

EU Livestock Strategy – focus on breeding

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Vision for Agriculture and Food



An **attractive** and **predictable** agri-food sector where incomes enable farmers to thrive, attracting future generations

ATTRACTIVENESS



An agri-food sector that is **competitive** and **resilient** in the face of rising global competition and shocks

COMPETITIVENESS & RESILIENCE



A **future proof** agri-food sector that is functioning within planetary boundaries

SUSTAINABILITY



An agri-food sector that values **food**, fosters **fair working and living conditions** and vibrant and well-connected rural and coastal areas

FAIRNESS



3.2. A competitive and resilient sector in the face of global challenges

Towards a fairer global competition

(b) The Union framework for a competitive agri-food sector

In addition, the Commission will work on strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of sensitive sectors such as **livestock**, present a simplification package that will contribute to the competitiveness of European farmers while preserving the contribution to societal objectives, propose an extension of the country of origin labelling in line with sectoral specificities and Single Market rules and intensify its promotion policy.

Supporting the resilience of agricultural markets

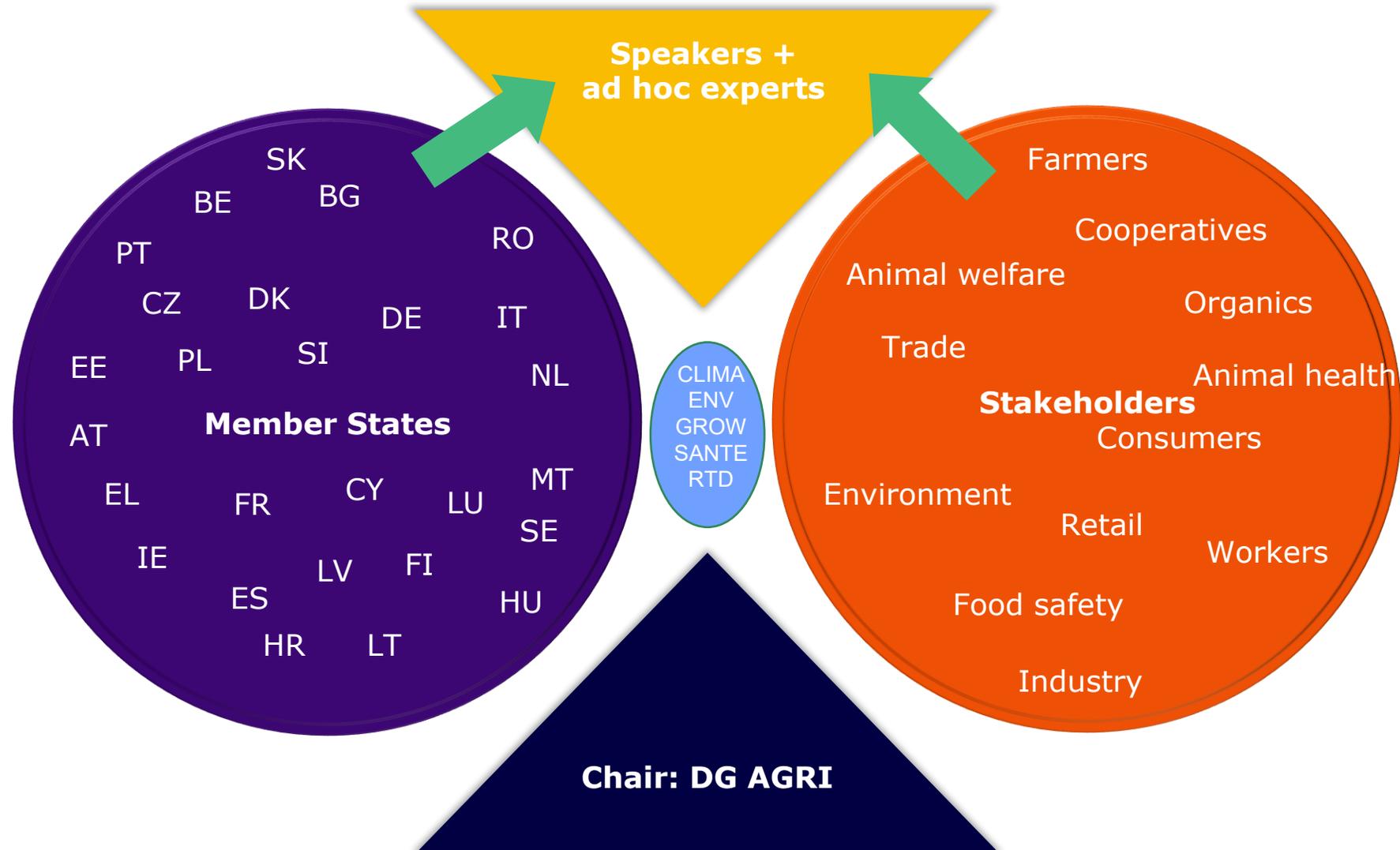


The EU **livestock** sector is particularly vulnerable to different shocks and global competition. High EU standards require EU **livestock** farmers to be world leaders, but their efforts are not reciprocated globally where they compete on an uneven level playing field. Such standards also come at a cost that the market does not always reward. **Livestock is and will remain an essential part of EU agriculture, competitiveness and cohesion.