



— EUROPEAN —  
EQUINE HEALTH &  
NUTRITION CONGRESS

## 12th EEHNC Programme

**Wednesday, 12th of March 2025**

### Industry Meeting

14:30 - 17:15 Pre-congress: Industry Meeting (City Center)

17:15 - 18:15 Discussion &Bites

### Welcome Drink

**Thursday, 13th of March 2025**

Building on the success of previous editions, the 12th EEHNC will feature a comprehensive program of workshops and demonstrations, including sessions on exercise physiology and gait analysis. The registration desk is situated @Yalelaan 114

### Track I: Nutrition & Performance: Warming up! Introduction in Energy metabolism of the performance horse and measuring performance

Lecture Hall Equine, Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,  
Utrecht Science Parc

Cutting-edge insights and fundamentals in equine exercise physiology:  
basics and latest advances  
**Irene Tosi & Tania Art (Liege University)**

9:30-10:15

Basics of Equine Training Physiology

10:15-10:30

Questions

10:30-11:00

Break

11:00-12:00

The relation between energy expenditure - energy requirement and  
performance (HR - VO<sub>2</sub>)

**Ingrid Vervuert (Universität Leipzig)**

Energy metabolism of the performance horse

12:00-13:00

Lunch (Yalelaan 114, Area Equine Lecture Hall)

#### **Track II: Track GASTRO: Research & Expert meeting**

Lecture Hall Companion Animals (Munsterlaan 7), Clinical Sciences, Faculty  
of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht Science Parc

Welcome and Introduction: Welcome on behalf of UU/WUR and ongoing research at the Utrecht University Clinic related to Gastrointestinal Health  
**Host: Louis Penning (UU), Robin van den Boom (UU) Wouter Hendriks (WUR)**

9:15- 9:30

**This track is designed specifically for equine nutrition scientists to share ongoing research, expertise, and experiences.** The focus will be on various (in vitro) technologies for assessing gastrointestinal health and evaluating nutritional strategies. The session will feature contributions from experts at Utrecht University (UU), Wageningen University & Research (WUR), and the team led by Soraya Shirazi-Beechey (University of Liverpool). This workshop builds on discussions from the 9th EEHNC (Utrecht) and 11th EEHNC (Ghent), continuing the tradition of advancing equine nutrition science. Research groups may also introduce themselves to facilitate collaboration.

9:30- 9:50

Centaur & Bacin2Dliver

**Organoids & IVGPT & In vitro methods Mary Maxfield & Wilbert Pellikaan & Wouter Hendriks**

9:50 – 10:05

Exploring the equine intestinal microbiome and it's genetic potential by using different sequencing techniques'

**Mathijs Theelen (Utrecht University)**

10:05 – 10:15

Nutrition & Obesity & Endocrinology

**Ellen Roelfsema**

10:15- 10:25

Nutraceutical approaches to management of equine leaky gut syndrome and equine articular inflammation

**Wendy Pearson (University of Guelph)**

10:25 - 10:45

Ongoing work at the Epithelial Function and Development Group

**By Dr. Andrew W Moran & Prof Soraya Shirazi-Beechey, Professor of Molecular Physiology and Biochemistry, Department of Infection Biology and Microbiomes, Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences**

10:45-11:05

Short Break

11:05 – 11:15	From gastric digestion to gastric diseases <b>Samy Julliand (Lab2Field)</b>
11:15 – 11:40	A model for measuring Gut Permeability & Stress <b>Kyle McLeod University of Kentucky)</b>
11:40 – 12:00	Discussion & Questions <b>What are our knowledge gaps and what are methodologies or techniques that need standardization or equine specific validation?</b>
12:00-13:00	Lunch (Yalelaan 114, Area Equine Lecture Hall)

**Track III: Internal medicine: Cardiology & Respiration (Part I):  
Location HJG 0.60 Munsterlaan 5; Break@Equine Lecture  
Hall Area Yalelaan 114; Part II: Riding Hall (Yalelaan 114)**

Clinical Sciences (Room HJG 0.060) - Entrance Munsterlaan 5), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht Science Parc

**Cardiology & Respiration  
Cornelie Westermann & Astrid van den Brom (Utrecht University) & Gunther van Loon (Ghent University)**

9:30-12:00      Oxygen is critical for generating the energy needed to sustain the performance of athletic horses. This workshop track explores the vital roles of the cardiac and respiratory systems in equine performance, with a focus on common pathologies that can impact these systems. Participants will also gain insights into both new and established diagnostic tools, with practical demonstrations tailored for veterinary practitioners and clinics.

