

**BSAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**Southport Theatre and Convention Centre**  
**30 March – 1 April 2009**

This years annual meeting is at the newly refurbished Southport Conference centre where we had such a good conference in 2007. The complex now has a spanking new range of meeting rooms which we will use instead of the main theatre. WPSA are joining us in the same venue.

We received over 400 abstracts for this event. We have reduced the number of parallel sessions in line with comments from members and have dedicated plenary sessions for posters. We have carefully coordinating with WPSA on poultry papers and have tried hard to put relevant papers of your discipline together rather than spreading them out through the 3 days.

Given the credit crunch BSAS will once again subsidising the whole event to the tune of £20,000 so you really do get something for your membership fee.

**Come and join us .....**There is a full programme with this newsletter and all social events will all be in the conference complex to minimise logistics. So we need your support in attending and hope you will come or send colleagues and your students.

**It's a great place to do business .....**Remember it's not just about presentations but a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues, make new friends and identify business or collaborative opportunities.

**You can raise your profile.....**We also have opportunities to display your services and goods as well as to sponsor events to get your message across. Sponsorship information is available at [http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings\\_&\\_Workshops/](http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/)

We have a full student programme on Student Sunday & Monday being organized by the student council. Pod casting is top of their list this time. More details will be along soon!

Below are the invited scientific and social scene programmes:

- Workshop - What the funders want
- Equine session - health, behaviour and welfare
- Hammond memorial lecture - Milk and meat in our diet: Good or bad for our health and wealth?
- Food and Feed Security
- Climate change and animal health and welfare
- Conflict between consumer requirements and food security (joint WPSA/BSAS) extensification of pig and poultry systems; role of GM plants and animals
- Conflicts in resources for extensive ruminant production - Strategic use of supplements, grassland use and utilisation, conservation and biodiversity; alternative land use; mitigating environmental impact.
- Non-farmed animal species



**Positive Husbandry of the Young Animal from conception to weaning**  
 2-4 September 2009.  
 Liverpool  
 Nutrition, Environment, Health/Disease  
 International speakers and UK from a range of disciplines. Register your interest now or visit

[www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings\\_&\\_Workshops/Meetings/](http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Meetings/)

*Inside this issue...*

<b>Annual Conference</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>RSPCA 2010</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BSAS goes to Wales</b>	
<b>Wanted - new Council Members</b>	
<b>Student Workshop</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Scholarships Awarded</b>	
<b>Publications</b>	
<b>Peter English</b>	
<b>Future conferences</b>	<b>4</b>

**Positive Husbandry of the Young Animal from conception to weaning**  
 2-4 September 2009.  
 Liverpool

**European Workshop on Equine Nutrition**  
**Equine nutrition in relation to health and welfare**  
 20-22 September 2010  
 Cirencester

Register you interest for the above conferences email [bsas@sac.ac.uk](mailto:bsas@sac.ac.uk)

**BSAS,**  
**PO Box 3,**  
**Penicuik,**  
**Midlothian EH26 ORZ. UK**  
**Tel: 00 44 (0)131-445-4508,**  
**Fax: 00 44 (0)131-535-3120,**  
**Email: [bsas@sac.ac.uk](mailto:bsas@sac.ac.uk)**  
**Website <http://www.bsas.org.uk>**

## BSAS goes to Wales

BSAS held another successful reception for policymakers and industry stakeholders on 25 November 2008, this time with our Welsh colleagues. It was held in The Senedd, the National Assembly for Wales. Some 60 members and guests from the Welsh agricultural and food industry, organisations concerned with the environment and Assembly Members attended. Welsh Minister Elin Jones hosted the event on our behalf.

BSAS wanted to raise the topic of *why animal science matters* and then encourage informal discussions.. We were pleased with the number of new friends made and old ones revisited. One stakeholder Meurig Raymond, NFU, has already agreed to speak at the Annual Conference in Southport next March alongside the UK Minister of State (Farming and the Environment) Jane Kennedy.

