

Annual Conference 27-29 March 2006

You will find a full diverse and interesting programme of the BSAS Annual Conference included with this newsletter.

Highlights include exciting sessions:

President's Theme -joint with the Nutrition Society

Two sessions - Meat as a functional food; and Food policy, diet and health.
The Hammond Lecture by Dale Bauman on Animal products and human health.

Breeding and genetics

Control of TSE's , cattle genetics, genetics of poultry, pay-off from Genomics information, and breeding for farming systems

Meat Quality

Gut Microbiology

Responses to Nutrients

A joint WPSA /BSAS session on Energy conservation in poultry and pig production

Other sessions include sheep nutrition, sheep and goats, pig weaning, poultry, ruminant nutrition, equine, beef production, dairying, pigs, cattle behaviour and welfare.

Posters cover: genetics, equine, exotics, pigs, dairy, cattle nutrition, welfare and behaviour, Silkworm (genetics and production), reproductive physiology, sheep nutrition and metabolism, poultry, product quality, applications and developments, in-vitro methods and feed evaluation.

There is a full student programme on the Sunday afternoon and evening as in previous years. All students who are BSAS members will be given free accommodation and meals on this day.

The conference dinner will be held in the National Railway Museum in York on the Monday evening and the Tuesday evening will also feature the opportunity to eat out in York.

Immediately after lunch on the Wednesday there will be a tour of the Biology Department at York University. Numbers are very limited for this tour which will give participants a unique opportunity to find out what's going on in this world renowned department.

So come and join the fun in late March in York.

BSAS Council Members wanted - deadline 21 March 2006

Each year three new ordinary members of BSAS Council are elected at the AGM which takes place at the Annual BSAS Conference at York. If you are a member and are interested or know somebody who is then we would be pleased to hear from you. BSAS Council members serve for three years and would be expected to attend to Council meetings twice a year (normally in London) and join one of the standing committees, who also tend to meet twice a year at a convenient venue. All Council members receive full travel and accommodation costs.

Council is the society's management group and makes decisions about both policy and strategy. Its members usually reflect the different interests of groups within the society but they act as individuals rather than on behalf of any group. Its both an interesting role and good fun and an opportunity to contribute towards animal science in the UK and overseas. Nominees have to be supported by two members of the society.

If you're at all interested or would like to learn more than please give Mike Steele an email mike.steele@sac.ac.uk or ring in confidence for a chat 01848 331437.

Inside this issue...

Annual Conference 2006	1
BSAS Council Members	
Scholarships	2
Summer placements	
EAAP	
Genesis Faraday/BSAS	3
Summer scholarships	
Equine Conference	
Thailand Conference	4
Wild Mammals and the	5
Human Food Chain	
Animal Science - update	
Future Conferences	6

2006 Conferences

27-29 March
BSAS Annual
Conference

14-15 September
Ethnoveterinary
Medicine and
Ethnobiological Issues
Wittle College,
Chelmsford, Essex

BSAS,
PO Box 3,
Penicuik,
Midlothian EH26 ORZ. UK
Tel: 00 44 (0)131-445-4508,
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Email: bsas@sac.ac.uk
Website <http://www.bsas.org.uk>

BSAS Scholarships

Murray Black Award

BSAS would like to receive applications for the Murray Black Award by **30 April 2006**. See the BSAS website for full details and to download application forms or contact the BSAS Office. If you need any help in completing applications please get in touch. Please note that you must be a member of BSAS to apply for this award.

Langford Food Industry Conference

As part of Murray Black's legacy, BSAS is offering five scholarships worth £125 each to attend the Langford Food Industry Conference, School of Veterinary Science, Nr Bristol, 24/25 May 2006 on New Developments in Sheepmeat Quality. This is only available for students, undergraduates or post-graduates. There applications must be received by **15 April 2006**. Applicants must be members or join BSAS before the deadline.

October awards

Below is a list of successful applicants for the Kenneth Baxter and Alan Robertson awards which were decided by the Technical & Ethical Committee at its December 2005 Meeting.

