



## Press conference

Paris, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

French Ministry of Agriculture, Food  
and Food Sovereignty

### Contents

Editorial: Annie Genevard, Minister for Agriculture, Agri-  
Food and Food Sovereignty

Introduction: Didier Lucas, President of SPACE

Presentation of the 2026 edition – 40<sup>th</sup> edition



**Annie Genevard,**

**French Minister for Agriculture, Agri-Food  
and Food Sovereignty**

For the 40<sup>th</sup> year running, SPACE is set to be a major event for the pillar of the French agricultural industry, the livestock sector. For three days, the Rennes Exhibition Centre will bring together the expertise, innovations and key players of a sector that is vital to our food sovereignty.

Following a challenging year for our livestock farmers, this trade fair is an opportunity to showcase the best of French livestock farming: a firm commitment to quality that is recognised around the world, high standards of animal health & safety, excellent genetics, state-of-the-art equipment and a constant ability to adapt. It will also offer visitors an opportunity to meet the people behind these success stories, including farmers, manufacturers, entrepreneurs, researchers, vets and pharmaceutical companies. It is their dedication that is the driving force behind the vitality of our regions and France's reputation in the agricultural sector.

SPACE brings this reality into sharp focus. It showcases an agricultural sector that invests, innovates, exports and continues to draw attention from around the globe. Every year, delegations from around the world flock to Rennes to discover the latest solutions developed by our sectors, build and strengthen partnerships, and share approaches that tackle our shared challenges head-on: climate adaptation, competition, animal health & safety, regenerative approaches and the technological transition.

This perfectly demonstrates the irreplaceable role of agricultural trade shows, which create a meeting point for producers and the French public, facilitate the exchange of innovations, allow expertise to be shared, and support business development.

On the occasion of this 40<sup>th</sup> edition, I would like to pay tribute to the dedication of all the organisers, exhibitors and professionals who have kept SPACE alive for four decades. Through its international outreach, high technical standards and ability to anticipate industry trends, this trade fair plays a vital role in maintaining a strong, modern and widely recognised French agricultural sector.



# Didier Lucas

## President of SPACE

At a time when our agricultural sector is undergoing profound changes, facing uncertainties relating to climate, health, the economy and geopolitics, issues of food sovereignty and security serve as a reminder of just how strategic the agricultural sector is for our country, in terms of the development of all its various components.

As a centre of excellence in genetics, animal health management, digital, energy and organisational innovation, cutting-edge equipment and networking, SPACE remains an essential resource for supporting livestock farmers and the livestock sector from France's Grand-Ouest region on the international stage, helping them to make their agricultural projects a successful reality.

With its international outreach and its ability to anticipate industry trends, SPACE has established itself as a highlight in the livestock calendar, across all sectors. It brings together stakeholders from around the world who are seeking technologies capable of addressing the current and future challenges facing crop and livestock production, for the benefit of farmers in France, Europe and internationally.

40 years ago, a group of visionaries came up with the idea for SPACE and made it happen, meaning that this event is designed by professionals, for professionals.

Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> edition is also an opportunity to look ahead and prepare for the next 40 years – with courage and a clear view of the realities of our agricultural sector – so that future generations have a tool that is just as well suited to the changing world of livestock farming as the one from which previous generations have benefited. This is a goal we need to all work towards together.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that behind this outstanding trade fair are the people whom I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank – GIE SPACE's partners, who are here alongside me today; the organising team, who have been working tirelessly to ensure the success of this 40<sup>th</sup> edition; our loyal exhibitors; and all the professionals who have kept SPACE alive for four decades.



## Introduction to the 40<sup>th</sup> edition

### A fresh line-up of exhibitors

The exhibitors are effectively lining up, with nearly 900 registered to date —80% of the 2025 total— including 280 international exhibitors.

To add to this impressive figure, 163 of these companies are new exhibitors.

In fact, 130 of them are exhibiting for the very first time, and 33 have chosen to return after missing several years, in some cases.

This loyalty demonstrates the vital role played by SPACE in the commercial activities of the exhibiting companies. An event not to be missed...



## A unifying theme for *L'Espace pour Demain*:

**“WATER... the source of livestock farming!”**

*Espace pour Demain* is a space dedicated to debate, discussion and the promotion of innovations designed to support livestock farmers. Each year, this section focuses on a topical theme and offers tried-and-tested solutions tailored to the needs of farmers, whatever their line of production.

Farmers share their experiences and experts answer visitors' questions.

