

BSAS Annual Conference 2-4 April 2007, Southport, UK

Next year's Annual Conference is moving to the North-West of England's premier conference centre - the Southport Theatre and Floral Hall complex. BSAS is developing an exciting scientific programme and fun social scene for everybody who comes.

Now its time to submit your one-page summary if you intend to present a theatre or poster presentation next year.

DEADLINE, 20 OCTOBER 2006

As usual summaries can be on any relevant topics relating to animal science and we would especially welcome papers that can be linked to invited sessions as listed below.

Invited Programme

President's Session

The Sir John Hammond Lecture

- Bioenergy and sustainability

Nutrigene

Welfare

- Castration in meat production
- Meat quality of high welfare systems

Farm animal genetic resources

Ruminant lameness

Equine Science

Genetics of robustness

Livestock and water

The international and socioeconomic perspective

Agricultural production and food security

The interaction of livestock nutrition and reproduction

Human nutrition

Quality Grocery

Genetic effects on meat quality

Alternatives to antibiotics in pigs (satellite)

With a new venue we're going to try some novel short presentations, workshops and 'screened' presentations as well as the traditional theatre and poster format. We also hope to consolidate the number of parallel sessions to avoid spreading the presentations too widely. This should enable you to get to all of the sessions that you want to.

As last year all submissions must be electronic online via the BSAS website. The system is fairly straightforward but if you have any problems then please contact us in the BSAS office and we will do our very best to help.

Registrations for the meeting will be available in due course. We are working hard to keep the cost within your budget. There is a much wider range of accommodation in Southport than York, with large hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs within a few minutes walk of the venue. The 'top end' is dearer but the bottom is much better value than York. We have already taken options on bedrooms in a number of the town's best hotels and will be issuing an accommodation list of guesthouses and B&B that we have inspected or been recommended. This new approach should give you much more flexibility, staying within your budget and in accommodation that you like. Southport is a very friendly place, very easy and quick to walk around and full of pubs, clubs and restaurants. Its also by the seaside!

Southport is relatively easy to get to by road and train. Easyjet, Flybe and Ryanair fly into Liverpool John Lennon airport at bargain prices whilst Manchester airport, which has direct trains to Southport, caters for a wider international network. If you are coming from London then you take the train to Liverpool and change on to the local metro line to Southport. From the North you can change at Wigan or Warrington. We will give you plenty of travelling tips nearer the time. On the social side we are planning to have the Monday night conference dinner at the venue - we're promised the food is excellent.

On the Tuesday evening we are organizing a fun evening with indoor games in one of the hotels with a giant scalextric, jenga, connect, table football and skittles. For the less active there is good beer and conviviality amidst a friendly atmosphere.

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19-20 October 2006
 Linking up the meat chain: Ensuring safety and quality for consumers
 Krakow , Poland

2007 Conferences
 2-4 April
 BSAS Annual Conference
 Southport, UK

30-31 October
 Fertility Conference
 Liverpool Hope University, UK

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Invitation to submit papers

animal is a completely new entity that seeks to attract the best research in animal biology and animal systems from across the spectrum of the agricultural, biomedical and environmental sciences; it is the central element in an exciting collaboration between the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS), Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) and the European Federation for Animal Science (EAAP) and represents a merging of the three scientific journals: Animal Science; Animal Research; Reproduction, Nutrition, Development.

animal will publish original cutting-edge research, 'hot' topics and horizon-scanning reviews on animal-related aspects of the life sciences at the molecular, cellular, organ, whole animal and production system levels. Animal models and papers dealing with the integration of research between these topics and their impact on the environment and people will be particularly welcome. There are six main sections listed below but the detailed scope of the journal can be found at www.animal-journal.eu/

Papers for your new journal **animal** are now flowing in and the launch of the first issue towards the end of January 2007 is on track. Animal would very much welcome you to contribute a paper of original research or if you are interested in writing a review then the Senior Editor, Michel Doreau would be very happy to discuss this with you. If you have a paper you wish to submit please go to www.editorialmanager.com/animal.

It's your journal and it needs your papers!

Senior Editors Michel Doreau (Editor-in-Chief),
John Oldham (Strategic Development)
Kris Sejrsen (Reviews and Special Issues)

Editorial Office, Hilary Davies, Françoise Maurice, Nadine Miraux
and Dominique Poirel.