Alan Robertson Award *(also open to non-BSAS members)*

Sinead McParland, Teagasc	£1,000
Eleni Karamichou, Roslin Institute	£600
Charlotte Kearsley, Roslin Institute	£600
Andreas Kranis, Roslin Institute	£600
Alex Lam, Roslin Institute	£600
Jennifer Macfarlane, SAC	£300
Suzanne Rowe, Roslin Institute	£300
Elly Navajas, SAC	£300

Blaxter Award

Michael Lee, IGER	£500
Noelia Aldai, Serida Institute, Spain	£250
Samantha Llewellyn, Royal Vet College	£300
Jessica Bricknell, Royal Vet College	£300

BSAS Summer Placements 2006

As in previous years BSAS is offering a number of summer placements that fund undergraduates to undertake a placement and a small piece of research work during their summer vacation. This normally lasts 6-8 weeks depending on need and opportunities. BSAS offers £500 towards funding each student with the expectation that the participating organisation will also provide the equivalent either as funds or in kind.

BSAS is also willing to consider an additional £500 per project towards consumable items or materials that are required to undertake the research project and that would not normally be available under an organisation's budget. If you have a placement or are a student looking for a replacement please contact the BSAS office for further details which are also available on the BSAS website.

Deadline 30 April 2006

EAAP - Positions vacant

Positions Vacant:

EAAP Representative

Melissa Royal has been our EAAP Representative for several years and will be stepping down after the 2006 EAAP Meeting in Turkey. The EAAP Representative is a member of the Technical & Ethical Committee and is funded by BSAS to attend each EAAP Annual Meeting. If you are interested in being considered for this position or would like more details please write/email to the chair of the Technical and Ethical Committee by 24th March 2006.

EAAP Council member

BSAS also has the opportunity to put forward a member to serve on the EAAP Council for a period of four years from 2007. This would suit someone who has experience of EAAP. Interested, then please contact Mike Steele by end February 2006.

EAAP - Scholarships

EAAP scholarships for EAAP meeting 2006 Turkey

Are you under 39, interested in presenting a paper at the 2006 EAAP meeting in Turkey and a BSAS member? Yes, then read on.

Each year EAAP awards a number of scholarships to fund younger scientists to attend and present their research findings at the annual EAAP meeting. BSAS normally submit two candidates to EAAP for consideration of a scholarship. BSAS then normally funds the unsuccessful candidate. This has to be done before the 1st February 2006 so if you're interested in BSAS supporting your application we need the following by January 24th.

- One copy of your full paper
- One copy of the EAAP abstract form
- Your name, address, fax and phone numbers, date of birth, official title and a short description of any scientific work and publications.
- The name and address of your institution.

See EAAP website for full details. Then contact the BSAS office for any help you require. You will also need to submit your abstract in the normal way to EAAP by 31st March and completed the necessary registration forms by 31st May.

EAAP will be held in then Turkey 17-20 September.

Deadline 24 January 2006 for application to be sent to BSAS

A Genesis Faraday/BSAS Competition for four summer 2006 vacation scholarship awards is now open

Deadline 28 February 2006

The Genesis Faraday Partnership and BSAS are pleased to announce a call for Four Vacation Scholarship Awards to encourage undergraduates into research in the field of farm animal genetics and genomics by offering them 'hands-on' experience during the summer vacation.

What does the student get?

Scholarships are available for a minimum of 6-8 weeks' work with a stipend of **£200 per week**. The scheme aims to provide practical work experience in an environment that will match the student's area of study or interests. Long term it will help career prospects for young people.

Who can apply?

Research Institutes and Universities that are members of Genesis Faraday Partnership can apply to host a Vacation Scholarship. The project must be in the field of Genetics and Genomics as applied to Livestock Breeding and Animal Health on one of the farmed terrestrial species or farmed fish. The host institution will receive a grant of £2,500 (including any applicable VAT) to cover student salary (approx £1600) and project costs (approx £900). Research Institutes and Universities allocated an award will be responsible for recruiting the student.

The Allocation Process

Proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the Genesis Faraday remit; *Genetics and Genomics as applied to Livestock Breeding and Animal Health*.
- Research Partner's track record
- The likely value of the training opportunity for the student
- Quality of the project proposed

Application Procedure

Supervisors from Institutions should complete the *employer application form* can be obtained from Carol Didcock on 0131 5274358 or carol.didcock@genesis-faraday.org or the BSAS website http://www.bsas.org.uk/Funds,_awards_&_Jobs/Summer_Placement_Scheme/

Time Scale

Applications should be received by 28 Feb 2006 and applicants will be notified by 1 April 2006.

