

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Food, Feed, Energy and Fibre from Land - A Vision for 2020

An International Conference to address future challenges for land use, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland 12-14 April 2010

Next year's Annual Conference is across the water in Queen's University, Belfast. This is a joint venture with the Irish Agricultural Forum and WPSA in conjunction with the Association of Applied Biologists - a unique event.

World food demand is predicted to double from present levels by 2050, driven by a projected 40% increase in population growth and changes in eating patterns. This will undoubtedly lead to greater demand for livestock products. However, our ability to increase food production is constrained by a number of factors,

including competing demands for land use for energy production and recreational use, together with the impact of climate change on land availability and productivity. This conference will bring together a range of international research scientists to discuss future priorities for agricultural research and development and, in particular, to examine factors influencing the efficiency of food and energy production. The conference will thus address a broad range of topics and provide excellent opportunities for integration and networking.

Its now time to submit your one-page summary if you intend to present a theatre or poster presentation next year. **The deadline is 31 October 2009.**

Whilst summaries can be submitted on any relevant topics relating to animal science, we would especially welcome papers that can be linked to the sessions listed below. This year all submissions must be electronic online via the BSAS website. This is for BSAS, WPSA and The Irish Agricultural Research Forum. Any problems please contact us in the BSAS office for help. Please note we intend to integrate as many papers as possible into sessions. All poultry papers will be associated with the WPSA meeting. For oral poultry papers this gives an opportunity for papers to be published as part of World Poultry Abstracts.

The major themes for the conference will include:

- Food Production
- Energy from Land
- Implications for Land Use
- Knowledge and Innovation Transfer and Interaction

The programme will be a mixture of invited and 15 minute submitted oral presentations. Mini presentations will continue to feature but the number of slides will be **strictly limited**. Plenary sessions will be in the Whitla Hall along with posters on the Monday and Tuesday only. As poster discussions worked well in 2009 we will be featuring as many as possible.

Given the collaboration of all the societies for this conference we expect a larger number of authors and delegates. This may mean we cannot accommodate all papers as oral presentations but we will work with authors on this issue.

See overleaf for sessions

For further updates visit <http://www.bsas.org.uk>

Inside this issue...

Annual Conference	1
Workshop	2
Life Cycle Assessment	
Conference	3
On-Line Bookshop	
Animal	
European Parliament	
Projects	
Obituaries	4
Travelling to Annual Conference 2010	

Submit your summary for the Annual Conference 2010 -
 DEADLINE 31 October 09
http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/

Life Cycle Assessment Workshop - register now!

Please note below BSAS' new fax number.

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Below are the scientific sessions: (www.bsas.org.uk for full details)

Monday 12 April

Presidents Session
What the Equine Industry wants from Equine Science
Advances in Equine Performance
Ruminants and the Environment
Recent Advances in Crop Science
Animal Nutrition

Tuesday 13 April

Hammond Lecture - Animal Science: Recent Progress and Future Challenges, *Prof John Oldham*
What Industry wants from Animal Science
Soil and Soil Nutrients
Progress and Potential from Animal Breeding - WPSA/BSAS joint session
Economics/Modelling
Grassland
Companion and Captive Animals
Priorities for Land Use - food, fibre, fuel or feed?
Genetics
Management of the Horse at Grass
Progress and Potential from Equine Genetics

Wednesday 14 April

Improvements in Measuring Phenotypes
Dairy Fertility
Pigs
Product Quality
Animal Health and Welfare
WPSA Papers

We appreciate you might not be able to listen to all the presentations you would like to, so papers and presentations will be available online after the conference. A number of papers will also be published in the BSAS Animal Bytes magazine and distributed industry wide.

Student Sunday will be held in at the Elms Halls of Residence, Queen's University. The conference dinner is planned for the City Hall in the heart of Belfast (Buses will be provided). We will have an informal buffet and quiz on the other evening or you can walk out to one of the many local restaurants around the University campus in the Botanic Gardens area – a real buzz!

Belfast

You'll get a fantastic welcome in Belfast - its now incredibly vibrant and cosmopolitan and has undergone a major rejuvenation in the last 5 years!

Travel

It's really easy to fly either into Belfast City (15 minutes from the venue) or Belfast International (40 minutes by frequent bus) on the low cost carriers. There is also the ferry option from Scotland or Liverpool. If you do come across consider adding time to visit the Island of Ireland – it really is a magical place. There is also a slick 2 hour intercity train service to Dublin and a very economical Aircoach service to Dublin airport. At the moment you can get Easyjet flights to Belfast International from Paris, Edinburgh, London or Liverpool all for under £50 return.

Accommodation

We have reserved accommodation in the newly refurbished Elms Village student halls. The halls are a 15 minute walk from the venue or hop on the bus which passes the door every 10 minutes. If you prefer hotels then there is a wide range in Belfast City centre just a short walk or 5 minute bus ride away. Check out laterooms.com for deals. For the cost conscious there is also a good youth hostel just across the road from Queens.

