

ATF theme for 2027

July 15th, 2026

Each year, ATF organises two events on a central theme.

Following the usual schedule, in 2027, two events are planned: a (one-day) symposium with the relevant EAAP Commission at the EAAP Annual meeting (end of August 2027 in Dublin, Ireland), and the 17th ATF Seminar in Brussels, November 2027.

To better align with the EAAP Commissions, ATF is invited to submit possible topics for 2027 by the EAAP annual congress in Hamburg (Germany), early September 2026. Following discussion on topics at the last ATF General Meeting followed by a ranking vote, we are pleased to announce the selected theme and invite members and engaged partners to provide ideas of potential speakers.

The theme¹ should align with ATF's main missions and with the recent SRIA and Vision paper:

1. Promote a sustainable and competitive animal production sector in Europe deserving a significant role in agriculture and a circular bioeconomy;
2. Support knowledge development and innovation, foster adoption by farmers and industries (EIP Agri multi-actor approach) with a value chain approach and provide input for European research agendas;
3. Promote dialogue between policymakers, knowledge providers, industry and civil society, as a representative of the EU Livestock sector, on a subject deserving awareness and social acceptance and requiring multi-disciplinary approaches using a large panel of disciplines including social sciences and economics;
4. Align with policy initiatives and consider current framework changes (Vision for Agriculture and Food, Farm to Fork Strategy, Green Deal, Open Strategic Autonomy...)
5. Align with other EU research initiatives within the Research and Innovation strategic programming, including EIP-Agri, FACCE & HDHL JPIs, SCAR CWG, EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe", European Partnerships (Agroecology, PAHW, AgriData, Foodsystems...)

¹ ATF themes of past annual events:

2012: "Resource use efficiency",
 2013: "Responsible farming systems",
 2014: "Putting the i in livestock: innovation for a productive and sustainable livestock farming",
 2015: "A transatlantic perspective on visions and strategic research agenda for animal productions in Europe and the US" and "Precision livestock farming",
 2016: "Livestock, the key in a circular Bioeconomy",
 2017: "Food integrity in the food chain: How can the animal production sector contribute?",
 2018: "Balance Production/Consumption: Animal farming for Humans' well-being and planetary health",
 2019: "Towards a climate smart European livestock farming",
 2020: "What livestock has to offer to biodiversity & healthy soils",
 2021: "Going beyond the feed vs food competition: crops and animals together to address food and nutrition security",
 2022: "Livestock emissions and the COP26 targets"
 2023 "Sustainable livestock systems – what does this mean?"
 2024 "Livestock are more than food"
 2025 "Livestock farming systems in next generations: can we imagine the future?"
 2026: "European livestock farming in a continuously changing world"

LS2F3S: The role of Livestock Systems in Safeguarding Food and Feed Security, Safety and Sustainability

Livestock systems play a strategic role in ensuring **Food and Feed Security, Safety and Sustainability (LS2F3S)** within the European bioeconomy. By converting biomass that is often not directly edible by humans into high-quality nutrient-dense foods, livestock contribute to the efficiency, resilience, and circularity of food systems. In addition, livestock systems provide essential co-products such as manure, organic fertilizers, and bio-based materials, supporting soil fertility, nutrient recycling, and reducing dependence on fossil-based inputs.

Within the European policy framework, livestock production contributes to the objectives of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, the EU Protein Plan, all of which recognize the importance of strengthening strategic autonomy, resilience, and sustainability of European food systems.

The [Vision for Agriculture & Food](#) highlights the need to ensure a competitive, resilient and future-proof agri-food sector, capable of delivering affordable and sustainable food while supporting viable farm incomes and rural vitality. Complementarily, the recently published [Livestock Strategy](#) recognizes the value of Livestock systems and emphasizes the importance of innovation, generational renewal, and balanced value chains, recognizing that farmers are central actors in ensuring food security and maintaining the vitality of rural areas. Livestock systems are an integral component of this Vision and Strategy, contributing significantly to the EU agricultural output, rural employment, and territorial cohesion. Research and innovation are recognized as key drivers to support the transition towards more sustainable livestock production systems that improve resource efficiency, animal health, and environmental performance while maintaining competitiveness.

Livestock systems contribute to food and nutrition security by providing essential nutrients such as high-quality protein and micronutrients (vitamins, minerals and trace elements). Livestock also enable the valorisation of co-products from agriculture, food processing and biofuel production, supporting circular economy approaches that reduce waste and improve resource efficiency.

Feed security remains a critical component of resilient livestock systems. The EU currently relies significantly on imported protein sources for livestock feed as indicated in the [EU Protein Action Plan](#) and is in addition highly dependent on external markets for the supply of micronutrients and amino-acids, and other feed additives, exposing supply chains to market volatility and geopolitical risks. Increasing the use of locally produced protein crops, novel feed ingredients and feed additives, and alternative biomass sources can improve resource autonomy while reducing environmental impacts associated with land-use change and transport.

Livestock systems also contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation through their role in maintaining grasslands, which represent important carbon sinks and biodiversity reservoirs. Mixed crop-livestock systems support nutrient cycling, soil health, and resilience to climate variability, contributing to sustainable land management across diverse European territories, including marginal and less-favoured areas.

Ensuring food and feed safety remains fundamental to maintaining consumer trust and protecting public health. European livestock production operates under robust regulatory frameworks covering feed safety, traceability, animal health, and biosecurity. Emerging risks related to climate change, global trade dynamics, and evolving disease patterns highlight the importance of continued research and innovation to strengthen preparedness and risk management capacities.

The LS2F3S approach recognizes livestock as an essential component of sustainable and resilient food systems, contributing to strategic autonomy, climate resilience, circular bioeconomy objectives, and rural vitality.

Key policy links

- European Commission Vision for Agriculture and Food
- EU Livestock Strategy
- EU Protein Action Plan

- Farm to Fork Strategy
- European Green Deal
- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- EU Bioeconomy Strategy
- EU Protein Plan
- Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the Animal Task Force