Applying Equine Science: Research into Business

The second BSAS equine conference was held at RAC Cirencester in September. It was not well attended with only 55 participants but the quality of the papers and level of discussions was splendid. There were many highlights including a stimulating session on Complementary Therapy where chairperson Sue Tracey from Writtle College refereed a spirited discussion between the presenters and the audience. Osteopath Anthony Pusey gave a very entertaining practical examination of a horse (played by Jack Murphy from Limerick) following the crashing of the theatre computer caused by the size of the powerpoint presentation. Julia Brooks, Amanda Sutton's colleague (an Equine physiotherapy) and Andrea Ellis from Nottingham Trent all gave very professional presentations.

The sessions on Equine Business, Health and Welfare, Equine Nutrition and Equine Behaviour all worked very well and started really good discussions. The visit this time was on the first afternoon of this two day conference and included a quick look at Hartpury College's Therapy Centre, followed by a polo match between old and current RAC students. This involved an explanation of the event, a commentary and a surprisingly exciting match which for most of the audience was their first. The weather and the scenery were also very pleasant for September.

The next equine event is likely to be in 2007 and in an effort to encourage more students it is likely to be held during term time in the Oct/Nov period. If you want to get involved and have ideas for a new venue then please let the BSAS office know please.

Thailand November 2006

The SE Asian Tiger is roaring following the tremendous success of the BSAS/AHAT conference 'Integrating Livestock-Crops Systems to Meet the Challenges of Globalisation'. The statistics speak for themselves – over 500 delegates from 45 countries, over 50 plenary speakers, 173 submitted presentations and 116 posters.

The book of summaries ran to two volumes. The hospitality was stunning and the Thais worked long and hard to make sure that everything worked well and to time. Very little went astray with even the dignitaries performing to time. Thailand has a reputation for both efficiency and politeness and both are true. The smiles never stopped.

The conference started with a colourful opening ceremony of relatively short speeches and some beautiful Thai dancing on the Tuesday morning. Plenary and then parallel offered sessions flowed through Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday with a dedicated poster session. There was a welcome party on the Monday night and then on Wednesday evening the whole conference was taken out to the spectacular Songsun Festival centred around the lake on the Khon Kaen University campus. The whole city were there to float good luck tokens made of flowers and candles on the lake and to enjoy a pop festival and rows and rows of stalls in a street market. Delegates earlier enjoyed a buffet and Thai music with several oldies getting involved in the dancing! Despite the hustle and bustle nobody got lost!



Thursday was a day of field visits to a variety of very interesting production units and cultural centres in and around Khon Kaen. The BSAS Chief Executive Mike Steele joined the visit to a pig fattening unit (with crocodiles!), a smallholder dairy farm, a milk collection operation and a cobra snake farm! Friday saw a full day with parallel sessions and another poster event followed by an entertaining conference dinner with delegates singing national songs.

Khon Kaen is a typical Thai working city, very friendly but concentrating on agriculture and industry rather than tourism. The conference was based in the city's best hotel, the magnificent 23 storey Sofitel of very high standard but with bargain prices. With seven restaurants and an enormous lobby, bars and a swimming pool it had everything a delegate could require and even the day delegates enjoyed its ambience and good organisation.

As you would expect the majority of delegates were from Thailand and its neighbours - Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos but it was great to see so many others from Africa, Mexico, the Indian sub-continent, Australasia, China, Japan, Taiwan and from many, many European countries. IFS (International Foundation for Science) and DFID through its Livestock Production Research Programme (managed by NRI International) supported a number of young scientists or those involved in research programmes. The number of subsidiary meetings held was enormous but a special mention must go to the launch of an LPP book 'Livestock and Wealth Creation – Improving the husbandry of animals kept by resource – poor people in developing countries' edited by E Owen, A Kitalyi, N Jayasuriya and T Smith and published by Nottingham University Press. A limited number of copies are available FREE from Wyn Richards at NR International.

The programme itself, whilst following the theme of globalisation had an enormous variety of different topics that challenged the delegates' organisational ability!