12:00-13:00      Lunch (Yalelaan 114, Area Equine Lecture Hall)

**Plenary Programme (Lunch 12:00 - Start plenary program 13:00): Feeding the Muscles - Energy substrates for performance**

12:00 - 13:00	Lunch (Yalelaan 114, Area Equine Lecture Hall) <b>Lunch is available for all delegates that registered for (a part of) the Thursday program!</b>
13:00 - 13:15	Welcome & Opening - Lecture Hall Equine - Yalelaan 114 <b>Opening by Peter Bollen (President EEHNC) &amp; Debby Jaarsma (Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University)</b>
13:15 - 13:30	Revolutionizing Equine Anatomy Education with Augmented Reality: Focus on Muscles and GI Tract <b>Beerend Hierck (Utrecht University)</b>
13:30 - 14:00	Fermentation end-products (SCFA): How do they affect the gut, the liver and pancreas metabolism? <b>Soraya Shirazi-Beechey (University of Liverpool)</b>
14:00 - 14:25	Modulating energy metabolism and performance with a high-fibre diet <b>Samy Julliand (Lab2field)</b>
14:25 - 14:30	Free communication (3 min): "Plasma aspartate aminotransferase (AST) activity in healthy Standardbred trotters fed different starch allowances" <b>Malin Connynsson</b>
14:30 - 14:50	Fueling or failing: the impact of starch, fat and stress on equine gut health. <b>Kyle R. McLeod (University of Kentucky) &amp; Caroline Loos (Cavaler)</b>
14:45 - 15:15	Questions & Panel discussion <b>Speakers &amp; Experts</b>
15:15 - 15:45	Break

### Plenary Programme: Feeding the Muscles - Electrolytes

Fluid and Electrolyte Balance in Exercising Horses: Why Does a Horse Sweat, and What Are the Consequences for Nutrient Balance and Replenishment (Post-Exercise Strategies)?

15:45 - 16:30	Fluid and electrolyte balance in exercising horses: Clinical and nutritional perspectives <b>Harold Schott (Michigan State University)</b>
16:30 - 17:00	An Exercise Physiologist Perspective <b>Michael Lindinger (Nutraceutical Alliance)</b>
17:00 - 17:30	Q&A Speakers & Expert Panel Discussion: Electrolyte supplementation for the (performance) horse <b>Led by Pat Harris (Waltham Petcare Science Institute), discussion with Harold Schott (Michigan State University), Michael Lindinger (Nutraceutical Alliance), Ingrid Vervuert (Leipzig University) &amp; Carolien Munsters (Equine Integration, Utrecht University)</b>

**Congress Dinner - only for registered participants 19:30 - 22:30**

Congres Dinner information

The congress dinner is only for participants specifically registered for the dinner beforehand. If you are registered for the dinner, we gather at the Utrecht University Hall in the city center at 19.30pm. The address for the University hall is Domplein 29. The location is open from about 19:15.

**Friday, 14th of March 2025**

**Plenary Programme: Feeding & Exercising the Healthy Performance Horse**

Lecture Hall Equine (Yalelaan 114), Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht Science Parc

9:00 - 9:15	Start programme
9:15 - 9:35	Practical tips for feeding performance horses <b>Emanuela Valle (University of Torino)</b>

