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EDITORIAL
Slovak Journal of Animal Science: Smart Livestock for Science

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Slovak Journal of Animal Science (SJAS) is an international peer-reviewed scientific journal edited by National Agricultural and Food Centre (NPPC) – Research Institute for Animal Production Nitra, Slovakia and published by the SciCell publishing house. Over 55 years of activity, SJAS journal publishes original scientific papers, critical reviews and short communications covering all areas of animal biotechnology, genetics and breeding, physiology, reproduction, nutrition and feeds, quality of animal products, sustainable management, ethology and economics of cattle, horse, pig, sheep, goat, poultry, rabbit, bee, fish, and other farm animals. Papers are published in English.

I feel it is my duty to thank all the previous Editors, who have succeeded one another over the years, and the expert Reviewers who contribute to the scientific quality of the published articles.

Together with Editorial Team, we are constantly working to improve the technologies used to enhance the visibility of your scientific paper mainly on the World Wide Web and in scientific databases. After a period of "re-construction" of Editorial Board, a new website (https://www.sjas-journal.org) and a new platform for papers' submission, we are back to publishing 4 issues per year.

In the present Editorial, I am going to introduce the contents of the articles collected and published in the first issue of 2023 year.

Alade et al. carried out an experiment to evaluate the effect of ground corn cobs inoculated with *Zymomonas mobilis* (CCZ) on growth response, apparent nutrient digestibility and ileal digesta viscosity of broiler chickens. The study concluded that wheat offal could be replaced with 50 % and 100 % CCZ in the ration of broiler chickens with positive economic returns.

Alayande et al. assessed the efficacy of varying levels of mycotoxin binder supplementation on growth performance, carcass characteristics and serum metabolites of broiler chickens fed aflatoxin maize-based diets. It was concluded that addition of mycotoxin binder (clay type) to aflatoxin contaminated diets was able to ameliorate the effect of aflatoxin on birds, and that the recommended inclusion is 1 %.

Adeoye et al. managed a study assessing the quality and nutritional composition of table eggs from exotic breed (ISA brown) and improved Nigerian indigenous chickens (FUNAAB alpha) laying hens at different ages. Authors concluded that age effect was noticed on some internal and external qualities of eggs in both

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breeds under consideration. Both age and breed did not significantly affect the nutritional components of the table eggs. In future, eggs from more exotic breeds (Noiler, Sikka brown etc.) and Nigeria indigenous breeds should be assessed.

Erdenling Gurbilek *et al*. had the purpose to investigate the safety and humoral immune response of *Brucella melitensis* Rev.1 vaccine before the start of mass vaccination. Authors observed that *Brucella melitensis* Rev.1 vaccine, used conjunctively, was safe enough for the animals, and vaccinated animals had high vaccine-induced immune response.

Ayankoso *et al.* reviewed the inclusion of activated charcoal in the diet of livestock or through other means. According to Authors, it is relevant due to the recent development in the used of feed additives to modulate the utilization or efficiency of diets and arrest of mycotoxin in animal feeds. From this review, it could be concluded that inclusion of activated charcoal was observed to improve the performance, feed efficiency and utilization, and efficiently serve as toxin binder in livestock feed and drinking water.

Editorial Team looks forward to evaluating your submitted contributions and providing all necessary support to Authors in order to best serve animal science and the scientific community, with commitment to research integrity and the highest publishing ethics.

Enjoy reading!

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