

Emily M. Leishman

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor

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Education

2017: BSc in Zoology, University of Guelph; **2018** MSc in Animal Behaviour & Welfare, University of Guelph; **2022** PhD in Animal Breeding & Genetics, University of Guelph

Academic Work History

2024 – Present: Tenure-track Assistant Professor, ANIVET, Aarhus University

2023 – 2024: Project Manager, Centre for the Genetic Improvement of Livestock, University of Guelph

2022 – 2024: Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Nutrition Modelling, University of Guelph

Authorship and Publications: *h*-index = 9 (Google Scholar)

Author/co-author of 28 peer-reviewed articles (14 first or last author) and 72 conference contributions in addition to 1 article(s) in submission, and 8 in preparation. Selected publications:

- **Leishman, E.M.**, Vanderhout, R.J., Wood, B.J., Baes, C.F., Barbut, S. 2025. Genome-wide association study to identify biological and metabolic pathways associated with carcass portion weights in turkeys. *Poultry Science* [accepted, in press]
- **Leishman, E.**, & Riber, A. B. (2025). [Review about the existing behavioural indicators to assess welfare in broiler chickens on farm](#). Zenodo.
- **Leishman, E.M.**, Wood, B.J., Baes, C.F., Harlander, A., van Staaveren, N. 2022. [The usual suspects: Co-occurrence of injuries in Canadian turkey flocks](#). *Poultry Science*. 101(11): 102137.
- **Leishman, E.M.**, Vanderhout, R.J., Abdalla, E.A., van Staaveren, N., Naim, A., Barbut, S., Wood, B.J., Harlander, A., Baes, C.F. 2023. [Genetic parameters of feather corticosterone and fault bars and correlations with production traits in turkeys \(*Meleagris gallopavo*\)](#). *Scientific Reports*. 13: 38.
- **Leishman, E.M.**, van Staaveren, N., Mohr, J., Wood, B.J., Freeman, N., Newman, A.E.M., Harlander, A., & Baes, C.F. 2021. [The effect of egg laying on plasma and feather corticosterone levels in turkey \(*Meleagris gallopavo*\) hens](#). *Animals* 11(7):1892

Research Funding:

- **2025 – 2026:** Bridging the Gap: Discussion of Collaborative Opportunities and Challenges between Animal Welfare and Breeding, *Open Philanthropy Farm Animal Welfare Program* [Principal Applicant]
- **2023 – 2025:** Development of a model to predict the impact of nutrition, genetics and heat stress on meat yield and meat quality in turkeys, *Ontario AgriFood Innovation Alliance Tier 1 Program* [Collaborator]
- **2023 – 2025:** Supporting Sustainability of the Equine Sector - Development of a digestion model to predict nutrient utilization and excretion, *Ontario AgriFood Innovation Alliance Tier 1 Program* [Collaborator]
- **2022 – 2024:** Development of an equine metabolism model to describe post-absorptive nutrient dynamics in the mature horse, *Mitacs Accelerate* (Principal Applicant)

Invited Presentations and Lectures

1. **Leishman, E.M.** 2025. No “stress”, no success? Investigating the HPA axis to breed for robustness. In: QGG Forum, 26 March 2025, Aarhus, Denmark [invited].
2. **Leishman, E.M.**, You, J., Ellis, J.L. 2024. How Digitization Supports Sustainability of the Poultry Sector. In: 2024 Poultry Science Association (PSA) Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, USA, 15-18 July 2024. [Invited presentation and panel discussion]
3. **Leishman, E.M.**, et al. 2024. Leveraging Genomics to Advance the Breeding of Canadian Livestock. In: 2024 ASAS-CSAS-WSASAS Annual Meeting, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 21-25 July, 2024. [Invited presentation – CSAS Symposium].
4. **Leishman, E.M.**, et al. 2021. Turkey housing: challenges and solutions. In: 28. Freiland-Tagung/35. IGN-Tagung, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Boku, Vienna, Austria, 23 September 2021. [Invited presentation].
5. **Leishman, E.M.**, et al. 2019. Relating housing and management to health traits in turkeys. In: Poultry Innovations Conference, London, Ontario, Canada, 21-22 November 2019. [Invited presentation]
6. **Leishman, E.M.**, et al. 2019. Using farmer-based flock scoring to identify health risks on Canadian turkey farms. In: Poultry Service Industry Workshop, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 2 – 4 October 2019. [Invited presentation]

Relevant Committees and Memberships

- 2024 – Present: Member of the consortium of the EU Reference Centre for Welfare of poultry and other small farmed animals. <https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu/>