

Round Table: Data ownership and data accessibility

Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) is spreading fast among farmers. More and more data are being constantly generated on farms with different aims, mainly oriented to help farmers to to make informed decisions towards better animal health and welfare and greater productivity, higher efficiency and improved sustainability.

The manufacturers develop both hardware to acquire biometric information from animals and software and algorithms to translate this information into useful indicators for farmers. Nevertheless, farmers/breeders organizations and researchers constantly seek new insights into these data. Furthermore, this information could also be used to define new phenotypes of interests for farmers/breeders and their organizations. Considering the amount and variety of data being generated, the possibility of crossing knowledge boundaries is real. This will be only achieved under a strong collaboration framework between all the stakeholders involved: farmers/breeders, their organizations, manufacturers and researchers.

This round table aims to outline how this collaboration can benefit all parties. We will try to understand what drives the generation of data, who owns the data that is being generated, how can raw data be accessible for farmers/breeders organizations as well as researchers, how can intellectual property of companies be protected and what are the pros and cons of sharing information from a manufacturer perspective. We strive to achieve a scenario where the collaboration ensures the innovation uptake of PLF systems by the industry. This scenario will result in better farming techniques, management, improving of breeding programs by incorporating new traits with impact on costs reduction and, therefore, increasing profitability of the livestock industry.

The roundtable will include representatives from all sides: farmers, private companies, farmer organizations, researchers and legal advisors. We hope to generate a fruitful and dynamic debate on benefits, constraints and procedures.