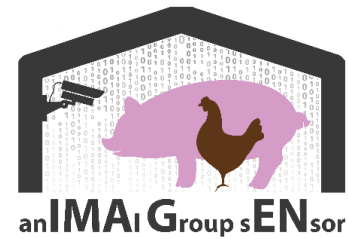


INVITATION

IMAGEN Symposium

Automated tracking, behaviour and genetics of social interactions in pigs and laying hens



Description

We invite you to a one-day symposium on automated phenotyping of behaviour in group-housed pigs and laying hens.

Over the past years, the project IMAGEN has worked on long-term tracking of individual animals with computer vision, automated detection of behaviours such as tail and ear biting, and the genetic analysis of social interactions. At this symposium, we share the results of the project and put them in a broader context. Speakers will present recent developments in the field, and we will explore the ethical and practical questions around large-scale implementation. The day closes with a round table in which industry and society discuss the step from research to practice.

The symposium includes lunch and ends with drinks and networking. We look forward to welcoming you in Wageningen.

General information

Day and time	12 November 2026, from 9:30 to 17:00
Venue	Hotel De Nieuwe Wereld Marijkeweg 5, 6709 PE Wageningen, the Netherlands
Group size	Maximum of 100 participants (in person; online participation is not possible)
Language	English
Coordinators	Harmen Doekes, Piter Bijma
Fee	Free of charge for all participants

Programme (draft)

09:30 – 10:00 Coffee

10:00 Welcome and introduction (*Piter Bijma, Wageningen University & Research*)

Session 1: Long-term tracking and automated behaviour detection in group-housed pigs and laying hens

10:10 Markerless tracking of pigs under group housing (*Patrick Langenhuizen, Eindhoven University of Technology*)

10:30 Tracking laying hens: from individual tracks to movement parameters and social tendencies (*Bas Rodenburg, Utrecht University*)

10:50 Automated video-based detection of specific behaviours, including tail and ear biting, in pigs (*Qinghua Guo, Eindhoven University of Technology*)

11:10 – 11:40 Break

Session 2: Behavioural and genetic analysis of social interactions in group-housed pigs and laying hens

- 11:40** Misunderstood matrix: How changing the incidence matrix of social genetic effects changes the trait definition (*Bernadett Hegedüs, Wageningen University & Research*)
- 12:00** Analysing activity patterns and social interactions in pigs using computer vision (*Clémence Orsini, Wageningen University & Research*)
- 12:20** Genetic analysis of movement and piling behaviour in laying hens based on automated tracking data (*Tzayhri Osorio Gallardo, Wageningen University & Research*)

12:40 – 13:30 Lunch

Session 3: Related developments in the field (outside IMAGEN)

- 13:30** Digital phenotyping of broilers using computer vision and Radio-Frequency Identification (*Jan Erik Doornweerd, Wageningen University & Research*)
- 13:50** Understanding hierarchy formation in pigs through probabilistic modelling and computer vision (*Nusret Ipek, Ghent University*)

Session 4: Reflection on ethical and practical considerations for large-scale implementation

- 14:10** Interactive session on ethical reflection (*Franck Meijboom & Mona Giersberg, Utrecht University*)
- 15:10** Round table “From research to implementation”, with perspectives from industry and society. With *Bas Rodenburg (Utrecht University)*, *Dennis Janssen (Hendrix Genetics)*, *Lisette van der Zande (Topigs Norsvin)*, and *Marjolein van Huik (Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals)*.
- 15:50** Wrapping up (*Liesbeth Bolhuis, Wageningen University & Research*)

16:00 – 17:00 Drinks and networking

Cancellation

The symposium is free of charge. If you have registered but can no longer attend, please let us know by emailing harmen.doekes@wur.nl, so we can offer your place to someone on the waiting list.

Information

For more information, please contact Harmen Doekes: harmen.doekes@wur.nl