

Beyond yes or no!

What do citizens want from the future of animal breeding?

What did RUMIGEN look at?

RUMIGEN explored how citizens think about future animal breeding. Instead of asking only whether people support or oppose a technology, the project asked under what conditions an innovation might find societal acceptance.

What was found?

Citizens did not think in black and white. Views depended on whether animals would be treated well, whether environmental impacts would improve, whether the process would be transparent, and whether benefits would be shared fairly, rather than captured by a few powerful actors.

Why is this important?

Animal breeding affects food systems, farming, the environment and public trust. Better decisions need more than technical evidence; they also need honest discussion about trade-offs and boundaries.

Why does this matter?

It shows that people are willing to engage seriously with complex breeding questions when the discussion is concrete, understandable and linked to real-life choices.

What does this mean in practice?

Future breeding discussions should start earlier, use clear examples and scenarios, and create space for citizens to discuss not only what a technology does, but why it is used, who gains, and what safeguards are in place.

Key takeaway

Citizens do not simply ask whether a breeding technology is new. They ask whether it is fair, responsible and worth it.

RUMIGEN is an EU-funded project working to improve livestock breeding by combining genetic, epigenetic, and phenotypic knowledge to support more sustainable and resilient animal production.