

HSA Conference 2026: Animal Welfare Beyond the Farm Gate: Latest developments in humane slaughter and transport of animals

20– 21 October 2026

The Catalyst, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK and online



Provisional programme (subject to change)

Day 1 – Tuesday 20 October 2026

09:00 - 09:30 Registration

09:30 - 09:45 Welcome and introduction

Keynote speaker

09:45 - 10:30 **Meghan Barrett, Indiana University Indianapolis, Indiana USA**

Welfare at time of killing for farmed insects

10:30 - 11:00 Networking break

11:00 - 11:30 Session 1 - Killing of neonates in emergencies

11:00 - 11:15 **David Pritchard, consultant in veterinary and animal welfare science, UK**

Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA) on the practical and welfare implications of the use of mechanical blunt force trauma devices to euthanise piglets under 10kg in weight.

11:15 - 11:30 **Nicola Gould, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), Scotland**

A qualitative analysis of stockperson's knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions of on-farm emergency killing of piglets

11:30 - 12:00 Neonate killing discussion panel

12:00 - 12:55 Session 2 - Automated welfare monitoring

12:00 - 12:15 **Ellie Gannon, Harper Adams University, UK**

"Abattoir Air Quality: An Unknown Quantity". Volatile Organic Compound Characterisation in Beef Abattoirs

12:15 - 12:35 **Noemie Van Noten, Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO), Belgium**

Automated monitoring of pig and broiler chicken welfare during the pre-slaughter and stunning phase

12:35 - 12:55 **Anneleen Watteyn, Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO), Belgium**

One year of slaughterhouse-based monitoring reveals the welfare status of spent hens in Flanders

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch and networking

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Day 1 (continued) – Tuesday 20 October 2026

14:00 - 15:00 Session 3 - Poultry slaughter

14:00 - 14:20 Valentina Monistero, Italian National Reference Centre for Animal Welfare, Italy

Survey overview of controlled atmosphere stunning practices and animal welfare assessment in poultry slaughterhouses

14:20 - 14:35 Aranzazu Varvaro Porter, Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology, Spain

Identification of animal welfare concerns during shackling and electrical waterbath stunning of ducks under commercial conditions

14:35 - 14:50 Sarah Lombard, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), France

Assessing state of consciousness after waterbath stunning in ducks: stunning efficiency, and inter-observer repeatability under commercial conditions

14:50 – 15:00 Charlie Mason, Humane Slaughter Association, UK

Waterbath stunning of poultry

15:00 – 15:30 Networking break

15:30 – 17:00 Session 4 - Humane slaughter of aquatic species

15: 30 - 15:45 Marianna De Luca, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Italy

Neurophysiological Signatures of Stunning in Cephalopods: Toward Humane Slaughtering Practices

15:45 - 16:00 Felicity Wilson, University of Stirling, Scotland

In-Water Batch Stunning of Decapod Crustaceans

16:00 - 16:15 Wasseem Emam, Ethical Seafood Research, UK

Can ice slurry be refined as a humane slaughter method for Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*)?

16:15 - 16:30 Jackson Gross, University of California, USA

Balancing Percussive Stunning Effectiveness and Product Presentation in Pirarucu (*Arapaima gigas*) and Emerging Aquaculture Species in Brazil

16:30 - 17:00 Aquatic slaughter discussion panel

17:00 Thank you and close

Caring beyond the farm gate

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Day 2 - Wednesday 21 October

09:00 - 09:30 Registration

09:30 - 09:45 Welcome and introduction

09:45 - 11:25 Session 1 – Transport and handling

09:45 – 10:05 Mandeep Singh Azad, SKUAST, India

Improving animal welfare during long-distance livestock transhumant migration through pastoralist training and capacity building

10:05 - 10:25 Luca van Dijk, Aarhus University, Denmark

Feeding in Transit: Welfare Considerations for Unweaned Calves During Long Distance Transport

10:25 - 10:45 Emeline Nogues, Aarhus University, Denmark

Emergency management of overturned trucks transporting pigs: an interview-based case study in France

10:45 – 11:15 Networking break

11:15 - 11:35 Rick Hernandez, Aarhus University, Denmark

Welfare implications of temporary stay durations and resource access for growing pigs at assembly barns

11:35 – 11:55 Marco Facchinetti, CMC Industries, Italy

Automatic loading of broilers for processing: an alternative to manual catching

12:00 – 13:00 Session 2 – Depopulation

12:00 – 12:15 Cia Johnson, American Veterinary Medical Association, USA

Humane Endings: Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals

12:15 – 12:30 Depopulation session tbc

12:30 – 13:00 Panel discussion on depopulation

13:00 – 13:50 Lunch and networking

13:50 - 14:30 Session 3 – Slaughter of red meat species

13:50 - 14:10 Enrica Massalin, Eurogroup for Animals, Belgium

Reducing stress and improving animal welfare: the role of mobile slaughter units and policy implications for alternative slaughter methods

14:10 - 14:30 Kate Fletcher, Humane Slaughter Association, UK

International Guidance on Equine Welfare at Slaughter, including in resource-restricted contexts: Publication of guidelines by HSA, RVC, World Horse Welfare

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Day 2 (continued) - Wednesday 21 October

14:30 - 15:00 Networking break

15:00 - 15:55 Session 4 – Religious and non-stun slaughter

15:00 - 15:15 tbc

15:15 - 15:35 Troy Gibson, Royal Veterinary College, UK

Behavioural, brainstem and electroencephalographic assessment of the time to loss of consciousness in poultry following non-stunned slaughter

15:35 - 15:55 Jacob Hascalovici, Hackensack Meridian Health, New York

Rapid Loss of Consciousness in Cattle Following Non-Stun Slaughter: Evidence from a Systematic Review

15:55 - 16:15 Thank you and close

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