



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance Conference 2026:
**Organic animal husbandry:
a role model for the future of livestock?**

28 – 30 April 2026

Conference programme

Tuesday, April 28		Wednesday, April 29	Thursday, April 30
09:00 AM			
09:30	Arrival of participants	Thematic Session 3	Declaration Workshop 2
10:00			
10:30	Welcome Coffee	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11:00			
Welcome from the foundation board			
11:30	Plenary Session 1	Thematic Session 4	Plenary Session 4: Conclusions
12:00			
12:30			Lunch
01:00 PM			
Lunch		Lunch	
01:30			
02:00			Excursion on farms
02:30	Plenary Session 2	Plenary Session 3 Panel Discussion	
03:00			
03:30	Thematic Session 1	Coffee Break	
04:00			
04:30	Coffee Break	Declaration Workshop 1	
05:00			
05:30	Thematic Session 2		
06:00		IAHA Steering Group meeting Time for meetings FiBL visit	
06:30			
Apéro riche at FiBL		Dinner at FiBL	

Welcome to the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) Conference 2026

Dear participants

It is a great honour to chair this conference on behalf of the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA), and of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL in Switzerland, who are the co-organisers of the conference.

Currently, there are many debates on the future of livestock farming, often polarised between highly efficient animal production versus very extensive forms of livestock systems or even vegan farming with no animal products. Extreme views often disconnect animals from balanced and holistic production systems. In contrast, organic livestock husbandry aims at uniting sustainability and ethics based on integrative systems and ethical values, providing a clear role and respect for the animal in the agricultural system.

Goal of the conference

With this conference we want to discuss if "Organic animal husbandry can be a role model for the future of livestock?" as formulated in our title. The goal of this strategic vision conference is to give answers to central questions and challenges for organic animal husbandry. The organisers accepted more than 50 essay texts and 50 abstract texts for posters. They are grouped in 10 thematic areas linked to central questions and sessions. In conference workshops, we discuss and advance declarations on our positions, and draft roadmaps for the sustainable future of global animal husbandry.

What is IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance?

IAHA is a platform and informal network of individuals and organisations interested in strengthening the development of organic animal husbandry around the world. IAHA was founded during the 2nd IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference, September 2012, in Hamburg. In the past, IAHA organised pre-conferences linked to the IFOAM Organic World Congresses, in 2014 in Istanbul, in 2017 in Delhi and 2021 in Rennes.

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of sponsoring organisations, companies and institutions which facilitated the physical participation of speakers from the Global South at this conference. A special thanks goes to the organising committee, the Board of FiBL in Switzerland for supporting the conference, and to everyone who contributed to the organisation of the conference.

Otto Schmid, Chair of IAHA





Overview of Sessions per day and room

Tuesday, April 28

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Room Lausanne
Room Wien

Thematic Sessions 1

Survival of the fittest? Piglets in organic systems
Reducing animal numbers: Is the feed-no-food paradigm realistic?

Room Frankfurt
Room Brüssel
Room Budapest
Room Eurre
Room Oberwil

Towards organic animal breeding programs
Animal welfare: New perspectives and role models
Ethno-veterinary medicine for healthy animals
Agroforestry and crop-livestock integration: Lessons learned
Calf rearing in the organic dairy sector

5:00 - 6:30 PM

Room Wien

Thematic Sessions 2

Regenerating soils and boosting biodiversity with organic livestock systems

Room Frankfurt
Room Brüssel

Care vs killing: Ethical reflections on eating animals
Making organic livestock value chains work: Challenges from around the world

Room Budapest
Room Eurre
Room Oberwil

Innovations in organic cattle management
New indicators for improved animal welfare
Organic dairy systems: Can we intensify sustainably?

Wednesday, April 29

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Room Wien

Thematic Sessions 3

How many animals are enough? Towards a "sufficiency principle" in organic agriculture

Room Frankfurt
Room Brüssel

Lighthouse farms for organic agriculture
Ecology, climate change and animal welfare: Synergies and trade-offs in pasture-based systems

Room Budapest
Room Eurre
Room Oberwil

Novel perspectives on One Health
Innovations in organic chicken systems
Indigenous livestock breeds and breeding systems

11:00 - 12:30 AM

Room Wien

Thematic Sessions 4

From principles to practice: Challenges and case examples of transitioning to organic in emerging economies

Room Frankfurt
Room Brüssel
Room Budapest

Scaling up organic and traditional livestock systems
Farmers' perspectives on animal welfare and biodiversity
Climate change adaptation: Solutions to improve feed production and availability in dry land pastoralist systems

Room Eurre
Room Oberwil

Circularity & food waste: Taking care of our nutrients
Innovations in organic pig systems

Plenary Session 1

11:00–12:30 AM Building: Alvarium Room: Lausanne Chair: Barbara Früh Proceeding Nr.

