In recent years, current animal husbandry systems have been a prominent topic in public discussions in many European countries. It seems that part of our animal husbandry systems does no longer match consumers’ and/or citizens’ expectations and criticism has been increasing. The discussion is often highly polarized and involves emotional engagement from various participants. In this debate it remains unclear what kind of economic, environmental and ethical priorities different groups of society have, and which choices they would make if they were aware of the related trade-offs that available production systems imply.

By now, it is firmly established that perceptions, criticism as well as expectations of animal husbandry vary a lot between different societal groups. Criticism includes e.g. restrictions to animals’ ability to express their natural behavior, deficits in animal health, emissions and other environmental concerns, but also questions if and to what extent it would be ethically acceptable to use animals for human consumption at all.

This special issue calls for papers paying special attention to the current debate on the future of animal husbandry in Europe with a focus on the analysis of society’s perceptions and expectations. It will therefore contribute to the debate and provide recommendations as to how to develop agricultural production systems when aiming at increased social acceptance of farm animal husbandry.

Topics

- Development of socio-economic methods to analyse societal expectations
- Analysis of societal expectations towards and/or acceptance of animal husbandry
- Analysis of trends of animal products’ consumption in Europe
- Trust in private and public labels and standards regarding animal welfare
- Methodological and empirical contributions to the analysis of consumers’ willingness to pay
Economic evaluation of communalities and dichotomies of environmental and animal welfare contributions

Analysis of trade-offs between high animal welfare and other objectives

Recommendations towards a socially accepted animal production

Submission procedure

Please submit your full paper to Martin Banse (e-mail: martin.banse@thuenen.de). For the full paper submission please follow the “Instruction for Authors” of the GJAE (http://www.gjae-online.de/hinweisfuerautoren/pages/). Full papers will follow the usual double-blind review process of the GJAE. Papers that pass the review process and cannot be fitted into the special issue will be published in a regular issue of the GJAE.

Deadlines

Submission of full papers for review: January 31, 2018.

The special issue will be published as the second issue on September 1, 2018

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