

## **Climate change and transformation of work in animal husbandry**

Convenors: *Christa Gotter* (contact person), PECO-Institut, [christa.gotter@peco-ev.de](mailto:christa.gotter@peco-ev.de); *Alexandra Voivozeanu*, PECO-Institut, [alexandra.voivozeanu@peco-ev.de](mailto:alexandra.voivozeanu@peco-ev.de)

Animal husbandry in Germany plays an important role in discussions about the impact of food production on climate change. In order to achieve national climate targets, a significant reduction in livestock numbers is being discussed, which has in fact been declining slightly for years. This scenario would have far-reaching consequences for German agriculture. It would not only change the working lives of self-employed farmers but also those of employees, who are playing an increasingly important role in German animal husbandry due to structural change. At the same time, it can be assumed that work conditions in animal husbandry are also changing because of climate change itself.

As a trade union-affiliated institute (IG BAU), our research project within the PECO Institute “Transformation-Work-Climate-Animal Husbandry” ([TAKT](#)) focuses on employed workers in the animal husbandry sector – explicitly excluding family members working on family-run farms. Drawing on focus groups, qualitative interviews, and an online survey, we examine their perspectives on upcoming transformation processes, their opportunities to actively shape change processes, and how employees in animal husbandry perceive changes in their working conditions as a result of climate change. In addition, we are researching the current working conditions of employees in animal husbandry. As agricultural businesses in Germany increasingly find it difficult to recruit workers from Germany for animal husbandry, German employers are increasingly recruiting people from abroad to work in German animal husbandry. Our project also examines the situation of foreign workers.

In the working group, we would like to briefly present our research findings and are interested in further presentations by researchers and/or practitioners who are working on these topics in Germany or other countries. We are also interested in presentations that address the following questions: How is climate change changing the working conditions of employees in agriculture? How do employees in agriculture perceive climate change? What experiences do workers have when measures are taken for farms that are intended to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase biodiversity? Are there any political measures that help cushion the potential negative consequences of these changes for workers? Finally, what role do trade unions in other countries play in these transformation processes?

The working group we propose will consist of one session and include presentations followed by a discussion. First and foremost, we want to use the working group to encourage cross-border knowledge exchange on the topic described and, in addition, explore possible opportunities for cooperation on joint future projects.