

2019
2021

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATED



FESASS

*Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale
et la Sécurité Sanitaire*



STRONGER TOGETHER!



DIDIER DELMOTTE

President of FESASS

While building Europe no longer seems to be as mobilizing as it has been in previous decades, Animal Health testifies on a daily basis to the value of joint and united action at EU level. Faced with contagious pathogens that do not know borders, it is vital to pursue a common health policy. The mobilization and solidarity of all are absolutely necessary to ensure the success of efforts undertaken to date but also to guarantee the effectiveness of prevention. Indeed, with respect to securing the animals' health status, even more than elsewhere, a single weak link can compromise everyone's actions. FESASS and its member organizations are committed on a daily basis to supporting and developing this collective management of Animal Health alongside farmers and public services.

The increase in health threats to Europe is unfortunately undeniable. In this context, the adaptation of the European policy and its regulatory framework, initiated in recent years, is a priority by 2021. In addition to responding to threats, the aim is to enable farmers to manage Animal Health efficiently in their farms and to encourage further progress in Animal Health.

Our commitment for the coming years is fully in line with these objectives. In doing so, we wish to guarantee the health quality standards and the sustainability of European livestock farming while contributing to animal welfare and the protection of public health and the environment.

Brussels, 4 April 2019

COMMON FUNDAMENTALS

As European Federation of Animal Health services, FESASS supports a sustainable animal health and food safety policy everywhere in the EU.

Our work contributes to a responsible management of livestock and natural resources in order to produce sufficiently healthy, safe and affordable food with the least stress for the animals and for the environment as well as to strengthen value added in rural areas and to address the depopulation of farming and rural areas.

Fighting hunger in the world was and is not possible without animal husbandry. The breeding and keeping of livestock is a major cultural heritage of mankind and shapes our rural regions. Trade and transport are essential for multifaceted agriculture – based on the division of labor - and necessary to market products and animals as well as to generate income.

Agriculture, and particularly livestock, is exposed to natural and society-related risks such as drought, pathogens in fauna and wildlife, international traffic of goods, animals and people: risks which are not caused by farmers but which can jeopardize their existence.

Good governance at national, European and International levels must secure the livestock sector on an ongoing basis. The solidarity of farmers and their organizations is necessary and important in order to:

- successfully manage the risks of animal husbandry and agriculture,
- promote the role of farmers in society and the importance of rural areas,
- optimally utilize the available opportunities and funds,
- innovate agriculture and husbandry, keeping in mind the expectations of the society and the environment,
- compete transparently and ethically in the global market.

Competition is only possible with healthy animals. Therefore, financial assistance for the prevention and prophylaxis of diseases and infections by common or

public funds does not distort competition. Rather, such a funding provides a level playing field.

Health is the basis and prerequisite for the welfare of humans and animals, as well as for food supply and food safety.

The risks to the health of livestock and to food safety by movements of animals and people, contaminations or other environmental impacts should be minimized.

The anatomical conditions and immunity of female farm animals ensure a high level of fetal protection and enable the production of offspring, which are free from specific infections. This was and is the basis for any successful disease eradication and control.

The health and the welfare of livestock is the responsibility of the animal owner and is protected mainly by:

- careful handling of animals,
- animal-friendly husbandry systems,
- feeding that meets the nutritional demands,
- maintenance and optimal development of the genetic resources and of the productive performance of livestock by balancing performance, disease avoidance and vitality,
- appropriate biosecurity, which minimizes the introduction and spread of disease and,
- sufficient care, hygiene and prompt veterinary therapy.

The diagnosis of infections and diseases by accepted clinical, epidemiological and laboratory diagnostic methods (based on the state of science and technology) is the basis for an objective and comparable assessment of the health status of animals and herds. The certification of that status, according to uniform European standards, contributes significantly to the safety of livestock and food production.

In this sense and in the interest of European livestock farmers, FESASS advises decision makers in politics, administration and business, based on evidence from agricultural science and veterinary medicine as well as from experience in animal husbandry and food production.



