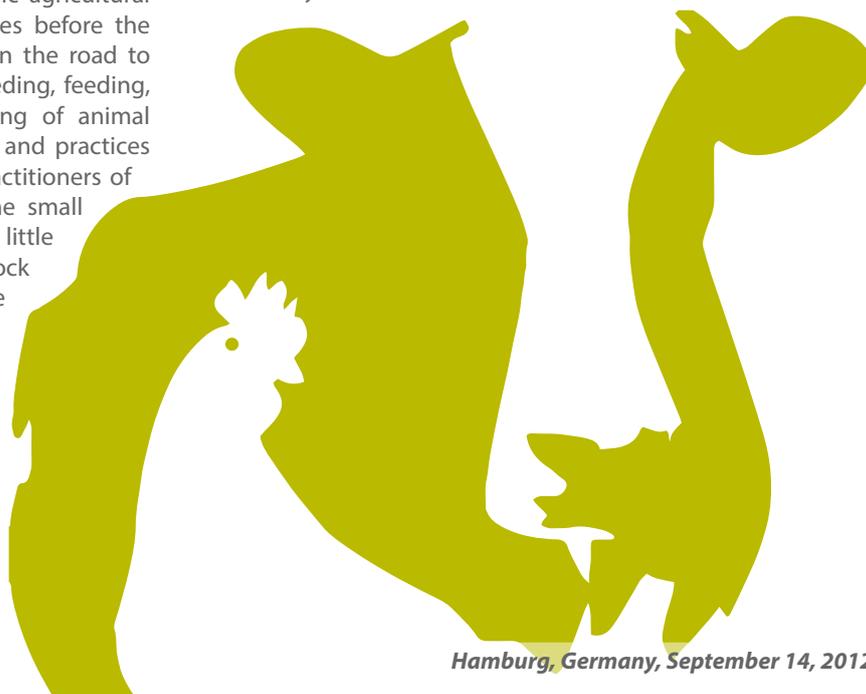


HAMBURG DECLARATION

On the completion of the 2nd IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference, held at the Thuenen-Institute of Organic Farming, Hamburg, Germany, from September 12 to 14, 2012, 155 participants from 40 countries jointly approved the following declaration to promote organic animal husbandry.

- “We, the participants of the ‘2nd IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference’ acknowledge and stress the importance of animals in Organic Agriculture worldwide as a source of food, manure, companionship, as draught animals, and as a complement to crop husbandry. The principles of Organic Agriculture rightly recognize the wellbeing of all living organisms, and animal welfare is given top priority under organic production systems. The Principle of Care, as well as the Principle of Health, acknowledges the role of preventive practices so that health problems in animal production are minimized and the use of chemicals, antibiotics and toxic substances are avoided. We are strongly committed to the highest regard for animal welfare and to creating the conditions that reduce health problems in animals to a minimum by improving husbandry practices. We believe that a harmonious relationship between soil, plants, animals and humans is a precondition for sustainable development. It is important that we find ways and means to make available good quality animal products that are safe and available in sufficient quantities to ensure the good health of humans. This conference is one way to highlight the role of animals in organic production, which would attract the attention of the researchers, development professionals, NGOs, farmers and other stakeholders to consider animals as important actors in organic agricultural practices worldwide. There are multiple challenges before the scientists and other development professionals on the road to sustainable agricultural development. Animal breeding, feeding, housing, health, the management and processing of animal products must be compatible with the principles and practices of organic systems, which poses challenges to practitioners of organic animal husbandry. This conference is one small step forward to make organic livestock farming a little more practical in its wider acceptance by livestock producers. The findings of this conference add to the knowledge base of the global scientific community and science-based approaches would take organic animal production farther afield. We need more research, more knowledge and more extension efforts so that required inputs and methods for organic animal production can evolve. Therefore:
- We recommend defining a threshold at the farm level that should be beyond the national average and be achieved by all organic livestock farms, in order to ensure an outstanding level of animal health in comparison to conventional production.
 - While making overall regulations for organic livestock production, we wish to take into account the differences in local production systems between different regions so that such regulations can be easily and accurately implemented worldwide.
 - We recommend extensive and intensive research to be undertaken on organic methods of animal production and processing, which is possible only when budget is enhanced in this area by various agencies of government, NGOs and the private sector.
 - We understand the importance of consumer awareness on food safety issues and competition between food, feed and fuel, environmental enhancement, ecosystem services and animal welfare standards, which are core values in organic animal husbandry.
 - We recommend that the participation of farmers in research and extension be improved.
 - We realize that organic animal farming is only evolving compared to organic crop production and it has to go a long way still. So we have decided, as an outcome of this conference, to launch an IFOAM platform by name the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance. This alliance might give a fillip to less developed organic animal husbandry sectors around the world.



Hamburg, Germany, September 14, 2012