For further updates visit <http://www.bsas.org.uk>

(see page 4 - websites for information on travelling to Belfast)

Life Cycle Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ruminant Agriculture - National Motorcycle Museum, 7 October 2009

BSAS is working with the Society of Feed Technologists to run this one day workshop on Life Cycle Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ruminant Agriculture at the National Motorcycle Museum, NEC, Birmingham.

There is both an increasing interest in the use of life cycle assessment to establish the carbon footprint of ruminant products and a lack of consensus on the appropriate methodology, framework and boundaries within which estimates should be made. In this workshop we intend to bring together scientists, policy makers and representatives of the ruminant production industry and its food chain in order to explore these issues with the aim of reaching a consensus within the sector.

There will be 5 keynote papers to outline issues associated with calculating the carbon footprint of ruminant agriculture and Group discussions led by facilitators.

The NMM is just off the M42 junction 6 and just 5 minutes from both Birmingham International Airport and Railway Station. Parking is free. It takes an hour from London to Birmingham International by rail from Euston.

To register www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Meetings/

Programme

An overview of life cycle assessment and carbon footprinting
Adrian Williams, Cranfield University.

The boundaries to be applied in life cycle analysis
Tara Garnett, Food Climate Research Network, University of Surrey and Bruce Cottrill ADAS

Greenhouse gas emissions related to livestock in the UK inventory
Laura Cardenas, North Wyke Research

Carbon accounting for changes in livestock systems
Eileen Wall, SAC

Building carbon footprints from the bottom up: issues of farms, farmers, scale and uncertainty
Gareth Edwards-Jones and Katrin Plassmann, Bangor University

Group discussion

The application of life cycle assessment in the marketing of ruminant production systems
Amanda Ball, DairyCo

Ensuring consistency in assessment of product carbon footprints
Andie Stevens, Carbon Label Company

Conferences

2009

- 7 October, Life Cycle Assessment - Workshop (see opposite)
- 15 December, Climate Change University of Reading (NUTSOC/BSAS)

2010

- 12-14 April, Annual Meeting, Belfast joint with Irish Agricultural Forum, WPSA and AAB.
- 20-22 September, European Conference on Equine Nutrition (EWEN) RAC, Cirencester.
- 9-13 November, Indigenous knowledge as a resource in developing livestock systems, Nepal,

AAB Edinburgh 2-4 June 2009 Report

Integrated Farming Systems. This conference in Edinburgh really mixed folk from different backgrounds - economists, crop specialists and animal scientists - it really did get integrated. There were a mixture of presentations and workshops around the themes of

- Tools of the trade
- Lessons to be learnt
- The way forward

Papers and posters from the conference were reproduced in a volume of Aspects of Applied Biology, given out at the conference and now available from AAB. Full papers are to be published in Annals of Applied Biology. <http://www.aab.org.uk/>

Positive Husbandry of Young Animals

This meeting scheduled for September 2009 was postponed and will now become a pre- event to the 2010 Dairy Event & Livestock Show at the NEC Birmingham. The date is 6 September 2010. The new one-day event will be ruminant orientated and delivered at an applied level to suit producers, advisors and scientists seeking to solve problems faced by end-users. An outline programme will appear in October 2009 - watch this space.

Food supply and quality in a climate changed world

15 December 2009 University of Reading
A Nutrition Society meeting in association with BSAS and the Society for Experimental Biology

Speakers include:

- Professor Martin Parry [Centre for Crop Genetic Improvement, Rothamsted Research]
- Dr Martin Broadley [University of Nottingham]
- Professor Gareth Edwards-Jones [University of Wales]
- Professor Tim Wheeler [University of Reading]
- Professor Nigel Scollan [IBERS, Aberystwyth]
- Dr Alison Kingston-Smith [IBERS, Aberystwyth]
- Professor Maggie Gill [University of Aberdeen]
- Professor Wayne Powell [IBERS, Aberystwyth]

Topics:

- Food security; increasing yield and improving resource use efficiency
- Eat roots and leaves. Can biofortified horticultural produce address dietary mineral deficiencies in humans?
- Crop yield quality in a changing climate
- Animal agriculture in a climate changed world
- Environmentally driven changes in ruminant digestion

See www.nutritionandsociety.org for more.

ANIMAL BYTES - 5th Edition

The August 2009 issue of Animal Bytes is now available - featuring Pigs and Beef - covering climate change, animal health and welfare, food quality and security.

Animal Bytes is a web site whose objective is to provide short and incisive 'bytes' of information on topical themes and current research within the field of UK Animal Science.

Please pass the link on to interested parties - informative and easy to read. <http://www.animalbytes.org/>



ANIMAL Impact Factor - Help push your journals IF up!
Animal has now its first impact factor (IF), calculated by ISI: 0.994. This figure is GOOD for a first IF. The highest IF of our category "agriculture, dairy and animal science" is 2.46 (Journal of Dairy Science- JDS).