Section Editor (SE) Deputy (DSE)

Animal Breeding and Genetics

SE - Joel Weller, (Israel)
DSE - Alessandro Bagnato, (Italy)
Dirk Jan de Koning (UK)
Pieter Knap (Germany)
Miguel Perez Enciso (Spain)

Nutrition

SE - Paul Moughan, (New Zealand)
DSE - Isabelle Ortigues-Marty, (France)
Veerle Fievez (Belgium)
Wolfgang Souffrant (Germany)
Nigel Scollan (UK)
John Newbold (Belgium)
Andrew Van Kessel (Canada)
Dorota Jamroz (Poland)
Walter Gerrits (Netherlands)
Hélène Lapiere (Canada)

Physiology and Functional Biology of Systems

SE - Michel Guillomot, (France)
DSE - Rod Hill (USA)
DSE - Mogens Vestergaard (Denmark)
David Gerrard (USA)
Jinzen Yang (USA)
J.P. Brillard (France)
Rex Scaramuzzi (UK)
Geoffrey E Dahl (USA)
Qi Zhou (China)

Behaviour, Health and Welfare

SE - Sandra Edwards (UK)
DSE : Michael Cockram (UK)
Alain Boissy (France)
Christine Fourichon (France)
Eberhard von Borell (Germany)
Xavier Manteca (Spain)

Livestock Farming Systems and Environmental Impact

SE - Richard Dewhurst (New Zealand)
DSE - Kurt Peters, DSE (Germany)
Aidan Moloney (Ireland)
Alessandro Priolo (Italy)
Michel Bonneau (France)
Alan Duncan (UK)
Stephen Chadd (UK)
Tom Misselbrook (UK)

Product Quality, Human Health and Well-Being

SE - Philippe Guesnet (France)
DSE - Antonella Baldi (Italy)
Kevin Shingfield (Finland)
Ian Givens (UK)
Sava Buncic (Serbia)
MariaAngels Oliver (Spain)
Regina McDevitt (UK)

Specialist editors

Jaap Van Milgen - Modelling
William Martin-Rosset/ Nicoletta Miraglia - Equines
Philippe Chemineau - Animal physiology
Gabriella Gonzalez Mariscal - Rabbits

As you can see there are around 50 editors for ANIMAL including specialists. This is twice the number of the Animal Science editorial team and reflects the projected jump to monthly publication and subsequent increased paper numbers. The new editors have come from both the original journals and from outside. Their background is very international as reflects the remit of the journal.

animal will be launched from February 2007 and will be published by Cambridge University Press (a not-for-profit organisation). It is your journal, owned by BSAS, INRA and EAAP entirely for the benefit of scientists.

Submit your paper NOW - please go to www.editorialmanager.com/animal

Journal

If you have any comments, on **animal**, suggestions for referees or wish to help then please contact either Mike Steele or Michel Doreau who would appreciate your thoughts.

mike.steele@sac.ac.uk or Michel.Doreau@clermont.inra.fr

The Management Board is the official governing body of **animal** and next meets on 27 October in Tours, France. Nigel Scollan, Brian Cooke and Mike Steele are the BSAS representatives on the board which is chaired by Professor Cled Thomas. They would be happy to pass on any representations you have at that meeting.

Animal Science is FREE online to all BSAS members - including undergraduates

This benefit will continue with **animal** when all members will get the online monthly editions free as part of their membership benefits. The paper version will also continue and be available at cost.

Animal Science Impact factor improves

We are pleased to announce that the impact factor for Animal Science has improved to 1.005 for 2005 compared to 0.941 in 2004. The Journal of Animal Science has dropped from 1.734 to 1.360, and Livestock Production Science has dropped from 1.363 to 1.325. It's very encouraging to see Animal Science going in the right direction and we expect **animal** to accelerate this trend when it comes on stream next year, and so rival the larger US animal science journals.

Scholarships and awards

The Sir Kenneth Blaxter Scholarship

is aimed at providing opportunities for younger members of the Society ie post-graduates or those in the early years' of their animal science career. The scholarship is to be used for travel in the UK or overseas, or for a specified overseas study tour, or to fund a specific short research programme, it may also be used to part fund projects. The Kenneth Blaxter is open to applicants from all branches of animal science and any reasonable proposal within the scope of the scheme will be considered.

Around £1500 is available annually for applicants each October. If you have thoughts on attending a meeting or organising a study tour or funding a short research programme for any of these areas then we require an application (forms available from the BSAS Office) outlining your proposal and the reasons why you should receive the scholarship, together with the names and addresses of 2 referees and a full CV. **The application should reach the BSAS Office by the 31 October.** The successful candidates will be notified by 16 December.

