

**BSAS Annual Conference, 31 March - 2 April 2008  
 Spa Complex, Sunny Scarborough**

Your 2008 Annual Meeting programme is included with this newsletter (also available on the website [www.bsas.org.uk](http://www.bsas.org.uk)). As you see we are returning to sunny Scarborough which is now a serious surfing site. The Spa has been refurbished and the town is its old friendly self. The conference will be starting after lunch on Monday. There are hourly train services from York and the last 50 miles of road are very scenic, but slightly slower than Southport, so allow a little extra time.

We had over 300 submissions for the meeting and have tried to accommodate as many oral presentations as possible. There are four parallel theatre sessions running throughout the meeting. After the success of mini presentations in 2007 we are continuing the option of 5 minute theatre sessions. All full submitted theatre papers will continue to be 15 minutes long. Poster presenters will have the opportunity to put up both hard copy posters as well as include a Powerpoint slide on plasma screens.

**Theatre**

The Hammond Memorial Lecture is being given by Professor Mike Goddard, University of Melbourne and Department of Primary Industries, Victoria, on *Molecular genetics for livestock improvement – brave new world or false dawn?*

**Invited sessions include:**

- The Value of Animal Science
- Global Climate Change and Global Livestock Production
- Qualitative Assessment of Animal Welfare
- Impact of Biofuels (Joint with WPSA)
- Knowledge Transfer

**Submitted sessions cover:**

- Ruminant nutrition & Feed Developments
- Rumen Transformation
- Poultry (to be presented in the WPSA audience)
- Harnessing Genomic Information
- Genetics of Fitness
- Novel methods of measuring Meat Quality
- Meat Quality
- Dairy Cow Nutrition
- Dairy Cow Management
- Non Traditional species
- Health
- Equine Nutrition
- Sheep and Dairy Nutrition
- Pigs
- Pig Nutrition & Management

**Accommodation**

**Please book through the BSAS website to save us money.**

As the Spa Complex is owned by the local Council they give it to us free if 70% of our delegates use their Accommodation Bureau to book accommodation. So please use the link on the BSAS website for bookings. This allows us to keep the conference fee down.

**Poster sessions include:**

- Dairy, Beef and Sheep, Genetics,
- Feedstuffs and Techniques, Pig feed,
- Poultry.

**Equine Day Wednesday  
 2 April 2008.**

The Wednesday of the Annual Conference is to become an Equine Day. Starting at 10:30 hours with submitted equine papers, the afternoon will follow the programme outlined overleaf. This will be aimed at colleges delivering equine courses or involved in research. Any lecturers or students may attend for the day.

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**17 - 20 May 2008  
 Livestock and  
 Global Climate  
 Change**  
 Hammamet, Tunisia

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## Equine Wednesday afternoon Programme 2 April 2008

13:30 Introduction - Why do we need equine research  
13:45 Experimental design  
14:15 How to critically analyse  
14:45 Break during which summaries read by audience  
15:00 Practical Analysis of a paper summary  
15:50 Finish and what next?

### Creche

This year we are able to offer the services of a creche for delegates wishing to bring young children. This is highly subsidised by BSAS. The creche will be in the Spa Complex during conference hours. Please see the application form for further details.

### 2009 Southport

The Annual Conference goes back to Southport in 2009 (30 March - April 1). There are plans to go to Belfast in 2010.

## Raising the profile of animal science

### Stakeholder meetings planned for Holyrood, Westminster and Scarborough

BSAS is planning two lobbying events for the parliaments in Holyrood, Edinburgh and at Westminster, London. The event in the Scottish Parliament takes place on 26 February when BSAS will play host to MSPs and stakeholders from across Scotland involved in animal science, agriculture and the environment. Westminster is the venue on 12 March.

The aim at both events is to raise the profile of animal science amongst policymakers and politicians. BSAS is concerned that many policymakers are unaware of the key role that animals are able to play in food production and maintaining a vibrant environment. Food security is once again appearing as a central issue within the economies and social structure of both developed and developing countries, whilst climate change offers both opportunities for adaption and mitigation within global agriculture.

The events are sponsored by John Scott MSP in Edinburgh and David Mundell MP in London.

Stakeholders at Scarborough. BSAS are also inviting stakeholders from the UK livestock industry to the conference dinner and sessions on Value of Animal Science and Global Climate Change.

BSAS members will act as hosts at all three events and hopefully be able to start dialogues with those who have to make future decisions relating to our environment and economies.