Sustainable water management is a strategic challenge for the resilience of mixed farming operations and for the future of the agricultural and food sectors. Against a backdrop of accelerating climate change and pressure on resources, and in order to meet the challenge of regaining our food sovereignty, SPACE and the Chamber of Agriculture have chosen to make sustainable water management the theme of the 2026 event.



Farmers are fully committed to addressing a number of major challenges: ensuring food security and food sovereignty, successfully navigating the climate and energy transitions, preserving biodiversity, and sustainably managing natural resources.

Within this context, water is a key issue that affects all forms of agricultural production and determines the resilience of both farms and the wider region.



The extreme weather events observed in recent years have highlighted the vulnerability of many regions, including Brittany, to this strategic resource. The year 2022, characterised by temperatures exceeding 40°C, a severe rainfall deficit and significant pressure on water supplies, highlighted the scale of the challenges ahead.

In addition to the long-standing concerns regarding water quality, there are now significant challenges relating to water quantity, against a backdrop of changing water use patterns and increasingly severe weather events.

**The *Espace pour Demain* will be organised around three complementary areas:**

- **The Exhibition space**

Technical demonstrations, backed up by real-life testimonies from farmers, will showcase innovative equipment and practical solutions for optimising water use in livestock farming, rainwater harvesting, watering management, the adaptation of production systems and the cultivation of crops for animal feed.

- **The Expert space**

Throughout the exhibition, various experts will lead workshops where you can explore related topics in greater depth: water use and automated milking, the adaptation of forage crops to climate change, technical innovations and future trends in farming practices.

- **The Forum space**

Three panel debates will be held to stimulate discussions on water management issues and the solutions we need to develop collectively for the future.

Through this edition, “L’Espace pour Demain” will convey several key messages: promoting practices that encourage efficient water use, encouraging regional solutions, strengthening cooperation between stakeholders, and providing technical and financial support for the transitions needed to address water resource issues in a sustainable manner.

**3 debates on the following topics:**

- Sharing water resources
- High-quality water for everyone
- What is the water quality used on livestock farms?



# The Genetics Forum

## Presentations like no other in Europe

### Two breeds in the spotlight

#### *La Rouge des Prés*

A symbol of the West of France, the *Rouge des Prés* breed (formerly Maine-Anjou) will take centre stage at SPACE 2026, with the staging of its National Show.

Originating from the historic cross-breeding carried out in 1830 between the British Durham breed and the local Mancelle breed, this hardy and docile breed stands out with its exceptional sizing and excellent maternal qualities.

It produces exceptional meat, recognised by the Maine-Anjou PDO label for its flavour and unique marbling.

Managed by SICA Domaine Rouge des Prés, based in the breed's historic homeland, it boasts a rigorous selection programme which focuses on zootechnical performance and, in particular, on a single criterion that is essential to the breed: feed efficiency.

#### *La Normande*

The *Normande* breed is also taking to the spotlight.

The *Normande* is a quintessential crossbreed that has established itself as a pertinent solution for the economic challenges faced by dairy farms.

At a time when meat production is playing an increasingly significant role in farm income, it offers a unique balance between dairy performance and meat quality within a sustainable, pasture-based system that is increasingly sought after by consumers.

### There will be three key events for the 2026 Breed Show.

- A **National *Rouge des Prés* Show**, on Tuesday 15 September
- A **National *Normande* Challenge**, on Wednesday 16 September
- A **National *Vendéen* Sheep Show**, on Wednesday 17 September.



## Inter-regional and national competitions: an ongoing programme

- **13 inter-regional competitions**, breed presentations and inter-breed auctions will also form part of the cattle and sheep-goat programme.
- **530 cattle of 13 different breeds** will provide a continuous spectacle in the main ring during the three-day Expo.
- **150 animals from around 10 different breeds of sheep and goats** will also be present.
  - o **Tuesday 15 September: Meat Breed Day and the National *Rouge des Prés* Show**

A total of 74 animals will be competing at this major event, which will also feature the “*Excellence Bouchère*” (“Butcher’s Choice”) auction and farm visits designed to showcase this outstanding expertise to international professionals.

To round off the day, there will be an auction of animals for slaughter (fatstock). Every suckler breed exhibited at SPACE will be represented at this auction.

- o **Wednesday 16 September: the Normandy National Challenge and the unmissable *Génomique Elite* sale**

The Normandy National Challenge, showcasing the breed’s rich genetic heritage and exceptional diversity.

An inter-school challenge inviting students to come up with ideas for the livestock farming systems of the future and to identify the type of Normandy cow best suited to the needs and challenges we may be facing in 2035.

