



Humane Slaughter Association

Programme for the 2025 HSA Conference

**Animal welfare beyond the farm gate:
Latest developments in humane slaughter and transport of animals**

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

<i>09:00 – 09:30 Registration</i>		
09:30 Session 1 – Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (Chair: Huw Golledge)		
<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>	Huw Golledge	<i>CEO of the HSA</i>
Results from the PigStun project	Marien Gerritzen	<i>Wageningen University & Research, NL</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>
Low atmospheric pressure stunning (LAPS) in poultry: Welfare, practice, and prospects for wider adoption	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		
🕒 <i>Morning networking opportunity</i>		
11:30 Session 2 – On-Farm (Chair: Marianne Farish)		
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	Charlie Mason	<i>Humane Slaughter Association</i>
🕒 <i>Lunch Break</i>		

14:00 Session 3 - Training, Auditing and Other Welfare Initiatives (Chair: Charlie Mason)		
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	Alice Leathley	<i>APHA, UK</i>
Is there a need for a Welfare at Slaughter Alliance?	Huw Golledge	<i>CEO of the HSA</i>
Followed by an unstreamed panel discussion session		
🕒 <i>Afternoon networking opportunity</i>		
16:00 – 17:00 Session 4 – Aquatics (Chair: Huw Golledge)		
Snow crabs and lobsters	Bjørn Roth	<i>Nofima, Norway</i>
Improving the welfare of finfish at slaughter	Jeff Lines	<i>Ace Aquatec, UK</i>
<i>Closing of Day 1 of the conference – Huw Golledge</i>		

Day 2 – Wednesday 22 October 2025

<i>09:00 – 09:30 Registration</i>		
09:30 Session 1 – Recent Advances (Chair: Bethan Apted)		
<i>Welcome and Introduction to Day 2</i>	Huw Golledge	<i>CEO of the HSA</i>
EEG instrumentation changes the characteristics of electric stunning (Schrödinger's fish?)	Jenny Bouwsema	<i>Silsoe Livestock Systems</i>
Automated evaluation of pig consciousness in the slaughterhouse: sensor development	Angela Ramon-Perez	<i>Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain</i>
Transition to higher welfare decapod crustacean transport	Ben Sturgeon	<i>Crustacean Compassion, UK</i>
Stability and spatial uniformity of different gases and gas mixtures in a closed cabinet type gas stunning system	Gissela García	<i>IRTA, Spain</i>
🕒 <i>Morning networking opportunity</i>		

11:30 Session 2 – Religious Slaughter (Chair: Huw Golledge)		
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 Session 3 - On-Farm (Chair: Susan Richmond)		
Gotta catch 'em all: prototype innovations for hen welfare	Anneleen Watteyn	ILVO, Belgium
Effectiveness of air pellet guns for on-farm poultry dispatch	Troy Gibson	Royal Veterinary College, UK
Applying a One Welfare approach to depopulation	Penny Lawlis	Acer Consulting, Canada
 <i>Afternoon networking opportunity</i>		
15:15 – 17:00 Session 4 – Current Practice in Abattoirs (Chair: Birte Nielsen)		
Assessing risk factors for official veterinarian–food business operator conflicts in UK slaughterhouses	Eleanor Gannon	Harper Adams University, UK
Assessment of stunning effectiveness in donkeys using electroencephalogram	Beatrice Benedetti	University of Bologna, Italy
Preliminary results: evaluation of non-penetrative captive bolt in inducing unconsciousness in cattle	Eduardo David Valencia Gonzaga	IRTA, Spain
Bridging the gap between perception and reality: welfare assessment of pigs during gas stunning	Lily Chandler	Harper Adams University, UK
Pathophysiology of penetrating captive bolt gun stunning of horses	Katharine Fletcher	Royal Veterinary College, UK
<i>Closing of conference – Huw Golledge</i>		