



# High Value Grassland:

**- providing biodiversity, a clean environment and premium products**

**17 to 19 April, 2007  
University of Keele, Staffordshire**



**Joint Conference: British Grassland Society, British Ecological Society, British Society of Animal Science**

*Farmers and land managers are increasingly being asked to protect soil, water and air, and to maintain and restore habitats, whilst competing in a world market. How can the demands of cross-compliance and agri-environment schemes be met, and how can they be reconciled with profitable meat and milk production?*

*These are questions we hope to answer at this conference, which will also give researchers, policy-makers and farmers a chance to discuss these issues informally.*

**Sponsored by:**

**DEFRA  
Stapledon Memorial Trust**

**Natural England  
National Farmers Union**

## TUESDAY 17 APRIL

- 11.00-13.30 Registration and optional lunch  
 13.30 **Opening of meeting and welcome**  
 BGS President Nigel Young

### Session 1 What the public wants

Chairman: Steve Peel, Natural England

- 13.40 **Current and future policies for agriculture and the environment**  
 Mike Hammell, DG Environment, Brussels
- 14.20 **Providing what the public wants**  
 David Riddle, National Trust
- 15.00 **High value products from grasslands; opportunities for farmers and consumers**  
 Anjo Elgersma, Wageningen University, Netherlands
- 15.20 **Grassland ecosystem services: can they help the case for conservation?**  
 Richard Jefferson, Natural England
- 15.40 Tea
- 16.00-17.30 **Poster viewing** - with authors in attendance.  
 See [www.britishgrassland.com](http://www.britishgrassland.com) for full listing of posters
- 19.00 Drinks reception
- 19.30 Conference dinner
- After-dinner speaker**  
 Guy Smith, farmer, NFU and LEAF
- Connecting with the public**

## WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL

### Session 2 What farmers can deliver

Chairman: Davy McCracken, SAC

- 08.40 **Sound soil, clean water, fresh air: what farmers are asked to deliver**  
 Jane James, Environment Agency

	<b>Session 2A</b> Chairman Davy McCracken, SAC	<b>Session 2B</b> Chairman: Richard Ratcliffe, farmer
09.25	<b>The fabric of the countryside: what farmers voluntarily deliver</b> Carmen Suarez & Ian Woodhouse	<b>Management and nutrition to reduce N excretion by dairy cows</b> Tianhai Yan & Sinclair Mayne
09.45	<b>The science behind Environmental Stewardship</b> Mark Stevenson & Steve Peel	<b>Manure treatment systems to improve nutrient management</b> Greg Forbes et al
10.05	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
10.30	<b>Wholecrop silage for bird conservation in pastoral areas</b> Will Peach et al	<b>Methods of spreading slurry to improve N efficiency</b> Peter Frost et al
10.50	<b>Flora, fauna and nitrate in multifunctional grasslands</b> Hein Korevaar & R Geerts	<b>Timing of slurry application to minimise N loss</b> John Laws et al

- 11.20 **Realities, possibilities and priorities for the farmer**  
 Poul Christensen, farmer, Oxon and deputy chair Natural England.

- 12.00 Pick up packed lunch and depart for **Farm visits**. Choose one of three:  
**A: Lowland dairy farm** John Porter, Barthomley, Cheshire, runs pedigree Holsteins on the farm which has potential for extensive wet grassland for wintering and breeding birds. There is also historic earthwork on the site.

**B: Lowland beef unit** John Simister, Market Drayton, Shrops, keeps Galloway cattle and has restored wet grassland including scrapes for lapwing, as well as creating species-rich hay meadows.

**C: Upland beef and sheep unit** Neil Richardson, Warslow, Staffs, farms in a priority area within the Dove-Manifold catchment. He keeps Galloway and Continental cattle and Swaledale sheep and has an SSSI for breeding snipe and was the Peak District's last Black Grouse site.

19.00 Dinner  
20.30-21.30 **Workshops based on farm visits**  
Facilitator Davy McCracken

#### THURSDAY 19 APRIL

08.30 Feedback from workshops

### Session 3 The detail of delivery

Chairman: Jerry Tallowin, IGER

09.00 **New ways to deliver biodiversity**  
Prof Johannes Isselstein, Univ Goettingen, Germany

	<b>Session 3A</b> Chairman: Jerry Tallowin, IGER	<b>Session 3B</b> Chairman: Alan Duncan, MLURI
09.45	<b>Impact of N deposition on upland grasslands</b> Carly Stevens	<b>Reducing P in dairy cow diets to achieve whole farm balance</b> Conrad Ferris et al
10.05	<b>Diversification by manipulation of plant-soil interactions</b> Prof Richard Bardgett et al	<b>Limousin vs Galloway cattle for upland pasture and rough grazing</b> Mariecia Fraser et al
10.25	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
10.50	<b>Evidence base to improve guidelines for upland meadows</b> Nigel Critchley et al	<b>Water management in wet grasslands</b> David Gowing & Owen Mountford
11.10	<b>Restoring biodiverse grasslands: practical options</b> Mike Hayes & Jerry Tallowin	<b>Biological diversity as an input to sustainable economics</b> Robert Dunn et al

11.40 **Quality of meat from biodiverse grassland**  
Prof Jeff Wood, University of Bristol

12.20 Lunch

### Session 4 Grasping the opportunities

Chairman: Andrew Clark, NFU

13.30 **Turning sustainable farming into a premium product – the case for collaboration**

Sion Roberts, English Food & Farming Partnerships

14.10 **Cumbrian cheese – resurrected by farmer co-operation**

Kevin Beaty, farmer, Cumbria

14.30 **Farming for birds, and people**

Martin Hole, farmer, Sussex

14.50 **Future needs – policies and science.**

Prof Chris Pollock, recently retired director IGER, chair of Defra SFF Research Priorities Group

15.30 Close of conference, tea and depart

**For further details contact the British Grassland Society, Trent Lodge, Stroud Rd, Cirencester, Glos GL7 6JN, tel: 01285 885166, e-mail: [office@britishgrassland.com](mailto:office@britishgrassland.com)**

## REGISTRATION FORM

Title:.....First Name:.....Surname:.....  
 Organisation: .....  
 Address: .....  
 .....Postcode: .....  
 Country: .....Telephone: .....  
 E-mail:.....

Member of: BGS  BSAS  BES  None  (please tick box)

I would like to go on farm visit: A  B  C  (please tick box)

DELEGATES FEES	Cost before 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Sub total
Full registration and ensuite accommodation, full proceedings	£320/person	
Optional lunch on Tuesday	£10	
Single day registration with lunch, coffee/tea and full proceedings Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> (tick box)	£70/any 1 day £130/any 2 days £190/all 3 days	
Bed and Breakfast - en-suite Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/>	+ £40/night	
Evening meal Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> (includes workshops)	+ £25/evening	
Late registration 15 <sup>th</sup> March to 10 <sup>th</sup> April - subject to availability	+ £30	
Non-members of BGS, BSAS and BES	+ £40	
<b>TOTAL PAYMENT</b>		<b>£</b>

*Students can apply for sponsored places through BES and BSAS. Contact the BGS office for further details.*

**I wish to pay by:**

- Cheque - made payable to the *British Grassland Society*
- BACS - please contact the BGS office for details
- Credit/debit card -

Name on card.....

Card number .....

Expiry date ..... Cardholders signature .....

Send this form to the British Grassland Society, Trent Lodge, Stroud Road, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 6JN; 01285 885166; <a href="mailto:office@britishgrassland.com">office@britishgrassland.com</a>
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