



Editorial news and events

Book review

Proceedings of the Society of Nutrition Physiology (GfE) The 73rd Annual Meeting of the German Society of Nutrition Physiology Goettingen, March 13–15, 2019

Society of Nutrition Physiology (Ed.), DLG-Verlag, Eschborner Landstraße 122, D-60489 Frankfurt am Main, Germany (2019), Vol. 28, 175 pp., Price: 29.90 € plus postage, Softcover, ISBN: 978-3-7690-4112-5

The 73rd Conference of the Society of Nutrition Physiology took place from 13th to 15th March 2019 in Goettingen (Germany). The proceedings summarize one review-paper entitled ‘Metabolic imprinting by pre- and early postnatal nutrition in farm animals’, followed by 122 abstracts of paper presentations and posters shown during the meeting, as well as four papers of a workshop entitled ‘Vitamins in ruminants’. The contributions of the meeting’s proceedings are consistently presented in English.

In her review lecture Prof. Dr. K. Huber of the Institute of Animal Science of the University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany analysed the ‘Metabolic imprinting by pre- and early postnatal nutrition in farm animals’. Modern animal production is mainly based on economic principles. Unfortunately, less consideration is given to animal welfare and ecological issues. The author underlined the importance of mother’s milk for development of the offspring. Nourished only with milk a calf doubles its life weight from birth on within about 48 days; a piglet needs only 13 days to double its birth weight. Apart from energy and amino acids, mother’s milk contains plenty of bioactive components which are important for a healthy postnatal development of their offspring.

In the first part of her contribution, Prof. Huber analysed the influence of prenatal nutrition on the offspring’s metabolic health and development. Mothers’ nutrition is a very important prerequisite for health and development of the progeny as demonstrated in some examples. In future breeding concepts the maternal influence on metabolic health and development of calves and piglets should be considered more thoroughly.

The second part of the presentation dealt with the influence of early postnatal nutrition on metabolic health of the offspring. The author compared present nutrition concepts of calves and piglets with optimal feeding programmes. Proposals for future nutrition programmes were made. Unfortunately, the Proceedings contain only the abstract (3 pages) of the presentation; conclusively, some recent references are mentioned.

The Proceedings further on contain 122 abstracts (one page each) of oral presentations and posters on the following topics:

- Minerals (12 contributions)
- Other topics (11 contributions)
- Energy (8 contributions)
- Environmental effects (8 contributions)
- Feeding concepts (12 contributions)

- Intermediary metabolism (7 contributions)
- Nutrition and inflammation (6 contributions)
- Protein and amino acids (14 contributions)
- Feedstuff evaluation (14 contributions)
- Ruminal transformations (9 contributions)
- Digestion and Absorption (9 contributions)
- Fats (6 contributions)
- Undesirable substances (6 contributions).

The majority of the presentations were performed by scientists from the Institutes of animal nutrition and nutritional physiology of Central Europe (Austria, Germany and Switzerland), but also from other European and overseas countries. There is a strong variation in the number of presentations within the diverse scientific topics. Some topics are completely missing (e.g., vitamins, nutrition of pets).

On the other side, the authors of the Workshop presentations dealt with vitamins:

- Vitamin D – Too soon to turn off the light (3 pages)
- Vitamin D supplementation & vitamin D metabolism – Unexpected findings (3 pages)
- The role of vitamins for optimizing performance and health of ruminants (7 pages)
- Functional aspects of supplementing selected water-soluble vitamins in ruminants (4 pages).

The Proceedings of the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Nutrition Physiology demonstrate the present research activities in animal nutrition and nutritional physiology in Central Europe. They can be used for teachers and students in the fields of animal nutrition, nutritional physiology and veterinary medicine, but also for veterinarians under field conditions, workers of the compound feed industry and feed consultants.

The Proceedings of the 73rd Meeting (Vol. 28, 2019) are available from the DLG-Verlag, Eschborner Landstraße 122, 60489 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

The 74th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nutrition Physiology (GfE) will take place from March 3–5, 2020 in Goettingen (Germany).

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