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Natural Antioxidants in Animal Immunity

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Message from the Guest Editors

Antioxidant defense systems are essential for maintaining optimum health in animals. In the current intensive animal production systems, the environment, unbalanced nutrition, administration of drugs, and physical and physiological stress cause an adverse effect on the immune function of different animal species, with the emergence and re-emergence of diseases. These phenomena affect the animal health and decrease the animal production efficiency, thereby increasing production costs. A better understanding of immune-system development and the factors that affect the immune system can lead to the production of more-resilient animals with increased immune competence. Novel multidisciplinary collaborative research programs that integrate, e.g., animal nutrition, mucosal immunology, cell metabolism, and molecular biology are, therefore, urgently needed. Antioxidants such as polyphenols, antioxidant vitamins (C, E, A), and minerals (iron, zinc, selenium) generally enhance cellular and noncellular immunity by maintaining the functional and structural integrity of immune cells. Antioxidants may provide the strategic future of industry, ensuring health in humans and animals.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

It has been recognized in medical sciences that in order to prevent adverse effects of "oxidative stress" a balance exists between prooxidants and antioxidants in living systems. Imbalances are found in a variety of diseases and chronic health situations. Our journal *Antioxidants* serves as an authoritative source of information on current topics of research in the area of oxidative stress and antioxidant defense systems. The future is bright for antioxidant research and since 2012, *Antioxidants* has become a key forum for researchers to bring their findings to the forefront.

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