## Student Day

### Sunday 20 March - Monday 31 March 08

The Student Sunday programme will cover statistics, communicating to farmers, industry and media, communication skills between students and supervisors (*how not to murder your supervisor*), relaxation techniques, travel funds and a social/dinner on the Sunday. On Monday there are parallel workshops on genomics for beginners and animal nutrition. The student sessions are as usual FREE to all BSAS student members. There is also a contribution to overnight accommodation. The Student Council will also help run the Tuesday evening entertainment (open to all - held in the Spa). The conference dinner will be held in the Spa on the Monday evening.

### New Council Members wanted

BSAS is looking for new members of Council. If you are at all interested in getting involved in the decision making side of BSAS (its fun!) then we need your name, two supporter's names and a half page CV by 21 March. Come and join in. We are especially keen to ask new Council members who will play an active role in the new working groups mentioned below. Email [bsas@sac.ac.uk](mailto:bsas@sac.ac.uk) or give Mike Steele a call on 01848 331437 to discuss further.

## BSAS FIVE YEAR PLAN

### Re-structuring

At the AGM in April the members will be asked to modernise the constitution to allow BSAS to better respond to an ever changing industry.

Subject to approval at the AGM, a number of groups will be formed to replace or supplement the old standing committees. **Publications** will join with **Programme**, headed up by Caroline Rymer.

**Technical & Ethical Committee** will continue, headed by Alistair Carson, and will concentrate on consultations, scholarships, liaison with Bio-Sciences Federation and the EAAP link as well as ethics, welfare and vision.

A new **Education and Communications Group** will be led by Liam Sinclair. This group is keen to take technical information to a wider audience in an exciting and fresh form. The possibility of funding an education liaison officer is being discussed. BSAS is lagging behind other organisations in the provision of educational resources and BSAS Council has agreed that such provision should be an important part of the BSAS strategy. An audit of relevant information and documents is needed and then BSAS will look to work with other relevant organisations.

A **Marketing and Recruitment** group will also be formed.



Your journal *Animal: An International Journal of Bio-Sciences* has now completed its first year. *Animal* published more pages in 2007 (1531) than *Animal Science* did in the previous year (975) which represents excellent value for money for subscribers. The number of papers submitted was 532 (until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007) from a wide geographical base. Total papers published in 2007 were 163 of which 20 were reviews. These latter papers come mainly from presentations at BSAS meetings and INRA scientists. There is now an elite group led by Kris Sejrsen (Kr.Sejrsen@agrsci.dk) to liaise with conference organisers to identify potential review papers at an earlier stage. If you are involved in conferences then they would be very interested in identifying “hot review” topics from key research groups for publication in *animal*. During 2008 there will be an issue every month.

Editor-in-chief Michel Doreau and his editorial team have worked hard in 2007 to achieve a high degree of editorial rigour and along with Cambridge University Press ensured that all issues in Volume 1 were delivered on time.

For 2008 the journal aims to have a decision back to the author within 70 days of manuscript submission. Procedures are now in place to ensure that the process operates efficiently at all times and maintains a high degree of editorial rigour.

Cambridge University Press are now providing information on the numbers of “full text views” for all papers, and to date the top paper with 1944 full text views is the review paper by Jean-Francois Hocquette and colleagues published in the first issue of *Animal*, '*Recent advances in cattle functional genomics and their application to beef quality*'. In terms of original publications the top paper, to date, with 1482 full text views is by Karamichou *et al.* '*Selection for carcass quality in hill sheep measured by X-ray computer tomography*'. **Please ensure your read and cite ANIMAL papers, this is critical for development of the journal's impact factor.**

Since November 2007, the BSAS office is now working closely with colleagues in the INRA editorial office in facilitating the processing of submitted manuscripts.

The next meeting of the *Animal* Management Board will be in Tunisia on May 16th. If you have any issues or thoughts please contact the BSAS board members:

Dr Nigel Scollan (nigel.scollan@bbsrc.ac.uk), Dr Brian Cooke (brianccooke@yahoo.co.uk), Mr Mike Steele (mike.steele@sac.ac.uk)

*Animal* has its own website at [www.animal-journal.eu/](http://www.animal-journal.eu/)  
Papers can be submitted through [www.editorialmanager.com/animal](http://www.editorialmanager.com/animal)

BSAS wish to express special thanks to Hilary Davies for her commitment to *Animal* and the pivotal role she played in the transition from *Animal Science* to *Animal*. Hilary retired from her editorial duties in October 2008 and BSAS wishes her well for the future.

