

EDITORIAL

Slovak Journal of Animal Science: A Look at Breeding Management Natural Additives, and Agro-Waste in Livestock Production

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The second issue of Slovak Journal of Animal Science 2023 focused on three hot topics, such as the genetic improvement of local livestock breeds, and the use of natural additives and agro-waste in livestock production.

It is well known that an adequate genetic variation in livestock populations is necessary both for adaptation to future climate challenges together with increasing consumer demand, and for constant genetic improvement of economically important traits. Therefore, a continuous selection to improve productivity of small local breeds is crucial for their long-term existence.

On the other hand, there is a constant increasing interest in the use of natural substances in livestock production, with the aim to enhance the productivity in the perspective of animal welfare, farm sustainability, and quality of products. The last aspect, but not the least, the research for food autonomy is more relevant than ever in animal nutrition, and in particular the search for alternative sources of protein to other much more expensive ingredients.

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

Staron *et al.* investigated the changes in the free acidity of honey after administration of three anti-varroosis treatments with the use of formic acid (FA), oxalic acid (OA) and essential oils (Bisanar®) as the active substances in commercial preparation. Authors outlined that treatments by OA and Bisanar® are more suitable to suppress varroosis during the summer without significant increase of free acidity in honey.

Akinbola *et al.* evaluates the growth performance, body linear parameters and egg quality of Yoruba ecotype chicken and their F1 and F2 crosses using Lohmann brown cocks under a low-input management system. This study showed that the F1 and F2 progenies performed better in growth, body linear parameters and the egg quality parameters compared to the indigenous chicken. It can, therefore, be concluded that crossbreeding of indigenous chicken with Lohmann breed is beneficial for improving their growth performance and egg quality parameters, thereby enhancing their productivity.

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Gagandeep *et al.* intended to assess the potential of a mature empty pea shell (*Pisum sativum*) as a feed additive to the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) diet. According to Authors' study, pea shell inclusion was not a better option to partially replace fish meal but can successfully be used to replace plant-based protein sources. There is a lack of research using pea shells as a feed ingredient in fish diets, which needs further study in this field.

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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