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Advanced Studies in Improving the Nutritional Status of Forage Crops for Better Livestock Productivity

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Forage crops refer to plants, usually grasses (Poaceae) or herbaceous legumes (Fabaceae), consumed by animals, particularly livestock. The nutritional status of forage plants depends on the concentration and proportion of carbohydrates, proteins and lipids. The composition of these organic nutrients determines the digestibility of each plant, which, along with minerals and vitamins, provides the amount of energy the animal can obtain.The quality of feed used in livestock nutrition is very important, as it determines not only the animal's performance but also the quality of milk and dairy products and beef. Forage crop quality is determined by genetic constitution and agronomic practices (irrigation management, harvesting stage, the number of cuttings etc.). In addition, climatic changes and abiotic stress factors can also affect forage quality. Nutrient application rate also influence the quality aspect of forage crops and so does preservation technology involving inherent nutrient losses.

In this Special Issue, we are looking for publications that can bring together different aspects concerning the improvement of the nutritional status of forage crops.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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