Other breeds in the inter-departmental competition: Montbéliarde, Simmental and Red Pied.

Closing: Genomic Elite sale. A leading event in France.

The National *Vendéen* Sheep Show will be held near the Sheep and Goat Hall (see the section below on sheep and goats for further details).



- **Thursday 17 September: the Prim'Holstein France Challenge and the Multi-Breed Dairy Supreme Championship**

SPACE, in partnership with Prim'Holstein Atlantique, is bringing back the Prim'Holstein France Challenge.

The Holstein competition is open to regions outside the Prim'Holstein Atlantique area: Hauts-de-France, Grand Est, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Occitanie and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.

**170 cows**, rigorously hand-selected from each region of France.

Other inter-regional competitions: Swiss Brown and Jersey.

Closing: Multi-breed dairy championship.

### **Running continuously over the three days: an exhibition in the Sheep and Goat marquee and a National Vendéen Sheep Show**

Around a dozen breeds of sheep and goats will be on display, some of which will be entered in competitions.

**National Vendéen Sheep Show** on Wednesday 17: 100 Vendéen sheep in the competition.

- A French sheep breed originating from western France and is renowned for its meat-producing qualities and hardiness. It is particularly well suited to grassland systems and a variety of climatic conditions. With nearly **80,000 ewes** in France, 9,000 of which are registered for breeding, the Vendéen sheep has established itself as one of France's leading meat breeds.

**Goats:** ANICAP and ANICAP Pays de la Loire-Bretagne will also be in attendance.

**Goat breed presentations** every day this year: A first for the event!

- An Alpine physical competition (incorporating scoring and genetic criteria) organised in partnership with OS Capgènes to showcase the animals in front of the public and industry professionals.
- Awards ceremony for dairy quality control for farmers from Brittany and the Loire region on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Activities focusing on the goat dairy sector: a presentation of the goat milk production cycle using the Caprin360 app with a virtual reality headset, and the wheel at the facility.



## Mechanisation

Mechanisation plays a significant role here at SPACE.

Around half of the 16 hectares that SPACE covers are used by manufacturers and sellers of agricultural machinery: sowing and harvesting equipment, handling machinery, tractors, milking and washing equipment, livestock transport equipment, to name but a few examples...

In this open-air space, exhibitors welcome their customers and prospective clients to spacious stands that allow them to display and showcase their equipment.

Leading machinery manufacturers are showcasing their latest innovations at stands covering more than 1,000 square metres.

This central role within SPACE's offering is also reflected in the Innov'SPACE awards. For example, 11 out of a total of 43 awards were presented to machinery manufacturers and dealers in 2025. Some of them have already signed up for the Innov'SPACE 2026 competition.

In addition, the CUMA (cooperatives for the shared use of agricultural equipment) have partnered up with SPACE. A visitor guide listing the exhibitors selected for a theme or product recommended by the Federation of CUMA has been published. Lastly, a conference programme is also available.





## INNOV'SPACE

### Over 30 years of innovation designed to support livestock farming and farmers

Innov'Space is a recognised leader in innovation across all livestock sectors.

An Innov'Space award is a major asset for businesses, highlighting their expertise and what they can offer farmers.

First launched in 1995 under the name “*Première Présentation*”, this award was established to promote innovation in the agricultural sector. It showcases the companies exhibiting at the fair, which are devising and developing new, tailored solutions to address the challenges facing the agricultural sector.

- Each year, around a hundred entries are submitted to the jury.
- This award provides winners with exceptional and lasting visibility, from the announcement of the prize list to several months after the Trade Show.

### An independent jury appointed by SPACE

The panel of 60 experts, independent of the SPACE organisers, includes members of Agricultural Chambers, Technical Institutes, INRAE, INPI, ANSES, veterinarians, farmers and specialised journalists.

Jury members are organised by area of expertise: feed, agronomy, farm machinery, cattle, pig, poultry, sheep, goat, horse, and fish farming sectors.

The list of the 2026 Innov'Space award winners will be published during the month of July.



