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It continues to be a busy time for BSAS as we work to review our activities.

From finding ways to work more closely with farming and research communities to creating events and helping put science into practice, we want to revamp what BSAS does and ensure it is a vital tool for you.

Working with others

BSAS has been in discussion with a range of organisations from across farming and science on ways to collaborate more on research and its application.

Associations including the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the Applied Biologists and LEAF have been in talks on ways to create a joint vision for animal science and agriculture, food and bioscience.

The aim is to find ways to share expertise and information, run joint events and to work together to help shape and inform policymakers.

As many commercial companies work directly with farmers and others who could benefit from BSAS members' research, we have also been looking to improve relationships with wider industry to find ways to put science into practice.

Many companies have told us they act as an advisory service to farmers and they would appreciate more support and information from the animal research community.

With that in mind, BSAS has invited companies to its annual meeting in April 2012, where there will be opportunities to discuss challenges facing the industry and how researchers could help.

Raising the profile of BSAS

We have been working to raise our profile in the wider agricultural industry and are keen for more people to get involved in telling people about BSAS and sharing the organisation's work.

Members have recently been involved in a number of activities and events including the NEC Dairy Event, the Yorkshire careers convention at Askham Bryan College and lecturing to the One-Health MSc course at Edinburgh School.

If you would like to attend any events to spread the word of BSAS or know events you think we should attend then get in touch.

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ANIMAL BRIEFS

In early 2012 BSAS will launch a series of briefing documents called **animal briefs**.

These impartial documents on topical and contentious topics relevant to animal science will provide independent, factual information to a range of people interested in animal science, including policy-makers, the media and the public.

EVENTS

DRINC - Diet and Health Research Industry Club

Nearly 100 delegates attended the DRINC conference on Milk and dairy products in health and disease at University Reading in December. Delegates has a fascinating day which not only provided insights and updating on the effects of fats and proteins on human health but also gave them a great deal of information on what to feed aspiring athletes and elderly relatives!

The participants included a range of people from both academia and industry which lead to very healthy discussion and debate. The presentations outlined the complexity of the area and the fact that policy decisions are not always based on clear science! The theme will be continued at the BSAS annual meeting in Nottingham in April and with another workshop later in the year.

Statistical Workshop for equine lecturers Moreton Morrell

BSAS and the British Equestrian Federation ran a very successful first workshop on statistics, experimental design, collaboration and networking for lecturers teaching equine topics in UK colleges in early December. The event was kindly hosted by Warwickshire College with 45 delegates from throughout England and Wales.

Advancing Equine Scientific Excellence (AESE) is an initiative that is intended to raise the standard of equine research in UK colleges by linking them together and providing CPD. The second of three workshops sponsored by Alltech is likely to run in spring 2012. If you want to know more please get in touch.

Office move

BSAS has moved to the Vet Faculty of Edinburgh University, adjacent to the brand-new Roslin building.

The contact details are the same but **we have new telephone numbers:**

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Annual meeting, 24- 25 April

The University of Nottingham's Jubilee Campus is the venue for the 2012 BSAS annual meeting.

More than 400 delegates are expected to come and hear presentations on a wide variety of issues.

Once again we will be joined by the Association for Veterinary Teaching and Research Work, World Poultry Science Association and the BBSRC Roslin-based animal science forum.

Application form available on the website and we have tried hard to keep costs down. Submitted papers will be assessed over the Christmas period and sessions will be put online in January.

Communications Director

BSAS is pleased to welcome Caroline Stocks as its communications director.

Caroline is a trained journalist who has worked in agricultural media for the past six years, most recently as deputy news editor of *Farmers Weekly*.

Working on a part-time basis, she will be introducing changes to the BSAS website and emails in the coming months and will also work to improve how we get information to a wider audience.

Animal bytes

BSAS' online magazine Animal bytes is looking for suggestions for papers that could feature on its website.

If you come across a paper you think could provide useful information for practitioners, let BSAS know or e-mail BSAS communications group chairman Henry Greathead (H.M.R.Greathead@leeds.ac.uk).

During 2012
Animal Bytes will
move from its
current bimonthly
edition to a
rolling series of
articles on animal
science across a
range of species
and disciplines.



The Association for Veterinary Teaching and Research

BSAS is now running the administration office for the AVTRW and intends to work closely on a number of activities in the future. Many AVTRW members work in UK vet schools where BSAS has a strong presence, so opportunities for collaboration are strong.