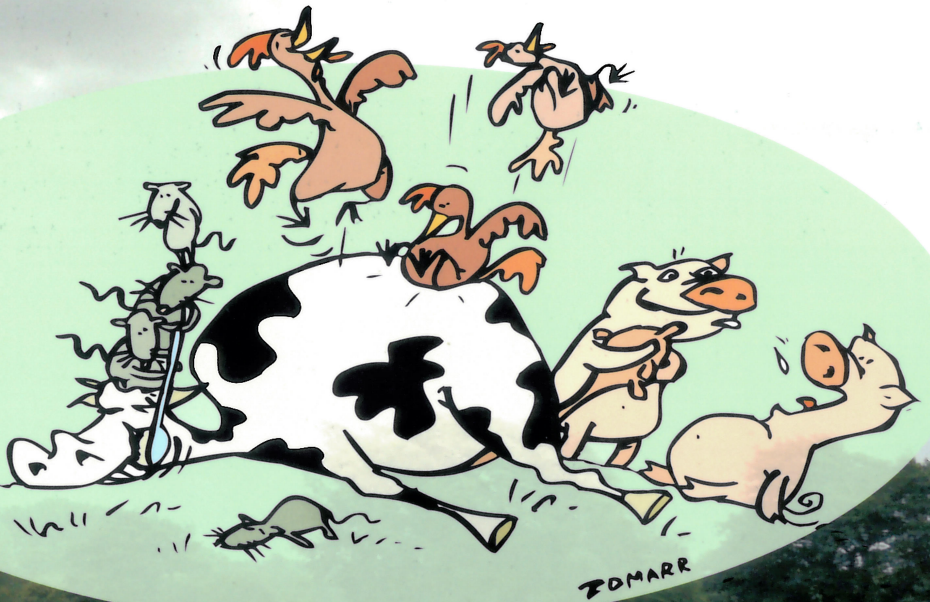


# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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## WAFL



Sara Barbieri presents *Poster 94* during the poster sessions in the Aula.  
Session theme 8: *Application of welfare assessment protocols*

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## WELFARE ASSESSMENT USING THE ANIMAL NEEDS INDEX TO IMPROVE THE ORGANIC CERTIFICATION IN ITALY

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Assessing animal welfare at farm level for labelled and especially for organic livestock production has been the object of scientific and public concern in many countries. During recent years, different approaches have been followed to find a reliable and feasible system, which can be applicable in various farming systems. In this context, the Animal Needs Index (ANI), developed by Bartussek, demonstrates to be an efficient tool to control and certify Austrian organic production. In Italy, the project E.Q.U.I.ZOO.BIO aims to develop the organic production, covering different fields of activities; one of its topics is to investigate the possibility of applying an index system, mainly based on ANI, to some Italian organic farms.

The scoring system tested during the first step of the project contains mainly resource based parameters, including environmental and management factors that are widely recognised to influence the animal welfare. To assess the animal welfare on farm, five category scores according to ANI are used, including locomotion; social interaction; flooring; light, air and noise; and stockmanship. An additional category based on closed ended questions was introduced to evaluate the attitude of the farmers towards the organic principles - such as respect of biodiversity, "extensive" management - using some resource-based parameters, e.g. adequacy of breed to the farming system.

After a pre-testing phase, training courses were organised for illustrating the index system to 9 organic technicians employed by the main organic certification bodies in Italy. At the second step of the project, the category scores will be validated by them directly on farm.

From the results, it can be determinate whether the scores assessed by this modified version of the ANI system represent a valid tool for the organic certification scheme in Italy, through the potential integration to some private organic standards.

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