

FRICK DECLARATION

of the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference Alliance 2026 on 28-30 April in Frick, Switzerland - "Organic Animal Husbandry: A Role Model for the Future of Livestock?"

We, the participants of the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) Conference 2026, held at FiBL in Frick, Switzerland (28–30 April 2026), representing researchers, farmers, policymakers, advisors, certification bodies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders from across the world, declare that we:

1. **Recognize organic animal husbandry as a model for resilient livestock systems** integrating ecological sustainability, animal welfare, biodiversity protection, human well-being, and viable rural livelihoods through holistic, low-input, and circular farming approaches. We call upon policymakers to broaden their concept of sustainability and evaluate livestock farming not by mere productivity or GHG emissions, but by its contribution to healthy ecosystems and socially and ethically meaningful agriculture.
2. **Affirm that farm animals are sentient beings** whose dignity, integrity, and welfare must remain central to livestock production, breeding, management, and policy decisions. They are integral partners within agricultural ecosystems rather than production units for profit.
3. **Promote locally adapted and context-specific livestock systems** that respect ecological, cultural, and socio-economic diversity, recognizing that there is no universal model for sustainable livestock development. At the same time, the shared principles and foundations defined by IAHA should guide livestock development, policymaking, research and advisory services across different contexts. To achieve this, global participation of diverse voices, including those of indigenous peoples, is crucial.
4. **Strengthen integrated agroecological farming systems** by enhancing crop–livestock integration, biodiversity conservation, soil health, nutrient recycling, grassland-based production, and One Health approaches while prioritizing locally available resources and minimizing competition between animal feed and human food.
5. **Support transparent, reliable and inclusive organic standards and certification systems** that safeguard organic principles, traceability and consumer trust, while supporting accessible approaches such as Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) to reduce barriers for smallholder farmers, particularly in the Global South.
6. **Recognize farmer knowledge, long-term practical experience and participatory learning** as essential foundations of organic livestock systems. Invest in farmer-led innovation, participatory research, indigenous knowledge, and ethnoveterinary practices, while fostering collaboration among farmers, researchers, extension professionals, policymakers, and consumers.

7. **Conserve and promote indigenous livestock breeds and locally adapted genetic resources** as vital assets for climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, disease resistance, and cultural heritage.
8. **Develop fair and resilient value chains** that ensure equitable returns to producers, strengthen regional processing and marketing infrastructure, and enhance consumer awareness of the environmental, ethical, and nutritional value of organic livestock products.
9. **Encourage policies and research that balance productivity with ecological limits**, acknowledging trade-offs among animal welfare, climate resilience, biodiversity, and food security, while operating within planetary boundaries.
10. **Call upon the global organic movement to embrace the principle of "Sufficiency"** as a guiding value for future livestock systems, recognizing that sustainable animal production must respect environmental carrying capacity, ethical responsibilities, and intergenerational equity. As organic livestock practitioners we commit to ethical self-criticism by continually asking under what conditions animal husbandry remains socially and ecologically legitimate in the future.

Adopted at the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance Conference, FiBL, Frick, Switzerland, 30th April 2026.

Detailed contents of the Conference can be found in the conference proceedings at:
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/animal-science-proceedings/vol/17/issue/1>

Editors; IFOAM-Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, July 2026