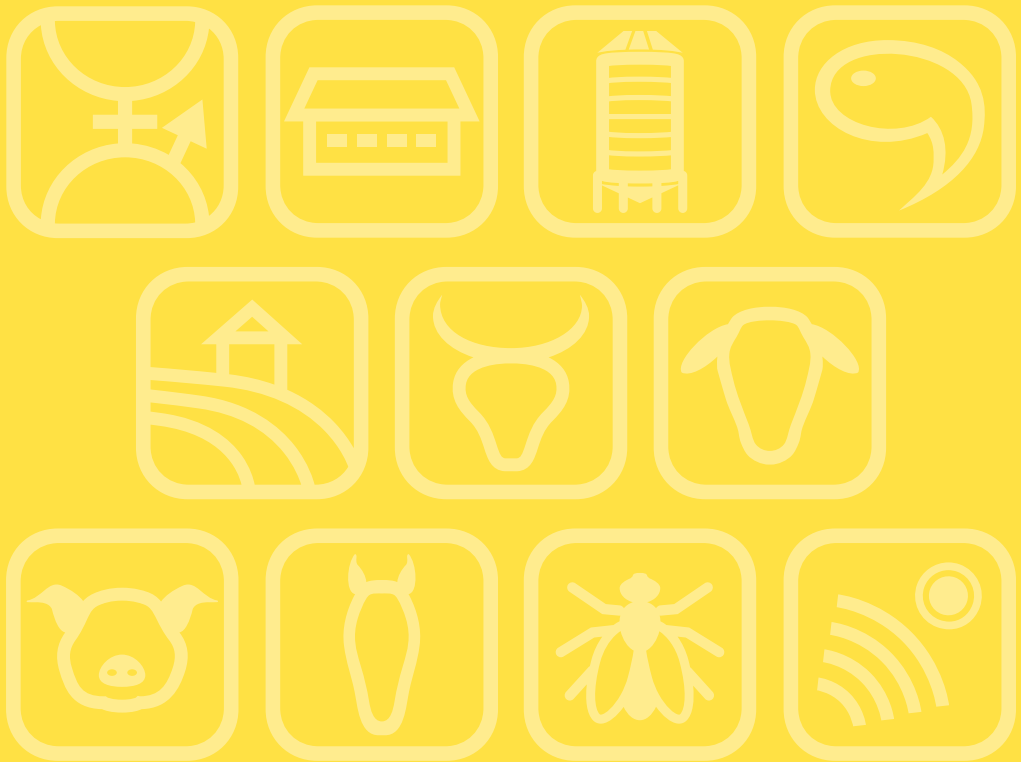


# Book of Abstracts of the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science



**Book of abstracts No. 25 (2019)**  
**Ghent, Belgium,**  
**26-30 August 2019**

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European Federation of Animal Science**



**EAAP**

European Federation of Animal Science

The European Federation of Animal Science wishes to express its appreciation to the  
Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali (Italy) and the  
Associazione Italiana Allevatori (Italy)  
for their valuable support of its activities.

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**EAN: 9789086863396**  
**e-EAN: 9789086868902**  
**ISBN: 978-90-8686-339-6**  
**e-ISBN: 978-90-8686-890-2**  
**DOI: 10.3920/978-90-8686-890-2**

**ISSN 1382-6077**

**First published, 2019**

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**The Netherlands, 2019**



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**Effect of *Cistus ladanifer* L. tannins as silage additives**

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The effects of ensiling lucerne with *Cistus ladanifer* condensed tannins (CT) on in silo fermentative parameters and on *in vitro* organic matter digestibility (OMD) were studied. Lucerne forage was sprayed with different solutions of *C. ladanifer* CT extract in 60 ml of water to dose 0 (control), 40 (L40), 80 (L80) and 120 (L120) g of CT per kg of lucerne DM and was ensiled. The inclusion of CT in the silages caused a proteolysis reduction. Also the rumen undegradable protein increased linearly with CT inclusion ( $P < 0.01$ ). However, a linear decrease of 5, 13 and 22% of OMD was observed for the silages L40, L80 and L120. A level of 40 g/kg DM of CT applied to ensiling lucerne seems adequate to reduce proteolysis in silo and improve protein utilization with a slight depression in OMD. So, a metabolic trial was conducted with six crossbred Romani rams averaging  $69 \pm 5$  kg live weight, in three simultaneous  $2 \times 2$  Latin square design. The rams were fed with Lucerne silage containing 9 l of molasses per ton, diluted in water (50:50 v/v) and treated with 0 (Control) and 40 g of *C. ladanifer* CT/kg of Lucerne DM (L40). The effect of *C. ladanifer* CT as lucerne silage additives on digestion, nitrogen balance, and nitrogen excretion was evaluated. No significant differences were observed between *in vivo* DMD and OMD between silages, that averaged 52 and 53%, respectively. The apparent digestibility of CP was lower in L40 than in control silage (64 vs 69%), but no differences in nitrogen retained by the animals were observed. The pattern of N excretion was affected by treatments, with lower urinary N and higher faecal N with L40 than in Control. The results suggest CT added to silage protect protein from ruminal degradation. The shift in N excretion from urine to faeces is environmentally beneficial since urine N can rapidly volatilized into the environment and faecal N is incorporated into soil increasing nutrient availability.

**Supplementation of sheep fed low-quality *Eragrostis curvula*: a meta-analytical study**

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The objective of this study was to evaluate relative effects of supplemental starch (1.407 and 5.210 g starch/kg BW) and urea (0.186 and 0.701 g urea/kg BW) on the efficiency of N utilisation in sheep fed low-quality *Eragrostis curvula* hay (ranging between 0.4% N and 0.7% N, >65% NDF) using meta-analytical methods. The dataset used was compiled from four supplementation studies and six trials, totalling 123 data points, using linear mixed model meta-analysis (REML analysis). Prior to meta-analysis, the discriminating variables were evaluated using canonical variate analysis (GenStat®). The relative importance of starch and/or urea supplementation were determined using Akaike's information criterion, as well as the R-square of the adjusted models. Neither starch nor urea supplementation had an effect on NDF intake or digestibility ( $P > 0.05$ ). However, starch supplementation influenced the microbial N supply (MNS) model the most, with MNS increasing linearly as starch supplementation was increased ( $P < 0.05$ ,  $R^2 = 0.602$ ). In contrast, rumen ammonia N concentration (RAN) and the ratio between MNS and N intake (NI) models were best described by urea supplementation. As such the MNS: NI ratio decreased curvilinearly as urea supplementation was increased ( $P < 0.05$ ,  $R^2 = 0.402$ ), while RAN increased linearly as urea supplementation was increased ( $P < 0.05$ ,  $R^2 = 0.585$ ). In addition, a relationship was established between RAN and the starch supplemented to available crude protein (CP) intake ratio ( $P < 0.05$ ,  $R^2 = 0.761$ ), where available CP intake was calculated from CP intake from urea and forage intake – acid digestible insoluble CP intake. Sheep fed low-quality *E. curvula* hay needed to be supplemented with at least 2.2 g starch/kg BW/day to fulfil maintenance N requirements through MNS. Based on MNS: NI ratios, the minimum quantity of urea needed to be supplemented to sheep in this meta-analysis was 0.5 g urea/kg BW. In addition, the relationship between RAN and starch: available CP ratio suggested that the optimal ratio of starch supplemented and available CP needed to be at least 2:1.