** Sustainable **livestock** is crucial for the EU economy, viability of rural areas and preservation of the environment and of rural landscapes. It is a sector in which innovation can thrive and bring tangible benefits.

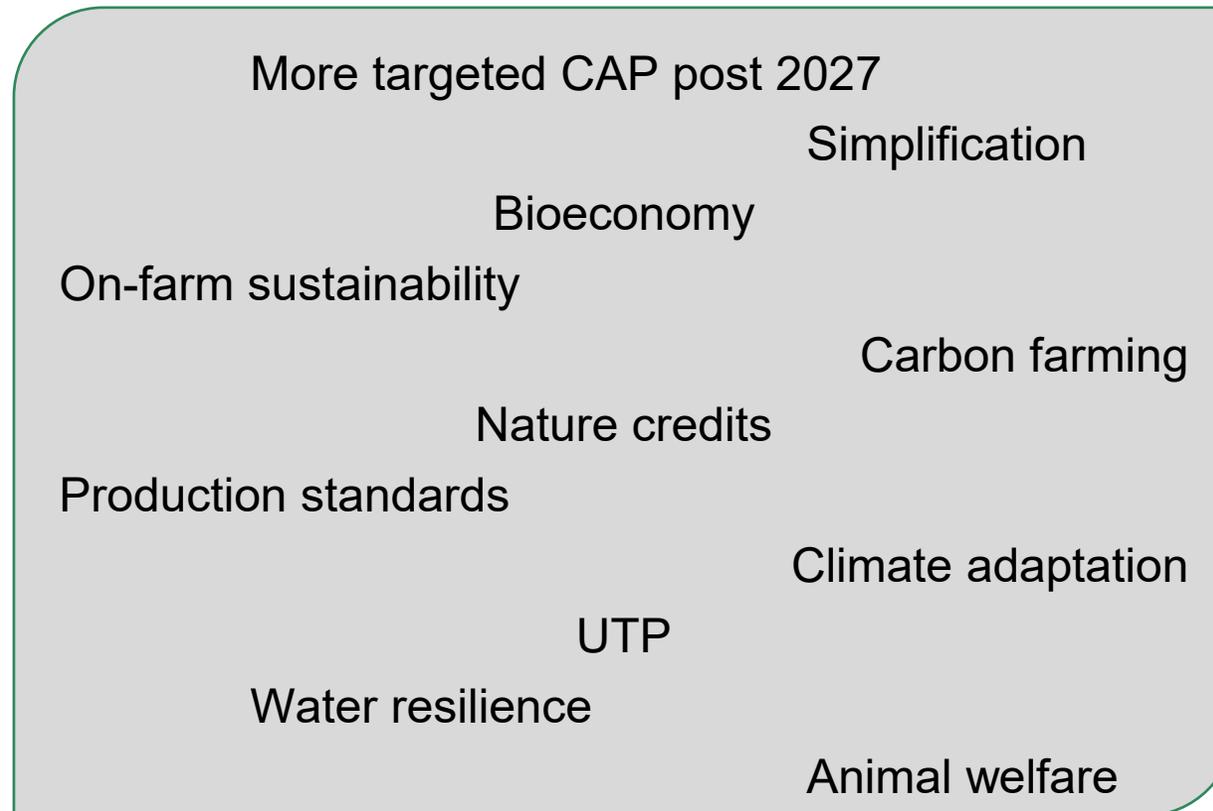
The EU **livestock** sector requires a **long-term vision** that respects the diversity and sustainability of **livestock** production across Europe. Protecting this diversity means that there cannot be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach but rather targeted, territorial solutions for the sector's competitiveness and sustainability. A powerful drive could be given by designing conducive conditions for the development of an "excellence **livestock** production chain". The Commission will launch a **work stream on livestock** to develop policy pathways that: a) provide a diagnosis of the sector's challenges, including global competition; b) propose appropriate tools to accompany the sector and, where justified, reciprocity measures; c) seek ways to address its climate/environment footprint, including ways to valorise the link between **livestock** production and maintenance of environment- and climate-valuable grasslands through more extensive **livestock** systems beneficial to the preservation of biodiversity and landscapes; d) foster investments, technological development and innovation; and e) enhance the development of sustainable production models.



