



University of
Natural Resources and
Life Sciences, Vienna

Department of
Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Division of Livestock Sciences

Teaching activities

Lecturers of the Division of Livestock Sciences are teaching courses and advising students during their bachelor and master theses in the following study programmes:

- Bachelor Agricultural Sciences
- Bachelor Equine Sciences (in cooperation with the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna)
- Master Livestock Sciences
- Erasmus Mundus Master Animal Breeding and Genetics
- Master Organic Farming
- in addition, lecturers act as guest teachers in courses at other universities worldwide

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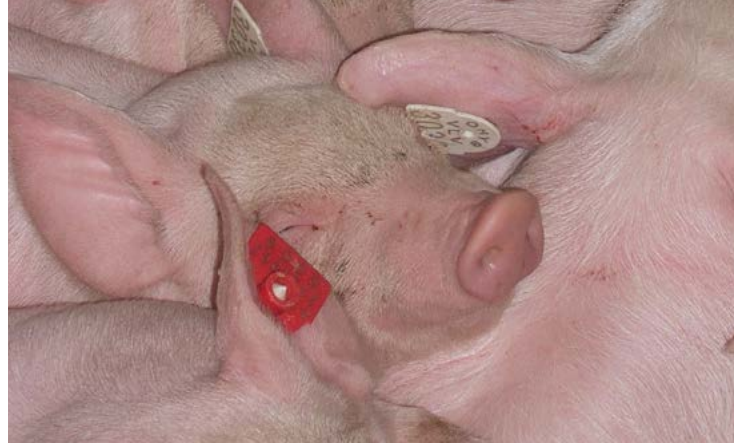
www.boku.ac.at/nuwi.html



Division of Livestock Sciences

**University of Natural Resources and
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Department of Sustainable Agricultural Systems
Division of Livestock Sciences
Gregor-Mendel-Straße 33, 1180 Vienna, Austria



About us

The Division of Livestock Sciences is part of the Department of Sustainable Agricultural Systems of BOKU-University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna.

Within the larger framework of sustainability of land use and a systemic inter- and transdisciplinary view on agriculture, the objective of our activities is to contribute to a better understanding of the complexity and dynamics of livestock farming.

Analysis and the development of improvement strategies in the fields of quantitative genetics and animal breeding, applied ethology and animal husbandry, applied animal nutrition and feeding systems represent the core elements of our contributions to sustainability in the context of animal production systems.

Working groups within the Division of Livestock Sciences

Animal Breeding:

The main fields of research of the working group are

- quantitative genetics
- conservation genetics
- design of breeding programmes
- animal production and breeding in the tropics

Both basic and applied research projects are conducted, e.g. on search of genes for longevity of cattle and on the use of high density molecular markers (SNPs) in genomic selection of cattle. Development of procedures of genetic evaluation for health traits in cattle and production traits in sheep for routine application by breeding organizations is another focus. Projects on animal breeding in the tropics are mostly run jointly with international partner institutions.

Animal Husbandry:

The main fields of research of the working group are

- applied ethology
- on-farm animal welfare assessment (protocols)
- innovative parameters and approaches to herd health and welfare planning

The working group covers on the one hand fundamental research such as sleep in ruminants, heart rate variability as a measure of (positive) emotions as well as functions of social licking in dairy cows. However, there is also a strong

focus on applied research focusing on on-farm animal welfare assessment and innovative welfare parameters, epidemiology of welfare problems, improvement of health and welfare through herd health and welfare planning (often in the context of organic farming), development and comparison of housing systems.

Feeding Systems:

The main fields of research of the working group are

- feed resources and their development
- feeding management
- (ecological) sustainability of livestock production systems
- animal nutrition in organic livestock production

Activities in this field are usually conducted in cooperation with national and international partners. Feeding experiments, field studies and modelling of nutrient flows are the approaches most frequently used.