock Farming Systems, Breeding and Product Quality

Research in healthy livestock and people

- Evaluation of meat and meat products quality in terms of consumer acceptability (preference tests, sensory evaluation)

- Evaluation of milk quality and study of factors that affects it (zootechnical, hygienic, veterinary)

- Evaluation of milkability and udder health of dairy cows and ewes
Institute of Farm Animal Genetics and Reproduction

- Research in resource efficiency
- Production of genetically modified (transgenic) and IVF embryos
- Different analyses, magnetic separation and cryopreservation of embryos, spermatozoa and stem cells
- Genetic markers associated with the production and reproduction traits of farm animals
- Molecular characterization of autochthonous breeds (genetic resources)
Priorities in the research activities

Confocal and Electron Microscopy, CASA
Institute of Nutrition

Research in resource efficiency

Nutrition and physiology of digestion of polygastric, monogastric and model animals

Forage conservation

Research in healthy livestock and people

Using of animal model for human nutrition research
Institute of apiculture

Responsible livestock farming systems

1. Development of bee breeding in Slovakia, the genebank protection of indigenous Carniolan bees and its breeding management

2. Management and administration of the central register of beekeepers and geographical location of hives

Healthy livestock and people

3. Risk assessment of pesticides for bees and other beneficial insects

4. Uniform control system of bee health
Institute of Small Farm Animals

• Research in resource efficiency
  - controlled reproduction of small livestock using of biologically active substances
• Research in responsible livestock farming systems
  - maintaining of national poultry and rabbit breeds
  - research of hybridisation effects of rabbit synthetic populations
• Research in healthy livestock and people
  - bioaditives as alternative compensation of antibiotics in poultry and rabbits farm systems.
  - divergent selection to improve immunity system and health in broiler rabbits
National view on animal research in Europe. Which topics are of greatest importance?

- Providing of quality and safe animal products, which meet the requirements of consumers (incl. welfare of animals)
- Reducing the negative impact of livestock on the environment
- Biodiversity conservation
- Improving the competitiveness of European products on world markets
How to strengthen engagement of Central European and Baltic states animal production and sciences networks to European Research and Innovation programmes

• Higher involvement of non-member countries to ATF
• Building the connections through joint projects (ATF and non-ATF members) with secured funding
Thank you for your attention