Livestock Workstream - Composition



Livestock Workstream - Process



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Role of animal breeding & genetics in livestock sustainability

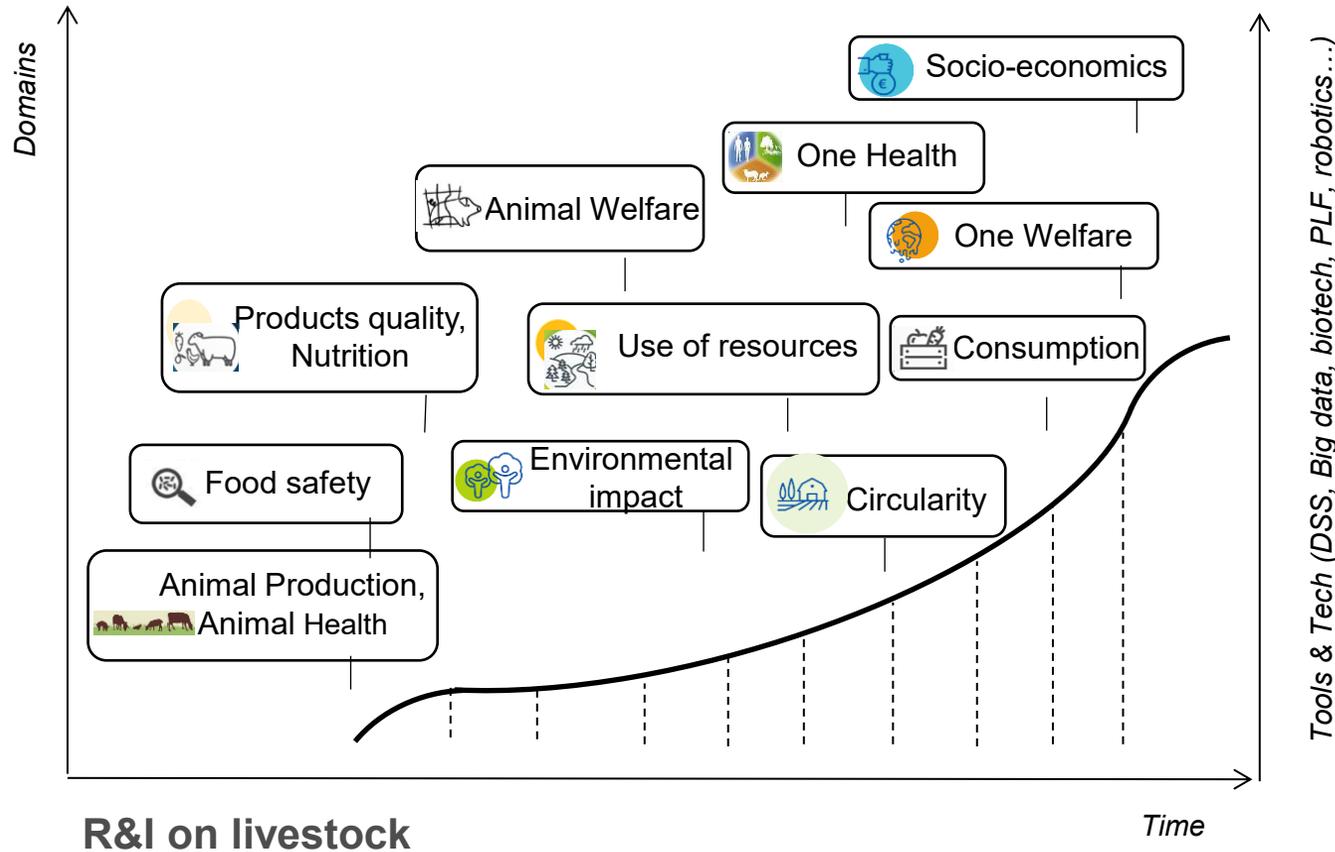
- **Environmental Benefits:** develop breeding methods to reduce resource use and environmental impacts
- **Enhancing Resilience and Competitiveness:** increase genetic variability to enhance productivity and withstand diseases and environmental stresses
- **Innovation Driver:** use new genetic techniques to create better ways to breed and manage animals sustainably

