



Humane Slaughter Association

Preliminary programme for the
HSA 2025 Conference on 21–22 October 2025
Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum, UK, and online



All times are in BST (GMT+1) – Please note that changes to the programme may occur.

Day 1 – Tuesday 21 October 2025

09:00 – 09:30 Registration		
09:30 Session 1 – Controlled Atmosphere Stunning		
<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>		
Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) report on CO ₂ use for stunning of pigs	Jane Downes	<i>Former Chair of AWC's Welfare at Killing Committee</i>
LAPS use for poultry	Dorothy McKeegan	<i>University of Glasgow, UK</i>
Introducing the NEFS method for on-farm euthanasia and emergency response	Sebastian Strand	<i>General Manager, HEFT International</i>
Followed by an unstreamed panel discussion session		
☯ Morning networking opportunity		
11:30 Session 2 – On-Farm		
Update on testing of non-lead ammunition for humane dispatch of livestock	Charlie Mason	<i>Humane Slaughter Association</i>
Different catching methods for poultry	Anneleen Watteyn	<i>ILVO, Belgium</i>
On farm killing of neonates	(TBC)	
🕒 Lunch Break		
14:00 Session 3 - Training, Auditing and Other Welfare Initiatives		
Training impacts on abattoir workers' knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding animal welfare in Narok, Kenya	Grace Muita	<i>Independent Researcher, Kenya</i>
Development of training and e-learning at the HSA	Marianne Farish	<i>Humane Slaughter Association</i>
APHA Welfare Assurance Team (TBC)	(TBC)	<i>APHA, UK</i>
Is there a need for a Welfare Slaughter Alliance?	Huw Golledge	<i>CEO of the HSA</i>
Followed by an unstreamed panel discussion session		
☯ Afternoon networking opportunity		

16:00 – 17:00 Session 4 – Aquatics		
Snow crabs and lobsters (TBC)	Bjørn Roth (TBC)	Nofima, Norway
Improving the welfare of finfish at slaughter	Jeff Lines	Ace Aquatec, UK
<i>Closing of day 1 of the conference</i>		

Day 2 – Wednesday 22 October 2025

<i>09:00 – 09:30 Registration</i>		
09:30 – 11:00 Session 1 – Recent Advances		
<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>		
EEG instrumentation changes the characteristics of electric stunning (Schrödinger's fish?)	Jenny Bouwsema	Silsoe Livestock Systems
Development of a portable in-water electrical stunner for aquatic species	Niki Khan	Ace Aquatec Ltd, UK
Automated evaluation of pig consciousness in the slaughterhouse: sensor development	Angela Ramon-Perez	Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
Transition to higher welfare decapod crustacean transport (TBC)	Ben Sturgeon (TBC)	Crustacean Compassion, UK
Stability and spatial uniformity of different gases and gas mixtures in a closed cabinet type gas stunning system	Gissela García	IRTA, Spain
 <i>Morning networking opportunity</i>		
11:30 – 12:35 Session 2 – Religious Slaughter		
Halal slaughter of beef in the UK: a quest to find a welfare-friendly and halal compliant method of slaughter	Awal Fuseini	AHDB, UK
An analysis of the acceptability of the DTS cattle stunning system for use in shechita (kosher slaughter)	Ari Zivotofsky	Gonda Brain Science Center, Israel
Followed by an unstreamed panel discussion session		
 <i>Lunch Break</i>		

13:45 – 14:45 Session 3 - On-Farm		
Gotta catch 'em all: prototype innovations for hen welfare	Anneleen Watteyn	<i>ILVO, Belgium</i>
Effectiveness of air pellet guns for on-farm poultry dispatch	Troy Gibson	<i>Royal Veterinary College, UK</i>
Applying a One Welfare approach to depopulation	Penny Lawlis	<i>Acer Consulting, Canada</i>
HSA Presentation – more details will follow...		
🕒 <i>Afternoon networking opportunity</i>		
15:15 – 17:00 Session 4 – Current Practice in Abattoirs		
Assessing risk factors for official veterinarian– food business operator conflicts in UK slaughterhouses	Eleanor Gannon	<i>Harper Adams University, UK</i>
Assessment of stunning effectiveness in donkeys using electroencephalogram	Beatrice Benedetti	<i>University of Bologna, Italy</i>
Preliminary results: evaluation of non-penetrative captive bolt in inducing unconsciousness in cattle	Eduardo David Valencia Gonzaga	<i>IRTA, Spain</i>
Bridging the gap between perception and reality: welfare assessment of pigs during gas stunning (TBC)	Lily Chandler (TBC)	<i>Harper Adams University, UK</i>
Pathophysiology of penetrating captive bolt gun stunning of horses	Katharine Fletcher	<i>Royal Veterinary College, UK</i>
<i>Closing of conference</i>		