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**Welfare in the stable, an essential condition for modern animal husbandry**

***The care of dairy cows, both in nutrition and in the management of the stable, is essential to make farms profitable. This is the recommendation that emerged from two livestock conferences held at Agrilevante.***

Animal welfare is the indispensable frontier of modern animal husbandry. It is no coincidence that Agrilevante, which this year for the first time gives ample space to livestock exhibitions, hosted two conferences.

Animal welfare and ethical productions in the future of dairy cattle breeding: understanding when these two aspects can be strategic to differentiate and enhance livestock production was the theme addressed by L'Informatore Agrario in the meeting, moderated by the director Antonio Boschetti, "How much is the welfare in the stable worth?", which was held yesterday. For the president of the Regional Association of Breeders of Puglia, Piero Laterza, owner of a dairy cow farm in Noci (BA), welfare is worth a lot and will be worth more and more on the market. "Puglia, which is the first region in the South and the fourth in Italy by importance of animal husbandry can rightly boast all the conditions to ensure welfare in the stable. The Apulian breeders send the animals to the pasture, allowing them not only to feed themselves directly in the autumn-spring grasslands, but also to walk, live in the open air and strengthen the immune defences; they generate at least 70% of the annual supply with the production of forage; since the farms are in large part family-run, they have a very close relationship with the animals, giving them the best possible living conditions". Welfare in the stable means respecting the ethology of the cow, in order to improve production and revenues, added Alessandro Fantini, a freelance professional. Raffaele Luigi Sciorsci of the University of Bari highlighted that the rational use of pharmaceuticals reduces costs and respects the cow, and Guido Visentin of Anafi noted that genetic selection aims to obtain more resistant Frisians.

The production of fodder was instead at the centre of the conference "Quality starting from the field" organized on the same day by AIA and Ara Puglia, introduced by Eros Gualandi, president of the Cooperative "Il Raccolto" of Bologna, presenting applications of technology in their cultivation. "Feeding cows with high quality fodder is a guarantee not only of welfare, but also of sustainable milk production", highlighted Giorgio Borreani, professor at the University of Turin. "Provided - said Igino Andrighetto, a professor at the University of Padua - that the forage is not too soft and straw is added if necessary, because cattle are ruminants and must ruminate". Lastly, Gianluca Battaglia of the Computer Science Office of AIA presented the Si@llEvA® Mobile Project, "which allows you to quickly record all the information that the farmer observes while he is in the stable, in direct contact with the animals, entering the data on his mobile device and then using it on Si@llEvA desktop".

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