OUR VALUES



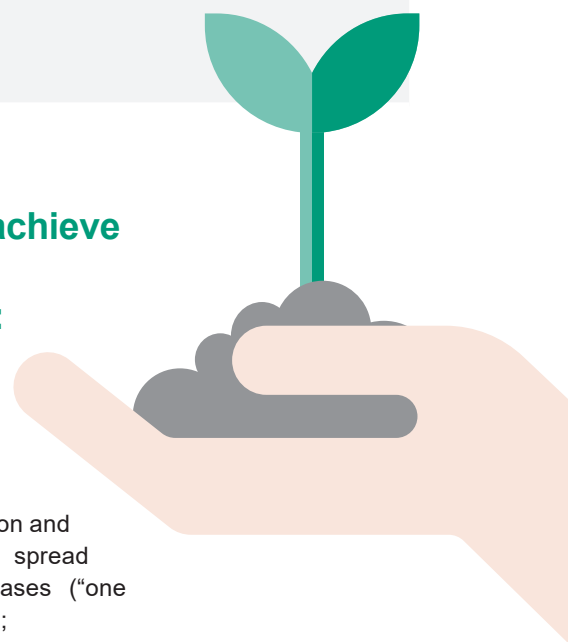
POLICY OBJECTIVES

Our primary objective is to improve animal health and welfare by:

1	Promotion of effective and timely surveillance, prophylactic and therapeutic measures;	5	Optimisation of genetic resources through research and breeding programmes that take into account performance capacity, disease resistance, robustness and longevity;
2	Development and implementation of coordinated, systematic control and eradication programmes for significant animal diseases and infections;	6	Promotion of recognized methods of diagnosis and innovative products;
3	Promotion of farm biosecurity, with the aim of minimizing the spread of animal diseases between and within farms;	7	Promotion of uniform standards of certification of animal health status, in relation to unregulated diseases, at the national and European level;
4	Fostering the welfare of animals, by promoting respect and consideration for animals, appropriate systems of animal husbandry and a diet appropriate to the nutritional requirements of each individual species as well as the exchanges of good animal welfare practices that are implemented in Member states through our members and respective dissemination activities;	8	Cooperation with educational programmes.

Furthermore, we firmly believe that our efforts to achieve optimal animal health and welfare will contribute positively to a wide range of additional objectives:

- To the **profitability** of livestock farming, by controlling and eradicating diseases of economic importance to european livestock farmers;
- To the **sustainability** of livestock farming, by mitigating the economical, environmental and social risks associated with such enterprises;
- To **food safety**, by reducing or eliminating at farm level the burden of actual or potential zoonotic pathogens and contaminants;
- To the **responsible management of the environment** by reducing waste, thereby minimizing the production of greenhouse gases;
- To **human health** by improving animal health and welfare, resulting in a reduced need for the use of antibiotics and other veterinary medicinal products in
- livestock production and mitigating the spread of zoonotic diseases ("one health approach");
- To the **food supply** by provision of safe food at affordable prices;
- To the **sustainability of rural communities** by improving the profitability of farms and other enterprises based in rural areas;
- To the **biodiversity of species and breeds** and;
- To **consumer protection**.



OUR ACTIVITIES

- Provide evidence-based advice to European farmers, animal health professionals, decision-makers and disseminators issued from politics, administrations and businesses operating in the agri-food sector.
- Regular exchange of information and views on animal health-related issues with the directorate generals and services of the European Commission, their advisory groups, the Standing committees of the European Parliament, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and national Parliaments.
- Adoption and promotion of common positions on animal health-related matters at national, European and international level.
- Coordination and harmonization of systematic animal health programmes between member organizations, and, as a consequence, among EU member states.
- Dissemination of best practice information on animal health between our members and other interested parties, through the organization of international conferences and other forums for knowledge exchange.



- Identification of critical knowledge gaps in the field of animal health and food safety and supporting of publicly funded research in order to address such deficiencies.
- Maintaining a good partnership with other European umbrella organisations that are active in the field of animal husbandry in order to promote the role of farmers and the importance of animal production; support dissemination of good practices and educational programmes addressing the general lack of knowledge in relation to livestock production and animal health (e. g. in schools).



NEXT STEPS

Active participation in the implementation of the new European regulatory framework (Animal Health Law, Regulation on Official Controls and Regulation on Veterinary Medicinal Products) in partnership with the other relevant European organizations.