## Scholarships

### **Sir Kenneth Blaxter Scholarships 2007**

The following grants were given at the T&E committee meeting in Birmingham, December 2007:

Mirinlini, University of Bangor, has been awarded £1400 towards advanced toxinological research for Asian Pit Vipers.

Soumela Savvidou, University of Plymouth, has been awarded £1200 to undertake an *in vivo* study in the application of *Lactobacillus plantarum* as a probiotic in broiler production

Both successful applicants are PhD students.

### **Murray Black Scholarship**

The Black Award is open to applications from all branches of animal science and particularly welcomes proposals that cover '*the role of domestic and wild animals and their science in the enhancement and maintenance of the rural environment*' although any reasonable requests that fall within the scope of the scheme will be considered. Please apply by 25 April.

### **Summer Placement Scheme**

Applications available on the bsas website. Please apply by the end of April.

### **EAAP**

Vilnius, Lithuania, 24-28 August 2008

Scholarship fund - apply before 31 January 2008. Details available [www.eaap2008.org](http://www.eaap2008.org). Please contact BSAS in the first instance with full details of submission.

# Conferences

## BSAS Conferences 2008

- 31 Mar-2 Apr**      **BSAS Annual Conference**  
Spa Complex, Scarborough. See pages 1 and 2, together with enclosed programme and application form.
- 17 - 20 May**      **Livestock and Global Climate Change**  
Hammamet, Tunisia  
Please see enclosed programme. Or visit the BSAS website for full details.
- 28 - 29 May**      **11th Langford Food Industry Conference - Adding value in meat production**  
School of Clinical Vet Medicine, University of Bristol, UK  
Britain faces stiff competition from imported meat which is produced at lower cost than here. And although consumers say they prefer to buy British, producers struggle to survive on the prices currently being received. So it's never been more important to 'add value' to meat production and to ensure the value is shared across the meat chain. This year's conference looks at opportunities to add value, examines the growth in premium products and compares standards in Britain and overseas. This conference is jointly organised with BSAS. For further details contact [Langford-CE@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Langford-CE@bristol.ac.uk) or [Jeff.wood@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Jeff.wood@bristol.ac.uk)

## Conferences 2009

- February/March**      **Guadeloupe**  
Intensive Tropical Livestock systems. BSAS is working with INRA, France, to run a conference on the Caribbean Island of Guadeloupe. Sessions will cover Characterisation and use of local breeds in the humid tropics, Nutritive value and strategic use of local feeds, Sustainable and integrated systems
- Nov 2009**      **Nepal**  
Discussions are going on with the Institute of Agriculture & Animal Sciences in Rampur, Nepal to run a workshop to follow up the Ethno-veterinary conference run at Writtle College, Essex in Sept 2006. This next one is likely to have a wider remit to cover Ethno-botanical and knowledge transfer aspects of indigenous information. The proposed date is November 2009

## other 2008 conferences

- 4-5 March**      **Regulation of Veterinary Medicines in Europe Conference**  
Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Dublin, Ireland. For Priority Booking quote VIP Code: CQ4090 TT52  
Contact: [kate.cockburn@informa.com](mailto:kate.cockburn@informa.com)
- 12 - 13 March**      **The Agricultural Research Forum, Tullamore, Ireland**  
Provides Irish agricultural researchers with a means to inform colleagues about their work. Areas covered include Animal and Crop Science, Environmental and Soil Science, Food Science, Agri-economics, Forestry and related topics. For details contact [chair@agresearchforum.com](mailto:chair@agresearchforum.com)
- 16 - 17 April**      **Farm Animal Welfare and the Interface with Disease**  
University of Bristol, Vet School, UK Contact [Langford-CE@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Langford-CE@bristol.ac.uk)
- 18 - 21 May**      **Lipids for Dairy Cattle: Today's Issues, Tomorrow's Challenges**  
Brown County Inn, Nashville, IN, USA Further information [www.adsa.org/discover/](http://www.adsa.org/discover/)
- 3 July**      **UFAW Animal Welfare Science Conference 2008** - Recent advances in animal welfare science  
University of Bristol. Further details [www.ufaw.org.uk](http://www.ufaw.org.uk)
- 27 - 31 July**      **29th World Veterinary Congress**  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Abstract submission deadline 2 November 2007  
<http://www.worldveterinarycongress2008.com/>
- 5 - 9 August**      **Society for Applied Ethology 42nd International Congress**  
Dublin, Ireland. Closing date for submissions - 1 March 2008  
Further information at [www.isae2008.com](http://www.isae2008.com)