Topics included the environment, tropical dairy, feed resources, ruminant nutrition, feed science, animal genetic resources, rumen ecology, meat science, multi-purpose role of work animals, sheep, goats and rabbits, organic livestock, systems, economics and resources and crops animals and people. There were also a couple of workshops, one on Feed standards sponsored by FAO and a local network on livestock nutrition health and food safety. With such a diverse audience the debates and discussions were wide ranging and it was interesting to compare problems and solutions across continents. There were a number of social scientists present whose talks and comments really put the 'people' element back into technical topics.



A competition was held for the best young presenters for both theatre and posters. This event was extremely popular with each winner receiving a certificate and \$150 at the final conference dinner. Theatre winners included speakers from, Vietnam, Thailand, Mexico and India with Poster winners from Indonesia and Thailand.

A lot of people put in a lot of hard work to make the conference a success with Metha Wanapat leading the local Thai team and Peter Rowlinson, Chair of BSAS's International Committee working alongside them. The University of Khon Kaen provided many of the organisers and technical staff and BSAS is especially grateful for their help and that given by all the graduate students who chaperoned and helped delegates during the sessions and on the visits.

Continued

Thailand Conference

This overseas conference specialising in developing country issues was by far the largest and most sophisticated that BSAS has ever undertaken. It built on meetings held in Merida, Mexico (2002), and Nairobi, Kenya (1998) and is an event that BSAS feels makes a significant profile raising contribution to animal science globally. The next meeting is likely to be held in 2008/9. There is currently no venue fixed and so BSAS is interested in any ideas or suggestions that members may have. Normally such meetings build on an established relationship between an organisation or scientist in Europe and a local society or institution. In the case of Thailand BSAS was pleased to work with the Animal Husbandry Association of Thailand.

Wild Mammals and the Human Food Chain

BSAS and the Mammal Society worked together to produce a very successful Autumn Symposium 25-26 November 2005 at London Zoo. Over 200 delegates attended this symposium that examined the interactions of wild mammals with the process of human food production. Invited speakers covered the four themes: Impacts of wild mammals on crops and livestock; Infectious disease in livestock, wild mammals and humans; Landscape and ecosystem-level processes; Agricultural policy, human behaviour and biodiversity.

Topics on Animal Science included

- Sustainable agricultural systems, rural economies and biodiversity – Jules Pretty
- Managing large herbivores – Iain Gordon
- Plant chemical defence – Alan Duncan
- Interactions between wild and domestic herbivores – Glenn Iason
- Farming practices and disease transmission – Alastair Ward
- Parasites and population dynamics – Justin Irvine
- Economics of disease control – Richard Bennett
- Monitoring wildlife-livestock disease risk – Dirk Pfeiffer
- Food production and rural economies – Henry Buller
- Psychology of farmer decision-making – Gareth Edwards-Jones
- Agricultural intensification, good or bad – Noel Russell

Lithuania June 2007

Looking ahead to 2007 Mike Steele and Poir Pasciak, BSAS's rep in Poland meet up with Associate Professor Vigilijus Jukna from the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Kaunas early in September. At a one-day meeting in Warsaw they discussed the possibility of holding a conference in Kaunas in June 2007 to cover animal production /science issues relevant to Lithuania and its neighbours. This is likely to continue the theme of 'animal products' that started in Krakow in 2004 but will also try to encourage animal scientists in general.

Animal Science

CABI

BSAS's journal 'Animal science'

From February, 2006, Animal Science, BSAS international journal will be published by CABI, the not-for-profit publishing organisation. BSAS is very pleased to be joining up with such a prestigious international publishing organisation and is confident that this new relationship will mean a strong future for Animal Science as it joins the CABI stable of academic journals. CABI has a strong presence in both developed academic publishing markets and in the emerging countries of the world like China and India where animal science is a major academic discipline.

One of the advantages of joining CABI is that it will give our journal a strong marketing strategy. It will also enable AS to be sold as part of a group of journals. The CABI arrangement will do much to raise the profile of the journal and thus its impact in academic and research circles.

The future

As society members who attended the 2005 AGM will know it was agreed that discussions would take place with European colleagues/institutions regarding the possibility of merging Animal Science with other like-minded journals to form one strong European-based International Journal of Animal Science. These discussions have been going on over several months, the results of which will be announced at the AGM in York in March. BSAS and the other European based academics involved are confident that any new venture would open up enormous opportunities for a strong European-based animal science journal to rival competitor journals. Rather like joining the EU the future for academic publications appears to lie in collaboration. CABI have been kept fully aware of the discussions so that any new venture would be able to build on the current arrangement BSAS has with Animal Science.