9:35 - 09:50	Questions
09:50 - 10:15	From fat to fit: the role of inflammation in re-conditioning the equine athlete <b>Wendy Pearson (University of Guelph)</b>
10:15 - 10:30	Questions
10:30 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:20	An applied approach to fitness & workload - What do we see in practice and how do we monitor and control this? <b>Carolien Munsters (Equine Integration, Utrecht University)</b>
11:20 - 11:30	Questions
11:30 - 11:50	Equine quantitative gait analysis - What are the potential tools to use for the equine professional, nutritionist and veterinarian to monitor gait, performance and welfare? <b>Filipe Brangança (Utrecht University &amp; Aagje Hardeman (DataHorse)</b>
11:50 - 12:00	Questions
12:00 - 12:15	New technologies: What's pending?
12:00 - 12:05	Free communication (3 min) Effects of two cooling modalities on rectal, middle gluteal and pectoral muscle temperature recovery following treadmill exercise <b>Joe D. Pagan, Ryon W. Springer, Iona A. Robinson</b>
12:05 - 12:10	Short presentation: Eye tracking – What do you look at? Assessment of equine lameness <b>Sanne van Zalen (Utrecht University)</b>
12:10 - 12:15	Short presentation: Fresh vs. Dry NIR: the Potential for Equine Nutrition and the Critical Role of a Large Database <b>Bob Fabri (Eurofins Agro)</b>

12:15 - 12:30 Q&A - Start General discussion part I (to think about): How can we monitor and improve the wellbeing of the healthy equine athlete by nutrition and the use of new technologies?

12:30 - 13:00 Quick Lunch Track IV; Lunch for Track V & VI

### **Afternoon Tracks (IV, V & VI)**

**Track IV: Research & Nutrition (Bus to Wageningen) - 60 persons - Sponsored by Premier Nutrition**

Bus leaves to Wageningen University & Eurofins Agro

Visit to Wageningen University:

Group IVa

- 13:45: Arrival at Animal Nutrition Group & Carus Respiration Chambers & Updates BACIN2DLIVER project (Organoid research).
- 16:15: Bus leaves to Eurofins Agro laboratory
- 18:15: Bus leaves to Utrecht Science Parc & City Center

Group IVb

- 14:00: Arrival at Eurofins Agro laboratory
- 16:00: Bus leaves to Animal Nutrition Group & Carus Respiration Chambers & Updates BACIN2DLIVER project (IVGPT & Organoid research).
- 18:30: Bus leaves to Utrecht Science Parc & City Center

Expected arrival in Utrecht: 19:15

13:00 - 19:15

**Eurofins Forage Analysis:**

Efficient and optimized horse feeding begins with a clear understanding of forage nutritional value. With Eurofins On-Farm Solutions, delegates gain real-time insights into forage quality—whether it's in the field, in hay bales, or in the feed trough. During the tour, delegates will also be introduced to the new mobile near-infrared spectroscopy (NIR) technology, specifically validated for equine feed.



This cutting-edge NIR technology delivers immediate analysis results right on the farm (Picture), offering the convenience of having a lab in the palm of your hand! During the congress, and particularly on this tour, you will learn about these state-of-the-art devices in action and experience their unmatched speed and precision firsthand. Additionally, you will visit the forage analysis lab and explore the various applications of NIR technology in forage analysis.

**Track V: Technology & Performance Monitoring - 60 persons - Sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim 13:20 - 17:30**

From Barn to Stable: Exploring Thermography in Animal Health & Performance monitoring (a comparative approach)  
**Lenny van Erp (HAS Green Academy)**

13:20 - 13:35	Join Lenny as she shares her and students' hands-on experiences with thermography applications in monitoring animal health (Cows, Horses). Through a short presentation followed by an interactive discussion, participants will discuss the potential and limitations of this technology for enhancing equine health, performance, and overall care.
13:35 - 14:05:	Plenary: Update on Thermoregulation in Athletic Horses <b>Michael Lindinger (Nutraceutical Alliance)</b>
14:05 - 14:15	Instructions for demo's: Rhana Aarts & Speakers
14:20 - 15:20	Live demo's & Workshops (Round 1) <b>Aagje Hardeman (DataHorse), Carolien Munsters (Equine Integration, Utrecht University), Esther Siegers &amp; Filipe Bragança (Utrecht University)</b>
15:20-15:50	Change of groups & Coffee Break
15:50 - 16:50	Live demo's & Workshops (Round 2) <b>Aagje Hardeman (DataHorse), Carolien Munsters (Equine Integration, Utrecht University), Esther Siegers &amp; Filipe Bragança (Utrecht University)</b>
17:00 - 17:30	Questions & Plenary discussion (Lecture Hall Equine) & Closing