We will be following up on a number of discussions with stakeholders relating to animal science. We are especially keen to help provide independent information and advice to help policymakers and those involved in the decision making processes for agriculture, the environment, food security and safety and climate change issues so that they can achieve 'best fit' solutions for the economy, environment and social life of our country.

This BSAS 'road show' now moves on to Northern Ireland in 2010 having already visited the Parliaments in Edinburgh and London as part of the BSAS 5 year strategic plan to raise the profile of BSAS and animal science.

Its very reassuring to find that other stakeholders in our industry are undertaking very similar events to reinforce the message that food, agriculture and animal science matters and that it thus needs investment if we are to be able to meet conflicting future demands such as feeding 9 billion people, sustaining our environment and meeting energy and climate change demands. All these efforts will remind policymakers that our industry is important and that we can help them make the right decisions by providing balanced information and advice.



If you have contacts with policymakers and feel BSAS could help inform them, then please get in touch.

### RSPCA Prize 2010

Whilst the deadline for nominations for the 2010 RSPCA/BSAS is later in the year RSPCA and BSAS have agreed to extend the scope of this award to include managed animals. Previously it was for farmed animals but a great deal of beneficial research is going on with species like horses so the prize is now open to them. It's never too soon to think about next year so if you see research activity that you think merits nomination for innovative developments in animal welfare then let us know. We need a letter of commendation for an individual or group whose work would be recognised as improving the welfare of farmed or managed animals. See [www.bsas.org.uk](http://www.bsas.org.uk) for full details or call 0131 445 4508 for a confidential chat.

### Members wanted for Council, Technical & Ethical chair and on Focus Groups

BSAS need three new members for Council to serve from April 2009 until 2012. It is great fun and you'll have a chance to influence what we do. Age, gender, discipline or background is no barrier – we need enthusiasm and lots of ideas. If you are interested in Council we need two BSAS members to support your application (we can help) and if you want to join one of the BSAS focus groups\* then just email [bsas@sac.ac.uk](mailto:bsas@sac.ac.uk)

We are also looking for a new chair of the T&E group as Alistair Carson is stepping down next March. Ideally this position needs previous committee experience and good communications skills at all levels. If you are interested give Mike Steele a call – 0131 445 4508.

\* Technical & Ethical; Programme and Publications; Education & Communications; Marketing.

# BSAS 2008 Student Conference Reading University

BSAS Student Council ran yet another very successful student event in November, at Reading University with local organisers Eddie Deaville and Jennie Litten-Brown.

BSAS young scientists from Newcastle, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Queens University Belfast, SAC, Writtle and Moulton colleges participated and we had delegates from eight different countries.

The programme was a mixture of technical presentations - Epidemiology in livestock research; Communications skills; You and your supervisor - success; Communicating science to the layperson and media; Design and preparation of posters. There was also a Student Council presentation on Post-graduate student conferences, travel funding and concluding with a farm visit to the Reading University CEDAR facility. In the evening all participants and tutors went off to an excellent Indian restaurant and enjoyed a relaxed social evening.



BSAS is grateful to Reading tutors Barbara Pembroke, Simon Gowen, Tony Wilshire, farm staff at CEDAR, Janice Harland and Catherine Hale from BSAS.

This was the first stand alone SC event held. Normally such events run alongside BSAS conferences and everyone was pleasantly surprised at how well it worked and the positive atmosphere generated. The 17 students now have an exclusive network of new friends! Special thanks to SC representative Cameron Craigie who had the 'Master of Ceremony' role which he performed brilliantly. Two of the participants have been approached to join SC.

BSAS SC is now focussing on the Student event planned around the Annual Conference in Southport, Lancashire on March 29/30 2009. They hope to include pod casting and would be very interested in your ideas so get in touch. BSAS SC events are free to BSAS student members and we subsidise the Sunday night accommodation in Southport.

## Scholarships Autumn 2009

T&E group decided to grant the following monies to applicants for the 2008 autumn round of scholarship applications at its recent meeting at Liverpool Hope University.