Renew and intensify our network involving the European Commission and the European Parliament, by personal contacts and organising events.



Participation in working groups and committees of the European institutions and organizations.



Participation in the activities of International organizations (like OIE, FAO, etc.).



Recruiting new members, mainly from countries of the European Union.



Conferences and technical days on current topics and demands regarding the livestock sector and food production.



Development and distribution of own positions concerning:

The prudent use of antibiotics and management of multi-resistant pathogens.



The responsible and ethical practice of livestock farmers in dealing with animals and other resources.



The environmental impact of animal husbandry.



The avoidance of old and new animal epidemics.



Improve Information for member organizations and their members, i. a. via internal websites or circular mails.



Promotion of the STOC Free project (<https://www.stocfree.eu/>) and dissemination of its results.



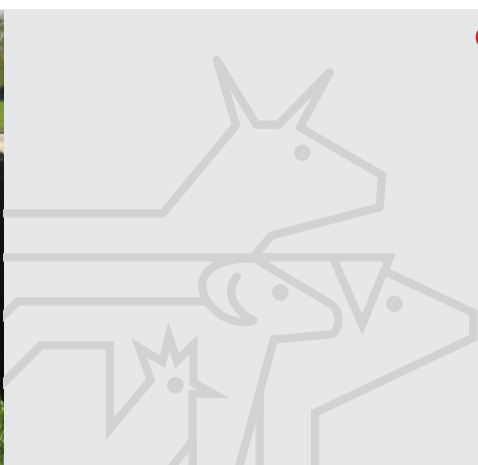
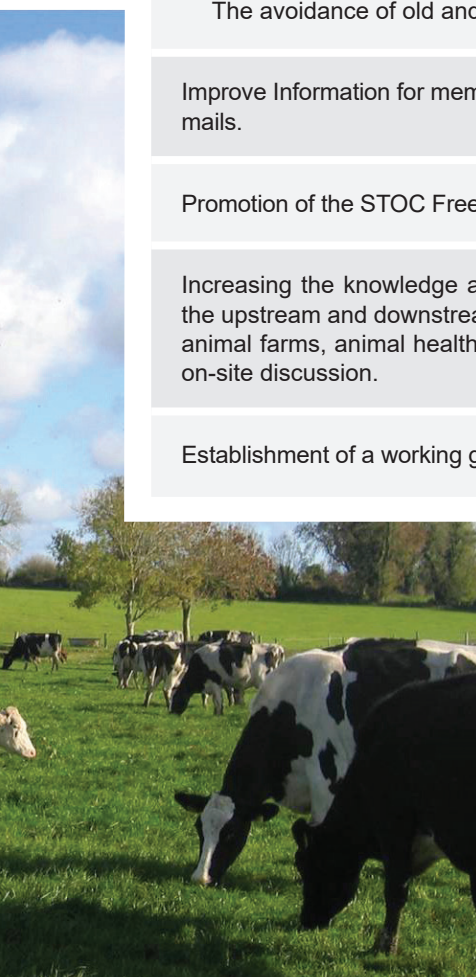
Increasing the knowledge and understanding of the reality and the needs in the livestock sector, and the upstream and downstream sectors, of disseminators through first hand experiences like e.g. visits of animal farms, animal health services, laboratories, livestock shows or auctions with the opportunity for on-site discussion.



Establishment of a working group focused on the cooperation of our laboratories.



● High priority ● Priority ● On longer term



OUR MEMBERS

(National or Regional) organizations of livestock farmers and other professions of the animal health sector, which support and represent our goals, values and activities in their country or region.



In 2018 FESASS comprised the following members (cf. www.fesass.eu):

1	Animal Health Services in Flanders, DGZ	Belgium	
2	ARSIA, Wallonia	Belgium	
3	Federation of Animal Health Services, GDS France	France	
4	German Animal Breeders' Federation, ADT	Germany	
5	National Animal Breeders' Association, AIA	Italy	
6	Breeders' Cooperative, Convis	Luxembourg	
7	Animal Health Services, GD	The Netherlands	
8	Regional Animal Health Services, UADS Alentejo	Portugal	
9	UCADESA	Portugal	
10	Pig Producers' Association, ANPROGAPOR	Spain	
11	Animal Health Ireland, AHI	Ireland	