

Applying Equine Science: Research into Business

20-21 September 2005

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, UK

The second BSAS Equine meeting will shortly be held at RAC Cirencester. (see enclose leaflet). There is still plenty of time to come and join the other delegates and enjoy an excellent set of papers, a polo match and the friendly atmosphere of rural Gloucestershire. Please see Programme and application form with this newsletter or on the BSAS website. Discounts for five or more from the same organisation!

Annual Conference, York, 27-29 March '06 - 'steaming ahead'

Note that next year's annual conference is slightly earlier in the year than normal. Below and overleaf is a detailed list of invited sessions. It is very full, which shows a commitment by BSAS to make the York conference the best in the country. BSAS Council is still very happy to subsidise this meeting for its members, to make sure that the quality and diversity is second to none.

'Dining on rails' By popular demand we will also be returning next year to the spectacular National Railway Museum for our conference Dinner. Those who came in 2004, and those new to this event, are in for a terrific time. The student council will also be organising a jazz band for the Tuesday evening as part of their optional activities. So the social side of the York meeting should be as lively, friendly and entertaining as always. There will be a student event held on Sunday, prior to the conference, for both students and oldies.

Summary submissions Please note that one page summaries should be submitted on-line this year. Summaries will have similar format to previous years. Instructions will be available on the website by mid-September. Deadline date for submission will be 24 October 2005. Start thinking about your summaries now!!

Invited sessions for 2006 Following lots of useful suggestions from delegates and members we have provisionally organised the following sessions. Please note submitted summaries on any of these topics or research outwith these topics are welcome :

The control of TSE's

Keynote speaker - Matthew Baylis, Institute for Animal Health
An overview on TSEs details of the National Scrapie Plan – backed up with science.

Pay-off from genomic information

Invited speakers - Graham Plastow, Chief Technology Officer, Sygen International.
Genomic tools, what does the industry gain?

Jack Dekkers, Iowa State University

Optimising the use of molecular information in breeding programmes – "getting the most for money."

Breeding for farming systems

Invited Speakers - Jennie Pryce, Livestock Improvement Corporation, New Zealand
Dairy breeding for grazing systems

Erling Strandberg, SLU, Uppsala, Sweden
Genes and the environment

For further details on the above three sessions please email Eileen.Wall@sac.ac.uk

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2005 Conferences

20-21 September, Equine Science into Business, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester

15-18 November, Thailand. Integrating Livestock Crop-Systems, to meet the Challenges of Globalisation, Khon Kaen.

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Invited sessions for 2006

Responses to Nutrients

Four invited speakers include :

Jan Dijkstra, Animal Nutrition Group, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Nic Friggens, Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Denmark

Rob Gous, University of Kwazulu Natal, Durban, South Africa

Ilias Kyriazakis, SAC Edinburgh

For more information on this session please email Spiridoula.Athanasidou@moredun.ac.uk or Ilias. Kyriazakis@sac.ac.uk

Bioethics - Animal Science, Ethics, and Human-Animal Relations

For further information on this session contact Hannah Gauci - email HannahG@moulton.ac.uk

Energy conservation in poultry and pig production

For further information please contact Paul Rose - email sprose@harper-adams.ac.uk

Speakers from : Energy Information Centre, Newmarket

Background to carbon management, Climate change and regulations, Climate change agreements, Energy management and structured programmes for intensive livestock sector.

Applied Research, Animal Science Group, Wageningen UR, Lelystad.

Description of work at Lelystad where pig units using thermal solar energy, manure digestion and heat storage in an aquifer are being examined for their potential benefit.

Energy Power Resources (Fibrowatt) Ltd, Eye, Suffolk.

Description of the technology used by the company to burn poultry litter as a fuel for electricity generation. Also to describe recent work to use feathers from poultry processing plants as a fuel for electricity generation. Update on international developments.

Gut Microbiology

For further information on this session please contact Caroline Rymer c.rymer@reading.ac.uk

Speakers have been invited from the following organisations to give a paper on :

University of Georgia, USA - *Assessment of the effects of antimicrobial growth promoters on the intestinal microbial population in poultry*

University of Nijmegen, Netherlands - *Protozoal evolution in animal guts, from horses to cockroaches*

IGER, UK - *Bacterial diversity in the rumen*

SAC Auchencruive, UK - *Influence of plant secondary compounds on intestinal microorganisms*

The Rowett, UK - *Oxalobacter, an example of a gut bacterium with a unique metabolic rôle*

Equine and Companion Animals – ‘Canine and equine breeding and nutrition’

For further information on this session contact Hannah Gauci - email HannahG@moulton.ac.uk

Speakers from the Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition and Newmarket on Equine breeding have been invited.

