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Nationality: Italian

Date of birth: 20/07/1998

Place of birth: Dolo (VE), Italia

Education:

- PhD student in Animal and Food Science, University of Padua (2023-continued)
- Research grant: Productive results and welfare in alternative rearing systems for laying hens, Dafnae, University of Padua (2023)
- Master student in Animal Science and Technology, University of Padua (2021-2023)
- Bachelor student in Animal Science and Technology, University of Padua (2018-2021)

Research areas:

- Laying Hens
- Cage-free System
- Welfare
- Eggs quality
- Precision Livestock Farming
- Smart technologies

Brief description of Ph.D project:

Precision livestock farming (PLF) tools can be used to observe the health and welfare status of the animals in real time, with automatic signals sent in case of alarm about the condition of the animals. Precision farming systems for animal status detection can use several different sensors such as radio frequency identification systems, cameras, microphones, accelerometers, and sensors for environmental conditions. All these tools can collect a large amount of data, which include different types of behaviors, production traits (feed intake, body weight), environmental data (temperature, humidity, gas production). Assessing the daily routine of animals in intensive farm by PLF tools would be an added value where housing is going to be converted from cages into cages-free systems, with animals freely moving in an open space.

This is especially true for laying hens, when the European Parliament is revising current legislation about animal welfare on farm with the main aim of replacing cages with cage-free systems all over Europe. In cage-free systems, a large number of laying hens are freely raised in sheds; this allows the animals to better express different species-specific behaviors but implies greater difficulties for the farmer in the monitoring of animals. In these systems, several problems can occur related to free walking, feathers pecking, piling and smothering due to competition resources among laying hens.

Supervisor:

Prof. Gerolamo Xiccato

Co-supervisor

Prof.ssa. Angela Trocino, Dott. Francesco Bordignon

Publications: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mattia-Pravato>