

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bringing the Latest Science to Understand Meat and Livestock's Role in Society

Denver, Colorado – Global scientists and experts gathered today to present and discuss the current state of research and application for critical topics associated with the role of meat and livestock in society.

Hosted by the Colorado State University (CSU) Center for Meat Safety & Quality (CMSQ) and funded in part by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, the two-day summit explores sustainable production, nutrition, ecology, and innovation, while fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration. This summit builds on the 2022 meeting in Dublin, which produced the influential “Dublin Declaration of Scientists.”

Summit participants will review the latest research findings around three core pillars

- **Health and Nutrition:** Addressing the challenge of malnutrition across both low- and high-income populations, with a focus on the role of animal-source foods in supporting balanced and healthy dietary patterns.
- **Societal Considerations:** Examining technological innovations, including advancements in animal welfare, genetic improvement, and sustainable production practices, alongside discussions about food security, policy, and consumer communication.
- **Ecology and the Environment:** Evaluating livestock's impact on ecosystems through improved soil health, biodiversity, and carbon management, while exploring sustainable grazing and environmental stewardship strategies.

Leading off the technical program on Health & Nutrition, researcher and thought leader Frédéric Leroy of Vrije Universiteit, Brussel, Belgium reviewed developments since the 2022 International Summit on the Societal Role of Meat in Dublin, focusing on how evolving research and policies are reshaping global perspectives on the role of animal-source foods in sustainable diets. Dr. Leroy remarked:

"Balancing nutrient density and food processing levels is crucial for achieving adequate nourishment while respecting cultural and regional dietary practices. Flexible dietary guidelines that prioritize nutrient security and individual health needs lead to optimal outcomes."



The program continues with presentations from globally renowned scientists and leaders, providing evidence on societal and political issues, including animal welfare, food security, technological advancements, and consumer communication.

Meeting organizer and representative of host CSU-CMSQ, Dr. Keith Belk, commented:

“This summit demonstrates CSU’s commitment to fostering robust scientific dialogue and creative thinking around the future of livestock and meat production. Our goal is to ensure animal sourced foods remain a sustainable and socially accepted foundation for global food security and nutrition.”

The event will conclude with the **Denver Call for Action**, which participants hope will guide future proactive efforts in policy development and scientific communications and inform such activities with the best available scientific evidence to promote sustainable practices, food security, and responsible livestock production. Key insights from the Summit will be featured in a peer-reviewed edition of *Animal Frontiers* in January 2025.

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About the CSU Center for Meat Safety & Quality

The CSU Center for Meat Safety & Quality conducts research focusing on red meat safety, product quality, and the economics of meat production. The center collaborates with regulatory agencies, the scientific community, and industry partners to advance sustainable practices that benefit society globally.

About the International Summit on the Societal Role of Meat & Livestock

The Summit is organized by an international committee comprised of Peer Ederer, GOALSciences (Switzerland); Keith Belk, Center for Meat Safety & Quality, Colorado State University (United States) Collette Kaster, American Meat Science Association (United States); Frédéric Leroy, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium); Rod Polkinghorne and Alix Neveu Birkenwood International (Australia); Mohammad Koochmaraie, IEH Laboratories and Consulting Group (United States); Frank Dunshea, University of Melbourne (Australia); and John Scanga, North American Meat Division, Eurofins (United States). For more information about the Summit agenda and speakers, visit www.societalroleofmeat.org.

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