DLG • Eschborner Landstraße 122 • 60489 Frankfurt/Main Germany • press_agrar@dlg.org • **www.dlg.org**

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Ukrainian livestock farming on the path toward EU integration

A highlight of EuroTier 10-13 November, the leading trade for livestock production technologies, was the German-Ukrainian expert discussion. At the DLG Expert Stage "Intelligence in Animal Farming," specialists explored how Ukraine's livestock sector can meet the requirements of EU accession.

The forum was organized by the German-Ukrainian Agricultural Policy Dialogue (APD), funded by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Home Affairs (BMLEH), with DLG participating as a partner.

In his opening remarks, DLG President Hubertus Paetow highlighted the economic opportunities that EU accession could create for both sides, provided that common production standards and reliable trade arrangements are established. He emphasized the potential of Ukraine's poultry industry, whose production costs, in his view, remain below those in Germany.

Andrii Kravchenko of the Ukrainian Ministry of Agrarian Policy stressed the importance of making EU regulations understandable for farmers and identified the adaptation of laboratories, hygiene standards and traceability controls "from farm to fork" as key priorities.

Dr. Hans-Peter Schons (ADT) outlined the agricultural policy framework, noting that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has not yet fully considered Ukraine's farm structures. He pointed to the EU livestock strategy, including the phase-out of cage systems in poultry production and gradually stricter requirements for pig farming.

Prof. Dr. Eberhard Haunhorst of the German ministry of agriculture (BMLEH) referred to support measures through the APD, including laboratory internships, study tours and industry exchange programs. Oksana Yurchenko (ASU) reported that around 80 percent of Ukrainian broiler production already meets EU standards and that most companies continue investing despite

war-related damage and energy shortages. She estimated that approximately €1 billion will be needed to implement animal welfare measures in the meat sector.

Hanna Skyba of the Veterinary Alliance of Ukraine identified biosecurity and disease prevention as major challenges, while Nataliia Yakymenko, representing Ukraine's sheep and goat sector, emphasized that smaller farms require additional time and resources to complete the transition. Participants agreed that realistic implementation roadmaps, stronger public authorities, laboratory and veterinary structures, and financing concepts are among the next necessary steps. Kravchenko highlighted trade fairs such as EuroTier as important platforms for knowledge transfer.

Photo: DLG

Media contact
Malene Conlong
+49 69 24788-237
m.conlong@dlg.org

DLG. Progress and sustainability in the agriculture and food industry

The DLG (German Agricultural Society), founded in 1885 by Max Eyth, stands for productivity and sustainability in innovation-driven improvements in agriculture and the food chain. The aim of the DLG is to promote progress through the transfer of knowledge - especially with regard to technology and quality control. Non-profit, politically independent and with an international network, the DLG has more than 30,000 members worldwide.

As one of the leading organizations in its sector, the DLG not only organizes trade fairs and events in the fields of agriculture and food technology but also tests food, agricultural technology and equipment. With its competence centers for agriculture and food, its demonstration farm where practical trials take place along with its numerous publications, the DLG continually promotes independent knowledge transfer. In addition, the DLG works on numerous national and international committees of experts to develop solutions for the challenges facing agriculture and the food industry.
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