

ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK

Quarterly Newsletter



ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK IN A NUTSHELL

The Animal Health and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Intensity Network (AHN) is an international network focusing on the interplay between animal health and GHG emissions from a systemic perspective. The network aims study the interrelation of diseases in animals with feeding, breeding, immune response, and the resulting impacts on GHG emissions on farms, both in terms of intensity and absolute emissions.



CHANGE OF CO-LEADS AND EMAIL ADDRESS

Animal Health and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Intensity Network leaders changed in October 2020, taking over from Dirk van Soosten. The new members of the Network are grateful for Dr. Dirk's work in maintaining it. Currently, the Animal Health Network is led by Nick Wheelhouse (Associate Professor of Microbiology at Edinburgh Napier University) and Şeyda Özkan (FAO Livestock and Climate Change Specialist and co-director of the network).

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THE NETWORK IS WORKING ON A COST PROPOSAL

The COST action aims to place GHG as the core of effective animal health priorities the network needs to play a crucial and intermediary role in developing capacity and ensuring priorities for future research development align with societal needs together with farmers, farm advisors, and policymakers.

The COST proposal will support an interdisciplinary group of researchers who are based in Europe to collaborate on a research topics for four years. Potential objectives are immersed in three main areas such as mitigation, adaptation, policy and stakeholder engagement.

A FIRST GET-TOGETHER AFTER YEARS



On June 5, 2022, the AHN held a Workshop in Orlando, USA. This event was part of the 8th International Greenhouse Gas and Animal Agriculture Conference (GGAA). The objective of this workshop was to bring together researchers from different disciplines to discuss the role of animal health and welfare in providing a positive impact on emission reductions, and to present the potential link the network is expected to have with other areas of work such as feeding and nutrition, breeding, immune response and policy.

The [AHN Workshop](#) brought together 45 researchers from a number of different countries from across the world and including Colombia, Chile, Denmark, France, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Peru, Scotland, Spain and the United States.

THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL GGAA

The 8th International GGAA was held from June 5 to 9 in Orlando, Florida, USA. GGAA 2022 was led by 8 keynote speakers. This international event was attended by 470 people from 46 countries, of which 256 joined in person and 214 joined online via the virtual platform. Additionally, at this important conference were presented 148 Posters, 80 In-person Talks, and 25 additional Recorded Talks.

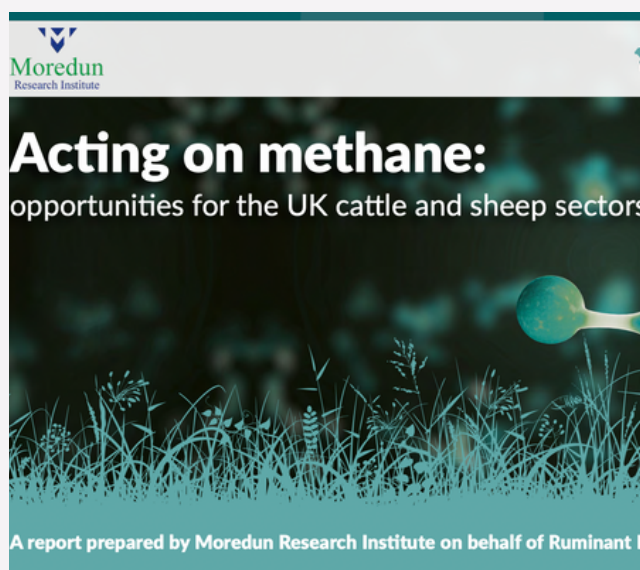
Researchers from around the world presented updated research on the mitigation of GHG, measurement, and modeling. Furthermore, they talked over on-farm practices and policies to address the challenges associated with agricultural practices and their impact on GHG emissions.

NEWEST FAO PUBLICATION

Recently the FAO has published an interesting and valuable report concern to “the role of animal health in national climate commitments”. This report talks about the livestock sector in the context of climate action, how animal health can affect GHG emissions, and how animal health is included in climate commitments today. In addition, it summarizes the use of different measures, tools, data systems, and parameters, and what is needed to investigate and show that animal health also influences GHG emissions. Additionally, three case studies were include in this communication.

“RUMINANT HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORT”

A recent report written by Dr. Philip Skuce (Moredun Research Institute) indicates some intervention opportunities in the UK for sheep and cattle farmers to trim back their methane emissions. This report aims to encourage smallholders in the UK to improve their health practices at the farm level including vaccination programs, diagnostic testing, and biosecurity measures to cut down on their GHG emissions. Three main strategies to decrease methane emissions are mentioned: Higher growth rate/daily live weight gain, better feed conversion efficiency, and less involuntary culling/abortion in breeding stock. This report emphasizes that improving health and welfare could reduce emissions by 10%.



If you want to know more about the network and its activities, you can access the [AHN website](#) and follow us on Twitter [@AHN_GRA](#).

THE ANIMAL HEALTH AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INTENSITY NETWORK IS PART OF THE LIVESTOCK RESEARCH GROUP OF THE **GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE** ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES.

