



# BREEDERS TALK GREEN

**ANIMAL BREEDING AND CLIMATE "AMBITION" - December 2020**

## SHORT WEBINAR REPORT

At the start of our first Webinar of the series, **Ana Granados Chapatte, EFFAB's Director**, welcomed over 250 participants, thanked the speakers for joining us and introduced the work of EFFAB and FABRE-TP and also the code of good practices for responsible breeding, Code EFABAR.

The session continued with **Lukas Visek, Member of Executive Vice President Frans Timmerman's Cabinet**, presenting the EU Green Deal and opportunities offered by the Farm to Fork Strategy. During his presentation, Lukas highlighted the opportunities and challenges the transition to the Farm to Fork Strategy will bring and focused on the importance of technology, including data for breeding. Lukas also stressed the potential of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices that the European Commission is intending to launch in the upcoming period. This Code of Conduct needs to be used the right way, to promote truly sustainable products.

**Nicolas Gengler, Professor at the University of Liège** presented on feeding on selection indices to achieve climate-friendly goals. In his presentation, Nicolas gave our audience an introduction to the basics of Animal Breeding, breeding programs and goals and how breeding can be green by explaining all the concepts and how they are interlinked. Nicolas stressed the need for investment and research for measuring emissions and the importance of international collaboration for information and knowledge sharing.

**Karoline B. Wethal and Kirsti Winnberg, Researchers at Geno**, a Breeding and AI company, presented the Norwegian Red's breeding program for a more climate friendly cow, past and future perspectives. In their presentation they showed what their breeding program was able to achieve and the goals set for the future. It is important to highlight the amount of traits and goals needed to achieve the targets for a more sustainable livestock and the work that breeding companies like Geno are doing everyday to improve their performance. There is a need for research and innovation to support both large scales and smaller projects to achieve more food with a lower climate impact.



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**Johan van Arendonk, Chief Innovation & Technology Officer at Hendrix Genetic**, a genetics and technology company closed up the panel session. His presentation focused on the breeding of climate friendly animals, lessons learned and future perspectives for poultry and pigs. Johan explained the role of pig and poultry breeding in improving sustainability of animal production, the importance of balanced breeding programs and the innovations to accelerate the contribution of animal breeding. Johan also mentioned that even more can be done by working through international and national collaboration, having transparent value chains that reward innovations as well as motivated people on the field.

**A fruitful session of Q&A** was then launched with our speakers. The main topics of discussion included the real contribution of GHG emissions from the livestock sector using 100 year GWP and the trade offs of organic farming. It was highlighted that the Farm 2 Fork strategy is not only about climate change but also about protecting biodiversity, improving animal welfare. The discussion also included the relevant goals for robustness in animals and the European Commission's Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing when it comes to market "sustainable food".

To conclude, **Craig Lewis, Chairman of EFFAB** was invited to present the main conclusions and takeaways from this first Webinar. Craig stressed how livestock agriculture is vital to Europe and the world, and how Animal Breeding plays a key part in livestock agriculture to tackle the challenges of climate change and sustainability. We need to produce efficiently to reduce the environmental food print of livestock and this can be achieved through breeding with its many tools.

EFFAB and FABRE-TP would like to thank all participants and speakers for joining actively the session and for all their inputs. We are looking forward to continuing our webinar series next year and hope you will join us in discussing how Breeding is talking Green.