**Track VI: Vets & Specialists - Limited seats available - Sponsored by Cavalor**

13:15 - 13:30	Welcome & Cavalor Research Update  Dr Caroline Loos a.o. will provide an update on recent research projects
13:30 - 14:30	Diagnosis of Muscle Problems <b>Stephanie Valberg (ValbergNMDL.com)</b>

14:30 - 15:00	Break
15:00 - 16:00	Fluid and Electrolyte management: Clinical Perspectives & Diagnostics <b>Harold Schott (Michigan State University)</b>
16:00 - 16:20	Short Break
16:20 - 16:30	Free communication (5 min) Characterization of body condition, muscle atrophy and plasma biomarkers in Horses and Ponies with Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID)
	<b>Nicolas Galinelli, Nicholas Bamford, Madi Erdody, Skye Mackenzie, Patricia Harris, Simon Bailey</b>
16:30 - 17:00	Updates on Therapies for Horses with Insulin Dysregulation (ID) and Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID) <b>Pat Harris (Waltham Petcare Science Institute) &amp; Ellen Roelfsema (Utrecht University)</b>
	Updates on Therapies for Horses with Insulin Dysregulation (ID) and Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID)
17:00 -17:15	The new Dutch Equine Parasite Guidelines <b>Floor van Kootwijk</b>

## Saturday, 15th of March 2025

### Plenary Programme: Feeding the Horse with Muscle Problems

Utrecht University Hall (Adress: Domplein 29).City Centre

9:00 - 9:15	Start Congress
9:15 - 9:45	Why is muscle development important: Conditioning the (healthy) horse? <b>Rachel Murray (Consultant, Veterinary Specialist)</b>

9:45 - 10:30	Updates on feeding & management of the horse with muscle disorders: Part I: The role of Nutrition in Managing Exertional Rhabdomyolysis <b>Joe Pagan (Kentucky Equine Research &amp; )Stephanie Valberg (ValbergNMDL.com)</b>
10:30 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:30	Updates on feeding & management of the horse with muscle disorders: Part II: The Role of Nutrition in Managing Myofibrillar Myopathy <b>Stephanie Valberg (ValbergNMDL.com) &amp; Dr. Joe Pagan (Kentucky Equine Research)</b>
11:30 - 11:45	Q&A
11:45 - 12:05	What do we know about rehabilitation of horses with muscle problems? <b>Rachel Murray (Consultant, Veterinary Specialist)</b>
12:05 - 12:30	Case discussion: Focussing on rehabilitation of performance horses with muscle problems focussing on nutrition and exercise regimen. <b>Rachel Murray (Consultant, Veterinary Specialist), Caroline Munsters (Equine Integration, Utrecht University), Pat Harris (Waltham Petcare Science Institute), Stephanie Valberg (ValbergNMDL.com), Ingrid Vervuert (Leipzig University)</b>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch

### Gastrointestinal Health

13:30 - 13:35	Free communication (3 min): Use of a repetitive oral glucose absorption test to evaluate treatment effect of small intestinal malabsorption in horses <b>C. Decoster, A. Dufourni, L. Lefèvre, A. Declerdt, G. van Loon</b>
13:35 - 14:35	Why should we change the (nutrition) management to improve gastrointestinal health to create a "Happy Athlete"? Clinical perspectives & experiences focussed on EGUS & IBD <b>Robin van den Boom &amp; Lieuwke Kranenburg (Utrecht University)</b>

### Q & A

14:35 - 15:00

Q&A: How can nutrition & management & technology help to prevent or support treatment for gastrointestinal health problems of performance horses? & Part II: How can technology help (the nutritional) management of healthy performance horse?

15:00 - 15:15

Free communication Award & Closing & Drinks



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