The study or research must be completed within 12 months and successful candidates will be asked to present a short report to the Annual Conference, either as a poster or theatre presentation. Further details from the BSAS Office.

Sir John Hammond Award

This prestigious Prize is awarded by the Society to anyone in research, teaching, advisory, farming or affiliated professions who has made a significant contribution to the science or development of animal production.

The award is highly selective and nominated candidates must be of high merit. Candidates must have worked mainly in the UK or the Republic of Ireland but are not required to be members of the Society.

A nomination needs to be supported by three members of the Society. Nominations to Mike Steele, CEO, by 31 October.
mike.steele@sac.ac.uk or please contact Mike on 01848 331437
Mobile 07739 183250.

MONEY !!

1) BBSRC Follow-on Fund

Applications invited for the 2006 second call of the Research Councils Follow on Fund for proposals falling within the remit of BBSRC and NERC. The Fund is designed to help demonstrate the commercial potential of ideas arising from Research Council-funded research. It provides financial support at the very early or pre-seed stage of turning research outputs into a commercial proposition. The closing date for receipt of proposals is 27 October 2006. For further information please visit: www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/followon/Welcome.html or contact Ms Mary McDonagh, Tel: 01793 413275.

2) BBSRC Industrial CASE studentships

3-year studentships to start on 1 October 2007. Like conventional CASE awards, these studentships fund top quality bioscience graduates to undertake a programme of research (leading to a PhD) on a subject selected and supervised jointly by academic and industrial partners. The distinguishing feature of Industrial CASE awards is that they are made to the company rather than the academic partner. This gives the company the freedom to choose not only a research topic relevant to its own priorities but also to choose the academic partner. The total number of studentships available for award is 45. Closing date for applications: 29 September 2006. For further information about the scheme please visit: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/training/calls.html>

3) Genesis Faraday Funding Schemes

Deadlines for the following Genesis Faraday schemes is 29 September 2006;

- * A single SPARK PLUS award of £25k to help progress a technology into commercial application
- * A single Industry Club award of £10k to help a group of industrial members with technology exploitation
- * £15k for about 40 weeks of Short-term Development awards for Faraday Associates
- * Five Genesis Faraday CASE Studentships to start in 2007/2008. Please note, these are studentships allocated by Genesis Faraday, and distinct from those above. For more details see www.genesis-faraday.org

Membership subscriptions

At the AGM in March a modest increase was agreed for membership subscriptions. From January 2007 - £60 for full members, £30 for postgraduates and retired, and free membership for undergraduates.

The Paper version of Animal will be available for an additional £45.00. The number of pages are doubling to 1600 per year. Ten issues for 2007, increasing to 12 from 2008.

Members get:

- Direct access to current and back issues of Animal Science, the BSAS journal, through the BSAS website;
- from February 2007 access to Animal (journal of EAAP, BSAS and INRA);
- information and updates on society and industry activities and issues through the website and email alerts;
- a newsletter four times a year;
- reduced conference fees;
- access to the BSAS Office for help and advice;
- information for networking;
- a programme of events for students;
- scholarships and funding for conferences, travel and research.

Linking up the meat chain: Ensuring quality and safety for consumers

Krakow, Poland, 19-20 October 2006

This meeting is the second BSAS conference to be held in the beautiful and hospitable Polish city of Krakow. The theatre programme is outlined below. There are also in excess of 80 poster presentations which will be viewed on the first day. The students of the Agricultural University are invited to attend on the second day which makes for a very light hearted and interactive part of the conference.

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

Session 1 - Primary production and quality

- Handling broiler chickens antemortem to optimise carcass yield and quality
Paul Warriss, University of Bristol, UK
- Effects of diet on beef carcass composition
Nigel D Scollan & Jeff D Wood, IGER/University of Bristol, UK
- Texture, structure and myofibre characteristic of selected muscle of fallow-deer
J Zochowska-Kujawska, Agricultural University of Szczecin, Poland
- The technological quality of selected ostrich muscles
Adamczak, Agricultural University, Warsaw, Poland.