Books

CABI have a new book that will be of interest to members: Hormonal Regulation of Farm Animal Growth. See www.cabi-publishing.org/bookshop

The ICAR website contains the Proceedings of the ICAR/FAO seminar on: "Current status of genetic resources, recording and production systems in African, Asian and American Camelids", held in Sousse, Tunisia, 30 May 2004 during the 34th ICAR Session. The publication can be freely downloaded at: http://www.icar.org/DOCS/technical_seriestic_series_11_sousse.pdf

Travel tip of the month

If you can specify a particular train and book at least two weeks in advance (value advance tickets) you can often get a much better deal if you book 2 singles instead of a return ticket. For example Carlisle to London Euston will cost you £16 for each single ticket. (ie only £32 return). If you are feeling particularly rich you can upgrade this to first class which often includes a free breakfast and each single then costs £32. This compares very favourably with flying to London where you have to pay for the tea and the journey into London from the airport!. (Thanks to Jonathan Mills for this).

Conferences

- 27-29 March 2006 **BSAS Annual Conference, University of York, UK.** Visit www.bsas.org.uk or contact BSAS
- 24/25 May 2006 **Langford Food Industry Conference, Bristol, UK** - New Developments in Sheep Meat Quality - see enclosed leaflet.
- 14-15 Sept 2006 **Ethnoveterinary Medicine and Ethnobiological Issues, Writtle College, Chelmsford, Essex, UK**
This conference centres around the use of plants and their derived products as a means of preventing or treating livestock disease and improving health in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way. Sessions will include:
- Information gathering, culture and cultivation
 - Traditional veterinary medicines; origins and applications around the world
 - Targeting biological systems – the gut, immune system and animal health
- Keynote speakers include:
- John Wallace, Rothamsted Research Institute
 - Irene Meuller-Harvey, University of Reading
 - Harindar Makkar, University of Hohenheim
- If you have a paper that will fit the theme of this conference please contact Jes.Scaife@writtle.ac.uk
- Mike A Steele Chief Executive British Society of Animal Science PO Box 3 Penicuik Midlothian EH26 0RZ UK
Email: mike.steele@sac.ac.uk Tel/Fax: 0131 445 4508
- 4-6 Sept 2006 **BGS 8th Research Conference RAC, Cirencester.** Any relevant topic is welcome including environmental management, alternative grazing species, use of grass and other forage crops, product quality, grazing systems and technology and skills transfer. David Kemp from University of Sydney will give the Stapleton lecture. See www.i.way.co.uk/~bgs/html/calendar.html - please email 200 words max to office@britishgrassland.com
- 17-20 Sept 2006 **EAAP Annual Meeting, Antalya, Turkey.** See www.eaap2006.gen.tr for full details.
- 19-20 Oct 2006 **Linking up the Meat Chain: ensuring quality and safety for consumers, Krakow, Poland.** see www.bsas.org.uk
- 17-19 April 2007 **High Value Grassland: providing biodiversity, a clean environment and premium products, University of Keele, Staffordshire.**
A British Grassland Society managed meeting with help from BSAS and the British Ecological Society. Topics will include: the ecology of agricultural systems and the conservation of plants, invertebrates, birds and other fauna; nutrient flows through soil, plant and animal and impacts on water and air; effects of climate change; quality of meat and milk, sustainability of production and food chains; effects of CAP reform; marketing and engaging with the public; practical management strategies and integration into support policies.
- Invited speakers include:
- Mike Hammell (DG Environment, Brussels)
 - Helen Wakeham (EA)
 - Poul Christensen (farmer and chair of RDS)
 - Johannes Isselstein (Univ Goettingen)
 - Jeff Wood (Univ Bristol)
 - Sion Roberts (EFFP)
 - Chris Pollock (Director IGER, chair Defra SFF Research Priorities Group).
- Day 2 will include visits to farms in the lowlands and uplands.
- Call for papers** Please email 200 words max to BGS office by 3 April 2006 indicating preference for theatre or poster presentation. Successful authors will be notified in May.
- 1-5 Sept 2007 **EAAP Dublin**
- Sept 2007 **Fertility in Dairy Cows, Liverpool.** To be involved contact mdroyal@liverpool.ac.uk or mike.steele@sac.ac.uk