Animal's first impact factor is based on only one year's (2007) information instead of 2 because the Journal is new. We expect the 2009 IF (to be published in July 2010) will be higher when the calculation is based on two years' worth of citations, but we need you to help as the more citations of Animal papers authors include the higher the IF. So please cite Animal Papers where you can so we can catch up JDS.
(JDS has recently decided to join up with publisher Elsevier.)

On Line Shop

BSAS now has an online shop on its website. Members can buy BSAS publications at a discount rate. We currently offer members a FREE diary with every purchase over £40 so don't miss out! New publications are Proceedings of the meetings on Fertility in Dairy Cows and Advances in Animal Biosciences - both available to members at £40 each; Harvesting Knowledge - Pharming Opportunities is available at £28.

<http://www.bsas.org.uk/shop/>



3M Euros for projects on 'Transatlantic Methods for Handling Global Challenges'

The European Parliament has decided to continue with a second year of Pilot Projects to tackle common global challenges between the EU and the US.

The general objective is to promote mutual understanding and learning among EU and US policy researchers and policymakers on a number of challenges with a global dimension. The projects are to fund comparative analyses of current EU and US policies, conferences where findings are to be discussed and recommendations made, and publications to disseminate the results of the projects to the relevant policy community.

Relevant proposals include:

- a) Cloning of animals for food production purposes;
- b) Energy efficiency and low carbon energy technologies;

Further details of the Call for Proposals can be obtained at the following web link. The deadline for applications is 2 Oct 2009. http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/us/grants/index_en.htm

Dr Tom Acamovic, Senior Researcher and Reader in Avian Sciences, SAC

With great sadness we announce the death of Tom Acamovic after a long battle against cancer. Tom's day job was at SAC Auchincruive as a Senior Researcher. But that only tells part of the story as Tom was a real participant and hard worker within BSAS and wore his 'poultry' hat as a long-standing member of Programme Committee. As current President of WPSA he worked tirelessly to bring the two societies together. He also brought excellent personal qualities to activities including a sharp wit (useful in assessing overseas academic summaries) and honesty and frankness. Tom did not hesitate in saying what he thought but did so with good humour which usually won him the argument! Tom was also incredibly positive and always willing to help if he could. As a supervisor of research students he always encouraged and pushed them along and thus leaves an educational legacy that will last into the next generation.

Tom was born in Peebles the son of a farm worker and thus engrained into agriculture from an early age. He worked in SAC for the whole of his career. Having started as a technician he worked his way through his degree, PhD and latterly became a Reader. He worked at all three SAC sites in Aberdeen, Ayr and Edinburgh. Recognised by his peers as one of Europe's leading poultry nutritionists, he was credited with over 260 publications and was one of those small number of individuals able to span the academic/commercial divide.

His main interests were on plant secondary metabolites, their effects on animals, including ruminants and how to negate any adverse effects of the metabolites.

In his spare time Tom was forever active, became a Judo black belt (also useful in winning arguments) and was interested in all things 'with engines', especially cars.

In BSAS we shall miss him greatly. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Fiona, children Euan and Eilidh and many, many friends.

John Rooke

Dr Gordon Mitchell

Sadly we have news that Dr. Gordon Mitchell died on 24 July, 2009, aged 88. Gordon was an active and life-long supporter of the BSAS and its predecessor BSAP. Gordon spent his working life as a distinguished nutritional scientist at the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Shinfield, Berkshire. He was a fine scientist and a generous and supportive friend and colleague. The Shinfield group contributed hugely to pig science over many years. Gordon together with Dr Raphael (Phil) Braude, were a formidable and erudite duo at scientific meetings. In particular, Gordon made valuable contributions to our understanding of the nutrition of the baby pig and also the usefulness, or otherwise, of so called growth promoters. In the post war era, antibiotic use expanded exponentially in pig production and there was a need for critical evaluation which was his forte. He was an influential member of a number of technical and advisory committees including ones which produced the two editions of the Agricultural Research Council Nutrient Requirements of Pigs, published in 1967 and 1981. Gordon's genial nature, his deep resonant voice and ready wit were an engaging feature of the science groups in which he was involved.

Gordon's father, Reginald Mitchell, designed the Spitfire which played a decisive role in the Battle of Britain. In a touching tribute to Gordon himself, three spitfires staged a flypast at his memorial service. He will be remembered very fondly by those who knew him. Our sympathies are with his family - his three children David, Adrian and Penny and two grandchildren Nick and Emma.

Vernon Fowler, Dickon Hovell

Useful websites for cheap flights to Belfast Annual Meeting 2010

Belfast International Airport – www.belfastairport.com

www.easyjet.com (12+ UK & European routes)

www.bmibaby.com (Birmingham, Cardiff, East Midlands, Manchester)

www.jet2.com (Blackpool, Toulouse)

www.aerlingus.com (Rome, Paris, Munich, Milan, Heathrow)

Belfast City Airport - www.belfastcityairport.com

www.flybe.com (12+ UK routes)

www.ryanair.com (Stansted, Liverpool, Prestwick, East Midlands, Bristol)

www.flybmi.com (Heathrow)

www.aerarann.com/ (Cork)