How does EU research help?

- Through **Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe**, up to Work Programme 2025: around **€680 million** devoted to livestock for **breeding** for resilience and efficiency, feeding, sustainable use of resources, and animal health and welfare
- Example: **Feed-a-Gene** (on monogastric animals) made progress on new feed resources (e.g. protein-rich feed from clover, lucerne, soybean and rapeseed), on animal **breeding** (e.g. traits and models for digestive efficiency and robustness) and on novel precision feeding systems to improve efficiency and competitiveness (two precision feeding system prototypes for growing pigs)
- [factsheet-agriresearch-animal-production_en.pdf](#)



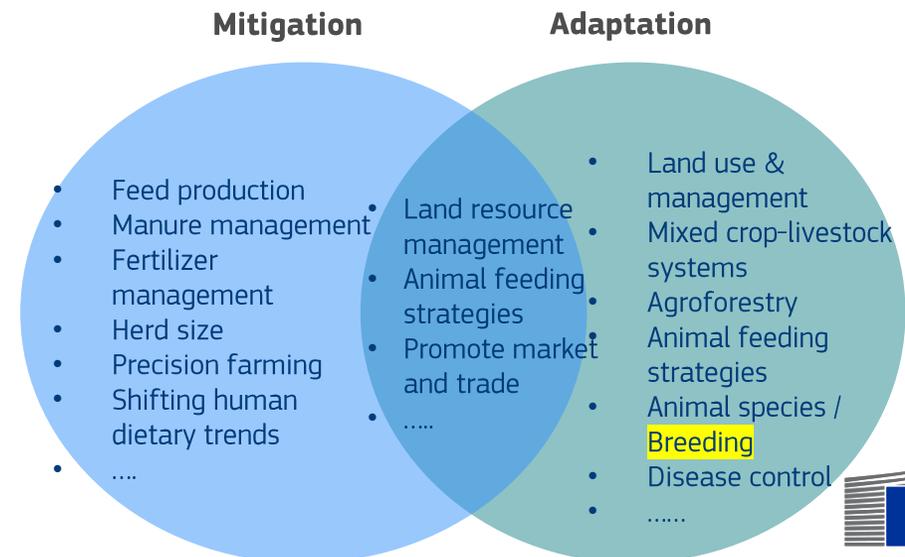
R&I on Sustainable Livestock Systems



R&I as key enabler

to address emerging challenges & anticipate future needs

- ✓ Make the sector more **resilient**
- ✓ **Reduce inputs** like fertilizer, pesticides, antimicrobials, etc.
- ✓ Foster **sustainable production** methods (organic, agroecology, digital, circularity)
- ✓ **Just and inclusive transition**
- ✓ Boost **competitiveness**
- ✓ Inform **evidence-based** policies



State of the **Union** 2025

LETTER OF INTENT

TO PRESIDENT ROBERTA METSOLA AND TO

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

Sustaining our quality of life: food security,
water and nature

- European Climate Adaptation Plan
- Initiative on the Generational Renewal of Farming
- Livestock strategy
- Omnibus package on food
- Ocean Act

LIVESTOCK STRATEGY

Nutrient-dense products

to create supportive conditions for the livestock sector to be

RESILIENT TO CRISIS

**COMPETITIVE AT
GLOBAL LEVEL**

**SUSTAINABLE
IN ALL SENSES
OF THE WORD**

**FITTING
EUROPEAN DIVERSITY**

Cultural heritage and tradition

Pasture management &
biodiversity conservation

Circular economy

Rural vitality

Soil fertility improvement

Nutrient recycling

Landscape maintenance

Fire risk reduction

Bio-energy

Tourism & recreation

Carbon sequestration





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