## Key figures:

- 89% of exhibitors consider SPACE to be the ideal platform for promoting their innovations
- 3,570 entries, including 1,480 award-winning innovations and over 700 winning exhibitors across the 30 editions
- ¼ of French visitors and ⅓ of international visitors visit the winners' stands

## A testimonial from a 2025 award-winner (PROVIMI)

*“Receiving the Innov’Space award for Aminoreach® Dual is a great source of pride for our team. This certification is a strong and undeniable endorsement of the quality and relevance of our innovation to the sector. It demonstrates the confidence that professionals can place in solutions designed to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. This award encourages us to continue our mission: to innovate in order to support farmers and advance the livestock industry. Innov’Space is more than just an award: it’s proof that innovation makes a difference.”*



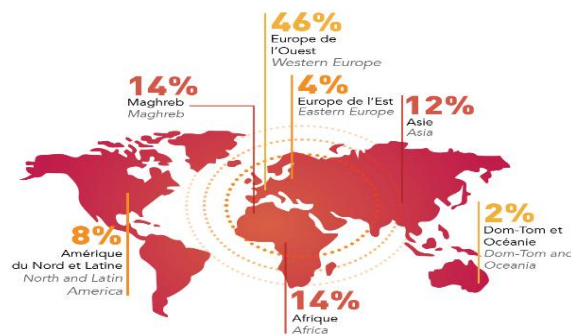
# International

## Proof of SPACE's global appeal

SPACE has confirmed its status as a must-attend global show for animal farming professionals from around the world. More than 14,000 visitors from 125 countries attended in 2025.

Offering a unique platform in France for networking, knowledge-sharing, technology monitoring and business development, SPACE stands out as an unmissable event where global challenges in agriculture and livestock farming are addressed in a practical way.

SPACE is represented by agents in nearly 30 countries around the world



Whether from West Africa, South-East Asia, Latin America or Western Europe, buyer delegations come in quest of solutions tailored to the agricultural challenges that their countries are facing: adapting to climate change, access to technology, improving productivity, animal welfare and food sovereignty.

Through a programme of meetings between project leaders and exhibitors, 250 business meetings were organised in 2025, thereby contributing to the volume of business generated at the trade show. These events will take place again in 2026.



# The Youth Forum

## Hearing from the sector's younger stakeholders

The Youth space is dedicated to young people enrolled in agricultural training courses. A project developed in collaboration with agricultural education networks (private, public and MFR) and Génération Agri, an initiative led by the Brittany Chamber of Agriculture, which aims to raise awareness of and promote careers in agriculture.

This space offers a platform for young people to express themselves, where many topics are covered: perceptions of the profession, working conditions, new farming models, communication with consumers, etc.

**Meet & Greets and Round Tables** secondary school and college students from the Rennes metropolitan area will meet with students from CNEAP, MFRs, public education, as well as from the Institut Agro Rennes-Angers, the École Supérieure des Agricultures d'Angers, and the Oniris veterinary school.

It is also a place where you can find out more about careers in the sector and the various training courses available (from vocational qualifications to engineering degrees).

Following on from their visit to the space, young people can also get a guided tour of the exhibition, led by experts.



# Aquaculture

## A range of products designed specifically for the aquaculture sector

For several years now, SPACE has offered a dedicated space for aquaculture.

Building on the growing participation of companies in the sector (up 25% since 2019), SPACE is aiming to establish itself on the international stage as a key event for the aquaculture industry.

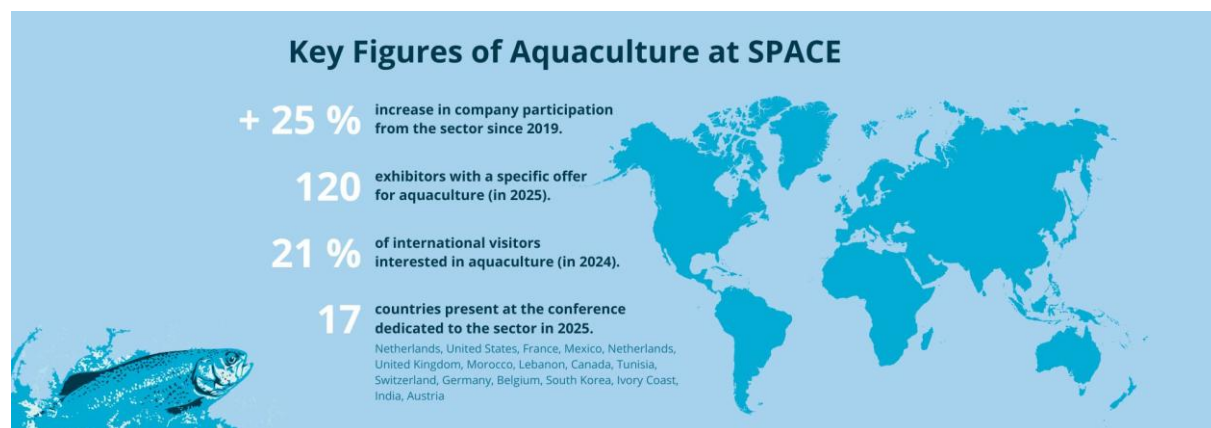
This expanding sector is drawing an increasing number of French and international visitors.

