

January 22, 2025

Drs. Spyros Fountas and Stephen Symons, Editors in Chief, Smart Agricultural Technology

Dear Drs. Spyros Fountas and Stephen Symons,

I am writing to submit our manuscript titled "A Model Generalization Study in Localizing Indoor Cows with the COw LOcalization (COLO) Dataset." While AI-driven applications in agriculture have been extensively studied, there is a notable gap in evaluating the quality and generalizability of these applications in real-world scenarios. A persistent challenge for farm operators is determining how well existing models can adapt to their specific environments and the additional resources required for this adaptation.

Our study aims to address this challenge through a case study focused on cow localization within a free-stall barn setting. We investigate the generalization capabilities of existing models under varying conditions, including environmental lighting, model complexity, and camera view angles. Furthermore, we introduce a new COLO dataset, which serves as a benchmark for future research in this domain.

We believe that our findings will be of significant interest to the readers of *Smart Agricultural Technology* and would be honored if you considered our manuscript for publication in your esteemed journal.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chun-Peng James Chen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Animal Data Sciences

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA