

## **BSAS NEWS RELEASE**

**1 April 08**

### **Richard Dewhurst receives top Award**

Professor Richard Dewhurst is this year's winner of the prestigious British Society of Animal Science (BSAS), thirty-fifth Sir John Hammond Memorial Prize for outstanding contribution to animal science.

The citation for the award recognised the outstanding contribution to research in rumen function and dairy nutrition, particularly in understanding nutrient utilisation and milk quality effects in high-forage systems, as well as promotion of cross-disciplinary and non-invasive approaches to these questions.

Professor Dewhurst has had a long standing commitment to research at the interface between dairy cow nutrition, milk composition and rumen function, both in the UK and overseas. His research has focussed on both short and long-term effects of diet on feed utilisation. Research areas have included feed evaluation, improving forage intake and utilisation, body reserves, milk fatty acids and rumen diagnostics.

Outputs from his work has been used across a range of situations by farmers, advisers, dairy and feed companies and policy developers where Professor Dewhurst's work have provided an insight into the environmental effects of dairying, and fatty acids and health. At a more practical level he has helped to develop feeding strategies for dry cows, improved use of legume silages and feeds to reduce rumen acid load. Dairy companies have benefited from his research into forage effects on milk fatty acids.

In accepting the award, Professor Dewhurst stressed that, "there were exciting opportunities ahead for animal scientists, however these must involve both basic science and its subsequent application - linking across disciplines to address global challenges of producing healthful milk and meat in sustainable systems".

Richard Dewhurst has been the Professor of Dairy Production at Lincoln University in New Zealand since 2005. His current interests are primarily related to utilisation of

high-quality pasture for milk production. The exceptional productivity levels achieved at Lincoln University Dairy Farm, without the use of supplements, leads to a series of interesting research questions about feed evaluation, sub-acute rumen acidosis, utilisation of feed protein and lipid metabolism. He leads a feed evaluation project for the New Zealand dairy industry and is also working on novel indicators for the environmental footprint of dairying.

He, is a graduate of Oxford University, and undertook his postgraduate studies at Bristol University. He joined the newly-formed IGER at Aberystwyth in 1993 and led the development of ruminant nutrition work there for 10 years.

Richard is recognised for his administrative skills and for his conceptual and strategic vision. He has made substantial contributions to BSAS, notably as a Section Editor for both *Animal Science* and *Animal*, and is current President of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production.

Professor Dewhurst paid particular tribute to his former colleagues at IGER for a stimulating academic environment and superb technical support, as well as other colleagues and collaborators across Europe, and increasingly in New Zealand. He acknowledges Defra for funding the majority of his work, also the Milk Development Council, the European Union and more recently Dairy NZ.

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**Picture available from BSAS office:**

**CAPTION:** Professor Dewhurst receiving Sir John Hammond Memorial Award from BSAS President Prof Geoff Simm.