Over 100 exhibitors specialising in aquaculture are taking part in SPACE\*. Companies offering solutions and products in the animal nutrition sector, as well as equipment, consultancy, research, genetics and more...

## A unique event

- **A focus event on Tuesday 15 September**, with a day offering a series of talks dedicated to the sector.

## Key figures for aquaculture at SPACE



\*source: 2025



# Conferences

## A place for sharing knowledge and information

One of the key benefits of SPACE is its high-quality content. Over 100 talks, meetings and panel discussions round off the programme for visitors.

For a long time now, SPACE has established itself as a venue for networking, training and professional meetings, and this year is no exception; it also serves as a forum for debates and discussions.

By 2026, the programme will provide an overview of biosecurity, energy independence, traceability and the economic performance of farms

The detailed programme is currently being finalised.

You can find the programme, which is updated regularly, at: [@space.fr](https://twitter.com/space.fr)

## New for 2026!

### *La Ferme Digitale* is taking part in SPACE

For the first time, and for the 40<sup>th</sup> edition, *La Ferme Digitale* will be attending SPACE.

In 2026, *La Ferme Digitale* will be making its very first debut at SPACE. The collective, which has been working for the past 10 years to promote innovation and digital technology in agriculture, will bring together around ten start-ups in a dedicated area, alongside a programme of talks on new technologies and how AI can be used in livestock farming.

The topics covered include: agri-ecology, securing agricultural markets, connected cattle weighing, and AI-powered voice assistance.



# The SPACE GIE (Economic Interest Group)

## The Brittany Chamber of Agriculture

*"For its 40th edition, SPACE has never been more aptly named, the "Salon des Productions Animales" is an annual event that showcases the livestock industry, which sustains and embodies the agricultural vitality of western France. At a time when regenerating livestock assets depends on measures to boost its appeal, SPACE offers an unmissable opportunity to meet a vast number of exhibitors and partners involved in projects shaping the future of agriculture.*

*As a "European crossroads", preparing for the enlargement of the Union in 1986 and facing new international economic and political challenges in the decades ahead, SPACE is a major political event dedicated to championing mixed farming in western France."*

*Laurent Kerlir, President of the Brittany Chamber of Agriculture*

## FRSEA Bretagne

*"SPACE is a professional yet friendly event, a must for livestock farmers and mixed-farming operations. It provides a forum for farmers to discuss and develop their projects and ideas, find answers to their questions, discover innovations and exchange ideas with their partners. It is also a key space for political dialogue that the FRSEA uses to promote ambitious agricultural policies and the vital role of farmers in ensuring food sovereignty."*

*Laetitia Bouvier, President of the FRSEA Bretagne*

## Rennes Exhibition Centre

*"SPACE has now established itself as a major and unmissable event for the French and European agricultural sectors. Much more than just another trade show, it is a genuine forum for networking, discussion and reflection, bringing together innovation, economic development and strategic challenges for the sector's future. Each edition serves to highlight the dynamism of the sector, foster business opportunities and strengthen ties between the various stakeholders in the agricultural sector.*

*The Rennes Exhibition Centre and the PIGEULT Group are particularly proud to have been working alongside the Brittany Chamber of Agriculture and the FRSEA since the exhibition's very first edition, helping to organise and promote this major event. SPACE demonstrates the agricultural sector's ability to innovate, come together and collectively develop solutions to the challenges of the future, whilst showcasing its openness and international influence."*

*Jean-Pierre & Jean-Marie PIGEULT – Rennes Exhibition Centre*



## To find out more

**SPACE** PRESS RELEASE | JUNE 2026

### Press Information

#### Dates and times

From Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17  
September 2026  
Access from 7:30 AM with a Press pass

#### Press Centre

A dedicated Press Centre is located at the heart of the Exhibition in the Jean-Michel Lemétayer Space.  
It comprises various areas designed to combine work with a friendly atmosphere, conducive to conversations and sharing.

#### SPACE press releases

You can find all of the press releases and information on SPACE on our website

#### Location

Parc des Expositions de Rennes-  
Aéroport  
La Haie Gautrais - 35170 BRUZ

#### Press Accreditation

From June, you will be able to apply for your press pass and your parking permit by heading over to [presse.space.fr](https://presse.space.fr).  
The Press Badge is required for access to SPACE.

#### Exhibitors press releases

An "Exhibitor Announcements" section will soon be available online

#### Press contact

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