

Showcasing alternative pig and poultry production: a tale of the Limburg Cloister pig and Walloon Columbus eggs

**19 October 2022 – Workshop organized by the VEE in collaboration
with LIVAR, Echt, The Netherlands**

What?

The day before the joint meeting “Less livestock: healthier animals, healthier environment?”, VEE, and LIVAR offer **a workshop on alternative pig and poultry production**. This workshop is open for all participants, including members of the sister organizations VEEC and AESA, or all interested non-members. We strongly recommend that people attending the joint VEE-VEEC-AESA symposium in Wageningen make an extra “stop” in Echt (Limburg, The Netherlands), making it a pleasant travelling and being together (especially for Belgian participants).

The **LIVAR concept** is an example of circular economy where free-range pigs are fed with cereals cultivated at the fields of the abbey of Libosch in Echt, Limburg, the Netherlands and the close region. The LIVAR concept follows the “Better welfare” concept (“Beter Leven keurmerk”) of the Dutch Animal Welfare organization and is awarded with their highest level, 3-stars.

The LIVAR pigs are raised at ten farms in the Limburg province. Weekly around 300 finishers are slaughtered at a live weight of +/- 140 kg. This higher slaughter weight, in combination with their special genetics and feed, gives their meat an excellent and unique taste. LIVAR processes her own meat to produce fresh cuts and meat products, such as sausages and dry cured hams. LIVAR sells her products to butchers and restaurants in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Her concept differs in many ways from the traditional approach of large pig farms with mass-production.

Diedrich Hendrickx, pig veterinarian at DAC Zuidoost and co-owner of an organic laying hen farm in Wallonia, producing under the **Columbus egg concept**, will join us to discuss alternative production systems in poultry production. Furthermore, from his expertise as a pig veterinarian and as one of the herd veterinarians of the LIVAR farms, he , together with Merel Postma, will highlight the veterinary challenges of free-range pig production. The economic challenges of alternative animal production will be discussed by the director of LIVAR, Frank de Rond, in collaboration with the perspective from poultry production by Diedrich.

Content

During this **educational workshop** organized by the VEE laureate Dr. Merel Postma and Drs. Diedrich Hendrickx, we can get acquainted with the LIVAR concept (including a farm visit) and with COLUMBUS eggs. We will focus on challenges of circular economy and discuss principles and practices at the farm level related with animal health, animal welfare and public health.

What are the issues to obtain pig meat value in alternative productions, does the alternative way of production offer profitability gains? Is the method compatible with animal health and welfare and the environment? What about food safety? Do these concepts offer a future for the livestock industry in our regions? What are the challenges vets and other people who are active in the animal health profession experience? **All these questions will be addressed in an interactive setting with the participants.**

After the **farm visit** at the Abbey farm of LIVAR, a short introductory session will further explain the concepts of LIVAR and COLUMBUS. A comparison with an opposite system, a SPF pig farm, will be made as well. A second session will be a discussion with the attendees on the topics described above, supplemented by the experiences, practical examples and real-life cases and anecdotes of Diedrich, Frank and Merel. A closing barbecue allows participants to mingle with fellow professionals.

Practical information

Date: Wednesday October 19, 2022

Lecturers: **Dr. Merel Postma** (LIVAR)
Frank Roland (LIVAR)
Drs. Diedrich Hendrickx (Veterinarian at DAC Zuidoost...)

Programme:

Time	Item
13:00 – 13:30 u	Welcome with ‘coffee and Limburgse Vlaai’ Kloosterboerderij van Abdij Lilbosch Pepinusbrug 6 6102 RR Echt – Nederland
13:30 – 14:45 u	Visit Kloosterboerderij
14:45 – 15:00 u	Going to LIVAR (proeflokaal) Zandweg 10 6105 BJ Maria hoop – Nederland
15:00 – 15:30 u	Break
15:30 – 16:30 u	Introduction Comparison biosecurity alternative vs SPF Corporate movie “Columbus ei” Corporate movie “Livar” Historical perspective intensive livestock farming
16:30 – 16:45 u	Break
16:45 – 18:00 u	Discussion through thesis, practical experience and cases Economic challenges Veterinary challenges
18:15 – 20:00 u	Diner/ barbecue

Participants that travel afterwards to Wageningen can book a hotel. Some suggestions within a 10 min range by car from the location of the joint meeting are:

- Close to Wageningen city centre WICC: <https://www.wicc.nl/>
- In het bos Nol in 't Bosch: <https://www.nolintbosch.nl/>
- Hotel de Wageningsche berg: <https://www.hoteldewageningscheberg.nl/>

If some participants wish to travel together, and you need assistance, please contact stefaan.ribbens@dgz.be



Vlaamse Vereniging voor Veterinaire Epidemiologie en Economie

Participation fee:

VEE members: € 90 (€30 membership fee + €60 catering and facilities)

Effective VEE members: €60

This workshop is offered free to VEE-members which are also PhD-students: only €30 membership fee is required.

VEEC members or AESA members: €60 (please send a proof of membership to Stefaan.ribbens@dgz.be)

Non-members: €120

Please register **before 11 October 2022**. Registration is only complete after completing this [registration form](#) and transferring

the correct amount to IBAN: BE84 0012 7946 5059 (vzw VEE, Salisburylaan 133, 9820 Merelbeke). Need an invoice? Please contact tom.meyns@zoetis.com