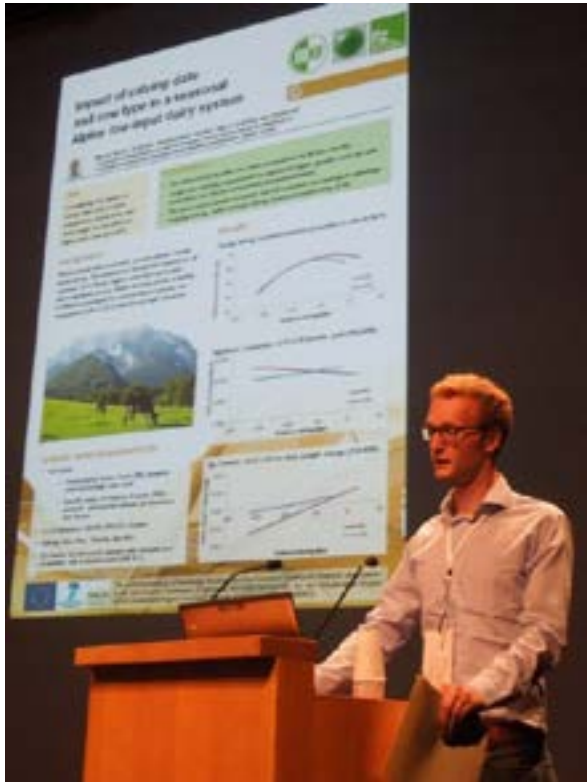


Brief News from SOLID



Marco Horn, BOKU, presenting the poster at the EAAP meeting

"Rommert Politiek Award" for SOLID WP2 poster presentation at EAAP meeting

The annual meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science is one of the largest scientific meetings in the livestock sector. At this year's EAAP meeting in Nantes (France) the contribution of Marco Horn, Andreas Steinwigger, Walter Starz and Werner Zollitsch entitled "Impact of calving date and cow type in a seasonal Alpine low-input dairy system" received the "Rommert Politiek Award" for best poster presentation. The paper investigated possible interactions of cow type and calving date in a seasonal low-input system and was carried out in SOLID work package 2.



PhD student Lifeng Dong presenting at the EAAP meeting



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO launches a new Dairy-Gateway

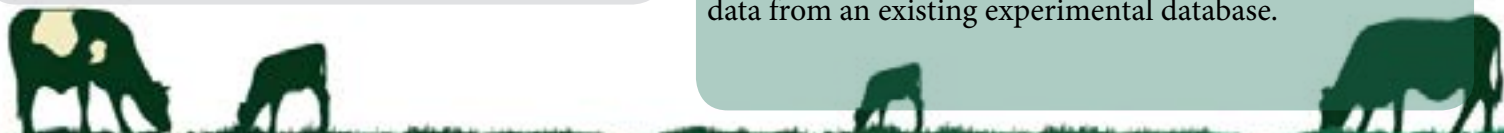
Information from the entire dairy value chain in one place.

The FAO Dairy-Gateway is an information platform that offers a wide range of material about milk production and products with the main focus on conditions in developing countries. The Dairy-Gateway provides in English, French and Spanish a general overview about important topics of dairy production, milk and dairy products and their use. Users are encouraged to enrich the information by providing additional information through documents, field experiments and by directly uploading their video and picture stories, and we encourage SOLID participants to upload relevant material and post coming events via the contact info on the page. Learn more at:

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/dairy-gateway>

Work on genetics and genotypes in SOLID presented at the annual meeting of the European Federation of Animal Sciences

Dr Tianhai Yan and PhD student Lifeng Dong attended the 64th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science held in Nantes of France in August 2013. Lifeng made two oral presentations for AFBI research on the effects of cow genetic merits (low vs. medium vs. high) of Holstein-Friesian and cow genotypes (HF vs. HF cross and Norwegian dairy cows) on maintenance energy requirement and the efficiency of utilisation of metabolisable energy for lactation. Prior to this meeting, Lifeng also presented a theatre paper on the effects of cow genetic merit on enteric methane emissions in an important international conference – Greenhouse Gases and Animal Agriculture in Dublin in late June 2013. The presentations received positive responses. All results presented were derived from Task 2.4., calculating the efficiency of energy utilization for maintenance and lactation in conventional and adapted breeds, using data from an existing experimental database.



Workshop on maximizing the grazing possibilities and the use of by-products in dairy goat production

By David R. Yañez Ruiz

As an outcome of a farmer workshop and the Rapid Analysis Tool (RAT) activities in work package 1 of SOLID, it was agreed that a workshop, specifically focused on the nutrition of the dairy goat under the current feeds market situation addressing how to maximize the grazing possibilities and the use of by-products would be of great interest and would help to identify specific research questions to answer in 'on-farm' trials. This workshop was organized together by CSIC and CABRANDALUCIA and held on the 12 March 2013 at CSIC facilities. A total of 124 people attended the event, which included farmers, advisors, vets, media, researchers, feeds cooperatives and local and regional government representatives. At the meeting CSIC presented the results obtained from the production of silages. At the meeting, CSIC presented the results obtained from the production of silages made with by-products from the olive oil and tomato industries and the preliminary results from the in vitro (gas production) and in vivo (digestibility, intake and methane emissions) screening (presented in Greece as part of WP3 work). After discussion with specialists and farmers, the main conclusion was that there is potential to introduce these by-products as replacement of conventional ingredients but only at certain periods of the productive cycle (i.e. beginning of pregnancy and last third of lactation, when the animal's requirements are less likely to be compromised). However, this needs to be tested and introduced in the overall farm feeding strategy. Some of the farmers that took part in the RAT showed their interest in taking part in the on-farm experiments.