Session 2 - Genetics and Meat Quality

- The molecular control and genetics of meat quality tenderization across species
Tim Parr, University of Nottingham, UK
- Effects of breeds, sex, body weight or daily gain on muscle characteristics of pig
Dorota Wojtysiak & Wladyslaw Migdal, Agricultural University of Krakow, Poland
- Comparable evaluation of cattle breeds and their crossbreeds
Vigilijus Jukna, Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Lithuania
- Effect of RYR1 genotype on carcass and meat quality in Polish Landrace pigs
Andrzej Janik, Animal Science Research Institute, Balice, Poland

Session 3 - Food safety and Human Health - risks and opportunities

- Transfatty acids of animal origin - an attempt to judge potential health risks and benefits
Martin Scheeder, Swiss Research Institute, Switzerland
- Impact of animal health on pigmeat quality
Jonathan Guy & Sandra Edwards, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
- Oxysterols in meat and health implication
Marek Pieszka, Animal Science Research Institute, Balice, Poland
- The effect of introduction of some additives in diets for fattening pigs on slaughter results and meat quality.
Branislav •ivkoviæ, Institute for Animal Husbandry, Belgrade-Zemun, Serbia and Montenegro

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

- Use the Centre for Monitoring and Food Certification - Ma³opolska equipment for scientific research and quality assessments for meat and milk products.
Ewa Cieælik, Agricultural University of Krakow, Poland
- Producing high quality pork meat.
Mike Ellis, University of Illinois, USA
- Use of boars (entire male pigs) in pig production (the pros and cons for meat quality compared with castrates).
Paul Warriss, Bristol University, UK
- Antemortem influences on meat quality (preslaughter handling effects).
Paul Warriss, Bristol University, UK

It's well worth staying for a long weekend after the conference and it is now very easy and cheap to fly either on Ryanair or Easyjet from various UK airports - so bring the family or friends ! The conference hotel is just a 15 minute taxi ride from where you land. The cost of living in Poland is still inexpensive so make your visit an early opportunity to buy Christmas presents as well as to attend an excellent conference. The conference dinner is on Thursday night and we hope to organise an optional tour to either the city centre or Royal Salt Mine on the Friday afternoon.

The registration fee per delegate is just £135 and covers:

Admission to all scientific sessions, workshops and poster areas, a copy of the book of summaries

All coffee/teas during the sessions, lunch and the conference dinner on 19 October. Relevant transport from the conference hotel - Hotel Za Kolumnaimi - www.krakowiak.krakow.pl

Hotel price: 40 Euro single room/night is not included in the registration fee.

For further information and a registration form visit <http://www.bsas.org.uk>

Fertility in dairy cows – bridging the gaps

30-31 August 2007, Liverpool Hope University, UK

The now well-documented decline in dairy cow fertility has prompted new research into diverse aspects of dairy cow reproduction. It has also prompted the development of new technology and applications in the field. The purpose of this conference is to provide an update on these activities and provide a forum for bridging the gaps between the different disciplines involved and between researchers, practitioners and the industry. If you wish to be in the know, be there!

The conference will include sessions dealing with the following topics:

- ◆ Factors pre-disposing reproductive disorders
- ◆ Towards better indices of reproductive abilities
- ◆ Impact of new on-farm technologies on reproductive management

Led by keynote speakers recognised as international experts in their field. The conference will shed light on questions such as: Why has the frequency of reproductive abnormalities increased? How can we better distinguish poor management from poor genetics for reproductive traits? How will sexed semen and on-farm progesterone measurements affect reproductive management?

The conference runs over two days, immediately after EAAP 2007, Dublin, and is being held in the exciting city of Liverpool just a short low-cost flight from Dublin. Accommodation is available on site.

To get involved, for further information and pre-registration go to www.bsas.org.uk or e-mail Mel Royal or Nic Friggens on bsas@sac.ac.uk or Tel + 44 (0) 131 445 4508 Fax + 44 (1) 131 535 3120

Consultation Exercise

BSAS is currently undertaking an extensive consultation with current, passed and potential members through Donald Pollock of Customers Matter. Donald has talked in depth about BSAS to a cluster of students, current and former members and a selection of non-members. We are very grateful if you have been involved and have contributed to this exercise. It is throwing up some very useful information about BSAS and what it means and needs to become in the eyes of its current and potential members.

A steering group headed by Alan Duncan has helped Donald formulate an online questionnaire that will seek to measure the importance of communication from the in-depth discussions. A large number of non members have already signed up to help complete this questionnaire and we will be shortly asking all members of the society to help us. This is important as it will help decide the direction and future strategy of BSAS. So please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire. We appreciate that your time is valuable but your thoughts and points of view are very important to us if we are to move BSAS on in what is the ever-changing field of animal science.