Welcome from the foundation board *B. Lehmann*

Bridging the Knowledge Gap in African Organic Livestock Farming *S. Kuria* 1

A look back as an organic farmer, and a look at today and the future as president of Bio Suisse *U. Brändli* 2

Plenary Session 2

2:00–3:00 PM Building: Alvarium Room: Lausanne Chair: Rennie Eppenstein

Opening from the organisation committee *F. Leiber*

Thematic Session 1

Survival of the fittest? Piglets in organic systems

3:00–4:30 PM Building: Alvarium Room: Lausanne Chair: Mirjam Holinger Proceeding Nr.

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Reducing animal numbers: Is the feed-no-food paradigm realistic?

3:00–4:30 PM Building: Alvarium Room: Wien Chair: Florian Leiber Proceeding Nr.

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Thematic Session 1

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Regenerating soils and boosting biodiversity with organic livestock systems

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How many animals are enough? Towards a „sufficiency principle“ in organic agriculture

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From principles to practice: Challenges and case examples of transitioning to organic in emerging economies

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Thematic Session 4

Circularity & food waste: Taking care of our nutrients

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Workshop 1

4:00–5:30 PM

Advancing organic animal husbandry in Africa and the Americas

Building: Alvarium Room: Lausanne Chair: Julia Lernoud

Advancing organic animal husbandry in Asia

Building: Alvarium Room: Wien Chair: Mahesh Chander

Advancing organic animal husbandry in European ruminant systems

Building: Alvarium Room: Frankfurt Chair: Mette Vaarst

Advancing organic animal husbandry in European pig and poultry systems

Building: Tilia Room: Brüssel Chair: Barbara Früh

IAHA Steering Group meeting

5:45–6:30 PM Building: Tilia Room: Brüssel

Workshop 2

Sufficiency, planetary boundaries and Climate change

9:00–10:30 AM Building: Alvarium Room: Lausanne Chair: Florian Leiber

How many animals are enough? Towards a "sufficiency principle" in organic agriculture

Reducing animal numbers: Is the feed-no-food paradigm realistic?

Ecology, climate change and animal welfare: Synergies and trade-offs in pasture-based systems

Climate change adaptation: Solutions to improve feed production and availability in dry land pastoralist systems

Agroforestry and crop-livestock integration: Lessons learned

Circularity & food waste: Taking care of our nutrients

Breeding and advancements in animal husbandry

9:00–10:30 AM Building: Alvarium Room: Wien Chair: Anet Spengler

Towards organic animal breeding programs

Indigenous livestock breeds and breeding systems

Calf rearing in the organic dairy sector

Survival of the fittest? Piglets in organic systems

Organic dairy systems: Can we intensify sustainably?

Innovations in organic cattle management

Innovations in organic chicken systems

Innovations in organic pig systems

Integrating traditional livestock systems into organic

9:00–10:30 AM Building: Alvarium Room: Frankfurt Chair: Rennie Eppenstein

Scaling up organic and traditional livestock systems

Making organic livestock value chains work: Challenges from around the world

From principles to practice: Challenges and case examples of transitioning to organic in emerging economies

Recognizing the value of traditional livestock systems for people, livelihoods and biodiversity

Regenerating soils and boosting biodiversity with organic livestock systems

Lighthouse farms for organic agriculture

Health and animal welfare

9:00–10:30 AM Building: Tilia Room: Brüssel Chair: Barbara Früh

Care vs killing: Ethical reflections on eating animals

Farmers' perspectives on animal welfare and biodiversity

Ethno-veterinary medicine for healthy animals

Novel perspectives on One Health

Animal welfare: New perspectives and role models

New indicators for improved animal welfare

Plenary Session 4, Conclusions

11:00–12:00 AM Building: Alvarium Room: Lausanne Chair: Rennie Eppenstein

Excursions IAHA 2026 Conference

All excursions depart at 1:00 PM from FiBL

Free shuttle service

During the conference, a continuous free shuttle service will operate between Frick train station and the FiBL campus.

First departure at 07:43 AM from Frick train station.

Last departures from the FiBL campus are as follows:

Tuesday: 8:30 PM

Wednesday: 10:30 PM

Thursday: 6:00 PM



Wi-Fi information for guests

Wi-Fi name: FiBL-Extern

Password: 100%Biologisch!

Restaurant info

The conference fee includes the following:

Lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Choice of: - **Menu 1** or **Menu 2**

Served with: - Salad or Soup

- Dessert

- Water (still or sparkling)

- One hot drink (coffee or tea)

Please note:

Meals are served until 1:30 PM. Additional items from the restaurant (e.g. snacks, drinks) are not included in the conference fee and must be purchased separately. For information about allergens, please ask the conference staff.

Coffee Break

Free hot drink (coffee or tea).

Evening Events

We look forward to welcoming you to our evening events following the conference programme:

Tuesday, 28 April: Apéro riche at FiBL

Wednesday, 29 April: Dinner with live music at FiBL

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