First name/Surname: Emanuele Pontalti
Telephone: +39 3895693501
E-mail: emanuele.pontalti@studenti.unipd.it
Nationality: Italy
Date of birth: 26/09/1999
Place of birth: Trento, Italy

Education:

- PhD student in Animal and Food Science (2023 – 2026)
- Master student in Food and Health (2021 – 2023)
- Bachelor student in Agricultural Science (2018 – 2021)

Research areas:

- Heat stress management and prevention
- Rabbit and poultry

Brief description of Ph.D project:

Heat stress is an emerging problem that currently affects animal farming, both furred and feathered animals. Heat stress is responsible to impair both productive and reproductive performance of the animals, mainly through a reduced feed intake and constant stress generation. In addition, the mortality rate raises with increasing the environmental temperature, and so as the economic loss of farmers. Due to climate change an increasingly number of farmers are facing this issue, time periods with high temperature have become more and more frequent, not only in tropical areas but also in temperate zones. Poultry and rabbit farming are sensitive to heat stress and thus their production for food purposes is surely challenged by this changing climatic scenario. Evidently, appropriate species-

specific and context-specific strategies to alleviate this issue must be identified and adequately tested. Finding appropriate solutions to alleviate the negative effect of heat stress on production animals is necessary in developing countries, often located in hot climate areas, but also in developed countries. In fact, it is necessary also considering that, without valuable alternatives, antimicrobial treatments are often needed to support the immune system of animals, whose efficiency is hampered by long-term heat stress exposure. This is a major problem considering the existing criticality related to the antimicrobial-resistance. An intense use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals is not a problem per se only, but it is an environmental problem, and it poses a risk for human health. With this in mind, the present PhD project aims at findings effective strategies to alleviate the negative effects of heat stress on poultry and rabbit species, considering both productive outcomes but also product quality (i.e. meat and eggs).

Supervisor:

Professor Antonella Dalle Zotte

Publications: Google Scholar link

https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=3Ad2Ie0AAAAJ&hl=it