President's Sessions - Joint with Nutrition Society

Meat as a functional food

A nutritionist's perspective on the role of animal fats in a good quality diet

Could meat off-set anaemia in pregnancy and hypertension in the next generation

Meat as a component of a healthy diet

Food policy, diet and health

An economists view of current and future diet and health strategies

Product quality as an essential component of sustainable agriculture

Retailers and their impact (role) in delivering food options to improve health

For information on the above two sessions please contact John MacRae or Jamie Newbold, J.MacRae@rri.sari.ac.uk cjn@aber.ac.uk

The Sir John Hammond Lecture

The influence of animal diets on human health, Dale Bauman, Cornell University

For information on any of the above sessions please either contact the organisers or the BSAS Office.

WIN a free trip to Thailand

Student Essay Competition

Integrating Livestock - Crop systems to meet the challenges of Globalisation

Fancy attending the AHAT BSAS Conference in Thailand 14-18 November 2005? Then we need 1200 words on Integrating Livestock - Crop systems to meet the challenges of Globalisation.

Visit the website www.ahatbsas.kku.ac.th for session titles which may assist you in focusing the essay on specific topic areas such as organic systems, food safety, trade, medicinal plants, animal welfare, environmental issues, nutrient balances, local feed resources, animal nutrition, dairying, multi-use of animals and genetic resources that fall within the conference theme.

Deadline is 30 Sept 2005 and the winner will be informed by the 15 October. You must be able to travel and attend the conference 14-18 November 2005. You will need a valid passport. Some nationalities require a visa which is usually purchased on entry to Thailand.

Candidates must have just completed (2005) or still be studying for a diploma, first or masters degree in a subject related to animal or crop sciences, environmental or development issues.

PRIZE

Writer of the best essay will receive the following:

- Delegate fee
- Accommodation for 6 nights
- Travel insurance and a return economy air ticket to Khon Kaen in Thailand

Student Council renews itself

The Student Council held its summer meeting in Edinburgh in June and welcomed several new members.

Ruth Pickard, chairman	r.m.pickard@ncl.ac.uk
Suzanne Rowe, web co-ordinator	suzanne.rowe@bbsrc.ac.uk
Heidi Normanton	heidi.normanton@sac.ac.uk
Frances Alink	frances.alink@sac.ac.uk

Catherine Hayhurst will be staying on for one more year.
catherine.hayhurst@liverpool.ac.uk

The Student Council discussed next year's York Conference events, an SC page for the BSAS website and running a stand alone one day communication/presentation skills day at Sutton Bonington, Nottingham which will be in November. They also reviewed competitions to encourage more undergraduates to join and marketing.

Victoria Morris, Alison Bond and Jenny Macfarlane are all finishing their PhDs this year so are stepping down from the SC.

New recruits still required - so if you are interested contact one of the members above.

Summer Placements

BSAS has funded a number of summer placements this summer including :

Sophie Gauss, Imperial College, London - placement with ADAS UK Ltd (Kate Breurer). Sophie has been involved with investigating the effect of three different weaning ages on the behaviour and welfare of piglets and sows, assisting with the development, implementation and interpretation of qualitative assessment methodology.

Nathalie Rougieri, ENSAR, Reensm, France - placement with SAC Auchincruive (Tom Acamovic). Nathalie has been conducting some laboratory-based studies and analyses associated with poultry science as well as assisting in the running of poultry studies.

Marie Noelle Belbes, Enita de Clermond Ferrand, France - placement with SAC Edinburgh (Ilias Kyriazakis). Marie has been taken part in experiments that investigate interactions between nutrition and parasitism.

Carolyn Algie, University of Glasow, - placement with University of Glasgow Vet School (Collette Britton). Carolyn has taken part in a research project on animal behaviour - dairy cows: Relating to systematic observations of behaviour such as walking (lameness scoring) and flinch responses to measurements of disease (mastitis and lameness) incidence and severity, body condition score and husbandry information.

If you would like a copy of the short reports written by the authors please contact the BSAS office.

NUFFIELD SCHOLARS – Catch them young!

This year BSAS has also funded the Nuffield Organisation in Scotland and Wessex for two placements aimed at school six form students interested in science. The students involved undertake a 3-4 week project with a college, company or university that gives them experience of science research. These placements are very well organized and supervised and usually end with a one-day 'celebration event' akin to a poster conference. In Scotland this is being held at Edinburgh Zoo in early September and will feature many of the 92 students who took part in the Scottish programme. The ethos of this type of initiative is one that BSAS is very keen to support as it does help identify young people with a flare for science.

