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New Technologies to Improve Efficiency and Profitability and Reduce Environmental Impacts on Small Ruminant Farms

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Message from the Guest Editors

The reduced economic margins obtained per animal in small ruminants farms are leading to the disappearance of the family farm model in the more developed countries and the creation of a commercial farm model with a larger number of animals and a greater technification of the production system. In this sense, there are many related factors, including livestock housing (ventilation, bedding and manure removal systems, ..); new feeding systems (use of cheap protein, fat or fibrous sources and alternatives to classic foods); improved machinery and equipment more efficient in the tasks for which they are designed and adapted to the different species (feeding systems, milking machines, various automatisms, energy recovery systems; ..); using genomics and genetic animal breeding to improve the quality of milk and meat; new techniques and systems of reproduction that allow producers to increase the meat or milk productivity on the farm. In addition to this, the possible impacts of ruminants on the increase in greenhouse gases are one of the current social concerns that must be addressed if the survival of this type of production is desired.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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