### Blaxter

- Samantha Ward from Moulton College was awarded £800 to travel in Australia to look at welfare and production implications of fostering methods of sheep.
- Mohammed Khan of Newcastle University was awarded £300 to attend EAAP 2009 and undertake a trial on degradability and fermentation of spices at Barcelona University.
- Yolande Seddon from Newcastle University £1000 for a study tour of Denmark and Germany on Pig Animal Hygiene and attend an international congress on Animal Hygiene.

### Robertson

- Joseph Powell of the Roslin Institute £500 to travel in Australia visiting centres of excellence in animal and human quantitative genetics.

## BSAS Publications

### Ethnoveterinary Conference

Proceedings from 2006 Ethnoveterinary Occasional Meeting, Harvesting Knowledge - Pharming Opportunities on sale from BSAS at £35.00 per copy.

### Fertility in Dairy Cows - bridging the gaps

Proceedings from 2007 conference £50.00 per copy. On sale from BSAS.

20% discount on the above prices to members.  
Please contact the BSAS office.

## Professor Peter English

BSAS is sad to report the death of Professor Peter English, a long time member and supporter of the Society. Peter will be remembered with respect and affection by the many colleagues and students from around the world to whom he acted as both teacher and mentor. Peter began his career at Aberdeen University in 1961, rising to become Professor of Animal Science and Husbandry before his retirement in 2001. His work was greatly valued by the farming industry, especially the pig sector from which he received the David Black award in 1984. He will be particularly remembered for his practical approach to improving the welfare of farm livestock, for which he received the BSAS/RSPCA award in 1998, and for his passionate belief in the importance of good stockmanship, promoted recently as chair of the Farm Animal Welfare Council working group on this subject.

# Future Conferences

## 2009

7-13 March	Sustainable Animal Production in the Humid Tropics, Guadeloupe
12-13 March	Irish Agricultural Forum, Tullymore, Ireland
30 March - 1 April	Annual BSAS Conference, Southport
2-4 June	Integrated Farming Systems, Edinburgh (AAB/BSAS)
2-4 September	Positive Husbandry for Young Animals, from Conception to Weaning, Liverpool
7 October	Life Cycle Analysis, The Motor Cycle Museum, Solihull (Nr Birmingham Airport) BSAS/SFT
December	Climate Change, The Midlands (NUTSOC/BSAS)
9-13 November	Indigenous Knowledge as a Resource in Developing Livestock Systems, Nepal,

## 2010

12-14 April	Annual Meeting, Belfast
20-22 September	European Conference on Equine Nutrition (EWEN), RAC, Cirencester

### Nepal, 8-13 November 2009

Indigenous Knowledge as a Resource in Developing Livestock Systems. This is a split venue with policy papers in Kathmandu followed by technical ones in Chitwan. Travel between the two venues will include cultural and technical visits. In collaboration with the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Chitwan and the Nepalese Animal Science Association. Contact Jes Scaife or Peter Rowlinson (BSAS International Group). Ideals and expressions of interest welcome.

### AAB Edinburgh, 2-4 June 2009

Integrated Farming Systems. This exciting conference will bring together economists, cropping folk and animal scientists so truly integrated. The deadline for abstract is now passed but its not too late to sign up as a delegate. There will be a mixture of presentations and workshops.

### Life cycle analysis, October 2009

BSAS is running a seminar on Life Cycle Analysis of the Carbon Outputs for Ruminant Agriculture with the Society of Feed Technologists (SFT) 7 October 2009, The Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, Nr Birmingham Airport.



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT  
5TH



**2010**

## Equine Nutrition in relation to Health and Welfare at the Royal Agricultural College

Pre-Conference Scientific Workshop:  
19 September 2010 (by application only)

Conference:  
20 September 2010: Scientific Sessions  
21 September 2010: Scientific and Applied Sessions

Conference Visit:  
22 September 2010  
Free Communications in form of papers and posters are welcome.



To register your interest, please email [bsas@sac.ac.uk](mailto:bsas@sac.ac.uk)