One of the results of the initial telephone conversations is that BSAS will need to re-examine what its members want its mission statement to include. In the past BSAS has been embedded in the science of farm animals. Increasingly animal science, its research and development is covering a much wider brief with an emphasis on different species and new disciplines. There has been a rapid expansion of interest in equines, companion animals and topics like welfare, animals and the environment and animal genomics. Scope exists to draw in those involved with laboratory animals, managed wildlife and domesticated animals. If BSAS is to rebuild a critical mass of animal scientists and attract new members to the society then it needs to provide real benefits to people who are currently not members. Maybe relevant workshops, information and publications might attract new members to join BSAS. We need to do this whilst continuing to cater for its core members.

So if we're to make the right decisions we need you to help us. We need you to fill in the questionnaire and to persuade colleagues who are not BSAS members to do so as well because we need to know what BSAS has got to do for you and what to do to encourage non members to join.

The questionnaire will be available during September and will run alongside discussions at BSAS Council. The Technical and Ethical Committee will develop an action plan, the implementation of which will be endorsed before the turn of the year.

Thanks to everyone who has added extra comments which do have an impact!

Conferences Past

Brazil 2006 genetics and samba – a heady mix

The 8th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production was held this August in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, with a large group of BSAS members in attendance. The conference is held every four years and provides a meeting point for scientists from around the world involved in genetic improvement of domestic animals. They present papers on theoretical aspects of quantitative genetics, ones that update current knowledge on genetics or genetic improvement strategies in various species and others that discuss future prospects in animal breeding.

The sessions in Brazil covered a wide range of topics for developed and developing countries. This included the use of molecular tools and bioinformatics in livestock populations, covering theoretical, practical and economic issues of incorporating this vast area of new information into more 'traditional' animal breeding programmes. Other sessions discussed the need to move away from breeding goals that just chase higher production yields to ones that include benefits to the animal (health, fertility), society (welfare, product quality) and the farmer (balanced and sustainable profitability).

Whilst the scientific programme was wide and stimulating the conference also allowed delegates to catch up with colleagues from around the world in a social context. This included a Brazilian barbeque that involved consuming vast quantities of meat and drink to a background of samba dancers - fun was had by all!

The next congress will take place in Leipzig, Germany in 2010 which for Europeans will hopefully be a much more straight-forward journey given the security problems at Heathrow and the recent collapse of the national airline in Brazil. You can't say its ever dull in genetics! Thanks to BSAS for their continued support of delegates for this conference through the Alan Robertson Award.

Writtle: Ethnoveterinary Conference - STOP PRESS 14/15 September 2006

The beautiful and friendly campus at Writtle, Essex hosted the BSAS specialist conference on Ethnoveterinary - Harvesting knowledge, Pharming Opportunities in mid-September. The width of papers presented was stunning material. Delegates appreciated that the topic has wide implications especially in developing countries. A satellite



Delegates enjoying a break during the conference.

workshop also brought in a team of world experts from the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Authority) in Vienna, who contributed papers to the main conference.

STUDENT DAY

The student day at Writtle was a great success, even the sun came out to greet us. It was well attended with 27 students enjoying a diverse range of topics. The first part of the day was dedicated to core requirements such as Viva, writing and presentation skills. The subsequent industry forum gave students a chance to meet with and find out requirements of future employers including WALTHAM, Farmers weekly, and EBLEX. Professor Jamie Newbold from Aberystwyth gave real insight into the requirements for an academic career whilst David Garwes talked about the types of research which might attract future funding. After a long hard day it was time for everyone to let their hair down. The evening's entertainment started with a rounders match at dusk on the front lawn of the college. A barbecue, balloon antics, and a fiercely competitive pub quiz followed ensuring a rewarding day ended, as it should, with a very lively social night.



A lightning strike was blamed for the fire alarm being activated, when in fact it was down to a brainstorm at the pub quiz.

Conference Calendar

19-20 Oct 2006	Linking up the meat chain: Ensuring quality and safety for consumers , Krakow, Poland, see page 4
14-15 Dec 2006	Delivering sustainability within profitable farming systems - is it possible? www.aab.org.uk
2-4 April 2007	BSAS Annual Conference , Southport, Merseyside, UK - see page 1 or visit www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Annual_Conference/
17-19 April 2007	High Value Grassland , University of Keele, Staffs www.britishgrassland.com/bgs/about/calendar.asp
30-31 August 2007	Fertility Conference , Liverpool Hope University, UK - see page 5

BSAS Committee Meetings 2006/07

20 November 2006	Presidents Meeting - Southport	16 January 2007	Presidents, Publications - London
21-22 November	Programme Committee - Southport	17 January	Council - London
5 December	Technical & Ethical - Belfast		