If your organisation is interested in participating next year by providing a project then do contact us or the Nuffield organiser Frances Chapman at Aberdeen University (01224 274191).

FREE one day Communications/ Presentation Skills Workshop, Sutton Bonington, Nottingham, November 2005

Open to any BSAS young member (join now). Contact the BSAS Office to find out more. Maximum 20 places available.

Suggestions for topical conferences

Ethnoveterinary conference - Harvesting Knowledge, Pharming Opportunities

Writtle College Essex - Jes Scaife - Telephone 01245 424200

This conference will be our first in this very interesting and topical area that covers both flora and fauna worldwide. It will also look at both technical information and the process of collecting and using what is often indigenous 'grey' knowledge. It will mainly centre 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. The conference will be the first event associated with the Writtle's Centre for Equine and Animal Science and the Centre for World Crops.

This exciting meeting is being organised by Jes Scaife and colleagues. Writtle is just 30 minutes by road from Stansted airport and on the fast London-Colchester main line out of Liverpool Street Station (Chelmsford Station). So easy to get to!!

Jes.scaife@writtle.ac.uk would welcome input from any interested group or individual. The outline programme is at an early stage.

Title - Harvesting Knowledge, Pharming Opportunities

1 Conserving the knowledge base – information gathering techniques

Making the most of local knowledge;
From local dialect to botanical identification (how to identify to what the locals use, is it an undiscovered plant)
Translating symptoms into veterinary diagnosis.

2 Cultivation and culture

Respecting intellectual property and creating trust;
Learning the lessons from local farmers;
Matching growing conditions to optimise medicinal properties.

3 Traditional veterinary medicines; origins and applications – a regional approach

Asia
Africa
South America
North America
Europe

4 Targeting biological systems

The gut
Manipulating the rumen;
Approaches to manipulating the gut environment in monogastrics
Controlling health and disease
Enhancing the immune system
Natural pesticides

Lithuanian Veterinary Academy June 2007

Mike Steele and Peter Pasciak from the Agricultural University in Krakow, Poland are meeting with Associate Professor Vigilijus Jukna from the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Kaunas in early September. They will discuss a future BSAS meeting with Institutes from Eastern European countries. There are plans for an event in Krakow in 2006, plus a proposed conference in Lithuania in 2007. BSAS would assist in organising, what would hopefully become a regular event for animal scientists in that part of Europe.

Fertility in Dairy Cows –Sept 2007

organiser - Melissa Royal, Liverpool

A Satellite conference of EAAP, Dublin 2007 to be held in Liverpool, Cheshire. For further details or to get involved contact mdroyal@liverpool.ac.uk

International Fresenius Conference on Feed Safety

This conference is being held by SGS Institut Fresenius and Akademie Fresenius Cologne, Germany, 27-28 October 2005. The event is for analytical chemists, legislators, researchers and quality managers from the agrochemical, food and feed industry, from food and feed retailers, from authority and research institutes.
http://www.akademie-fresenius.de/uploads/VA_feedsafety2005.pdf

The conference fee is Euro 1.395 + 16 % VAT. **BSAS members can benefit from a 10 % discount.** The conference brochures are available in Adobe Acrobat format from the BSAS office and further details can be obtained direct from the organisers on phone +49 231 75896-81 or by email smummenbrauer@akademie-fresenius.de.

BVCA Congress

28-30 October, 2005 Riviera International Conference Centre, Torquay. For details visit www.bcva.org.uk

Animal Science

BSAS has now signed up to CABI to publish 'Animal Science' from January 2006. Discussions are however continuing with our European colleagues in EAAP and INRA France, over the possibility of evolving a new and larger journal from a number of European based titles, including Animal Science. When President's Committee and Council meet in August and September we will examine the financial and ownership implications of a joint venture.

OPEN ACCESS

Animal Science abstracts continue to be available to any visitor to the BSAS website, full papers in editions over 12 months old have now also become 'open access' and selected papers from more recent editions will follow in the next few months.

BSAS is doing its bit towards making Animal Science free to view. BSAS has also contributed to the debate on Open Access of Research Council funded research, arguing that independent societies like ours do need its modest income stream from its publications to maintain its charitable activities and long term survival. You can see the whole response on the website.

www.bsas.org.uk/About_the_BSAS/BSAS_Consultation_Documents/

Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships

The year 2006, chance of a lifetime opportunities. Each year the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust offers opportunities for British citizens to travel overseas to undertake study projects related to their trade, profession or particular interest. Thus, they widen their experience, make contacts abroad and bring back knowledge to this country to the benefit of their work and the community. For further information contact www.wcmt.org.uk