



Maternal Influence on Animal Health and Performance

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The pre- and post-natal environment can have a marked impact on the growth and development of young animals. Maternal nutrition, the reproductive microbiome, hormonal dynamics, gene expression patterns, and the degree of innate immune protection across the placental barrier all differ by species, breed, and animal. Some, such as innate immune protection, are driven by the physiology of the uterus and placenta.

For ruminants, consumption of high-quality colostrum is the only way for neonates to acquire antibodies through passive transfer of immunity. Not doing so will likely result in death. Though the majority of research has focused on immune components in colostrum, there are many additional components in colostrum that are integral to gut development and health that have yet to be fully explored. The purpose of this special issue is to explore the environmental influences that impact conception, gestation, parturition, and the periparturient period and the subsequent effects on neonatal health and performance.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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