

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Food, Feed, Energy and Fibre from Land - A Vision for 2020

Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland 12-14 April 2010

The 2010 Annual Conference is a joint venture between BSAS, the Irish Agricultural Research Forum, Association of Applied Biologists and WPSA. Queens University Belfast is the venue so expect a warm Irish welcome along with lots of excellent science, debate and discussion about the future. With climate change and food security centre stage the challenges facing agriculture are many. If we are to feed a growing world population over the next few decades, then its time to start re-investing in research including ours!!

Major themes running through the conference include:

- **Food Production from Grassland with Reduced Environmental Impact**
- **Energy from Land**
- **Implications for Land Use**
- **Progress and Potential from Animal Breeding**

Some of the key theatre sessions include:

Presidents Session - A Vision for 2020

- Challenges and Opportunities for European Agriculture - Matt Dempsey, Irish Farmers' Journal
- Meeting the Challenge of Prioritising Land Use - Prof Les Firbank, BBSRC
- Harnessing Scientific Developments in Practice – Dr Alistair Carson, AFBINI

Hammond Lecture

Animal Science - Recent progress and future challenges - Prof John Oldham SAC

Theatre Sessions

What Industry wants from Animal Science, Priorities for Land Use, Progress and Potential from Animal Breeding, Genetics and Feed Efficiency, Improvements in Measuring Phenotypes, Reproduction, Animal Health, Welfare and Behaviour, Nutrition, Ruminants, Livestock and Climate Change: Impacts and Mitigation, Calf Rearing, Carcass Composition and Meat Quality, Pigs, Advances in Equine Performance, Advances in Equine Science, What the Equine Industry Requires from Animal Science, Companion and Captive Animals, Soils and Nutrient Gases, Grassland Systems and Environmental Impact, Recent Advances in Crop Science, Agricultural Economics, Environment and Animal Science

We have had over 500 summaries submitted and the quality is really good this year, with a particularly strong focus on application of science to practice . The programme is much bigger than 2009 - so can you afford not to come? In all over 450 papers will be presented including those from WPSA and the ARF. There are 24 invited papers. Tuesday is a premier day with a multitude of interesting sessions for scientists, industry and policy people. See the full programme with this newsletter http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/



For further updates visit <http://www.bsas.org.uk>

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Annual Conference

We have a full student programme on Sunday which is being organized by the Student Council. Details available on the website.

Authors - please register by Monday 22 February

Please note below BSAS' new fax number.

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Highlights (Discussion)

Dairy, Pigs, Ruminants, Genetics, Animal Health, Meat Quality

We are introducing new 'Highlights' this year - where presenters have a minute to explain the implications of their work and answer questions from a specialist audience. These sessions will run in separate areas during extended breaks.

The Venue

Belfast is now a very cosmopolitan city – dramatically modern compared with the past. Queen's campus is on the edge of the city's Botanic Area – situated near boutique hotels and restaurants. It is only 10 minutes by taxi or a short bus ride to the centre of Belfast. The lecture theatres are all close across the university quadrangle and we will use the Students Union for lunch.

Getting there

If you fly in there are two Belfast airports - City and International. Both have quick frequent buses to the Europa Bus Station in Belfast. City Airport (Flybe, BMI, Ryanair) is just 15 minutes and Belfast International (Easyjet, Jet 2, Aer lingus) 45-60 minutes away. Check out airline websites and book early for good deals. Take a taxi or enjoy the short 15 minute walk from the Europa Bus Station to Queens. If you arrive into Dublin airport there is a regular Aircoach to Belfast.

Drivers may consider ferries from SW Scotland or from Holyhead to Dublin. If you have time then do consider a visit to the Antrim Coast – its stunning – Giants Causeway and all!

Do come to Belfast 2010 – it's a bit further than normal but we promise you the effort will be well rewarded. The Annual Conference is a great place to network and meet colleagues, make new friends and identify business or collaborative opportunities and there will be time within and outside the programme to do all these things.

The Conference Dinner on Monday evening is in the Hilton Hotel overlooking the waterfront. The Tuesday evening event is in the Students Union at Queen's so you can join us or come along later after eating out. Prof John Robinson and Dr Jim O'Grady (our two Irish past-Presidents) will be guests of honour at the dinner.

Annual Conference 2011

The Annual Conference in 2011 is likely to be in Chester. The venue will be the University, just 10 minutes walk from the centre of this beautiful and historic city, with the Conference Dinner at the racecourse. The conference is likely to be two straight days (one night) rather than spread over three. Accommodation will be both on campus or at a variety of hotels nearby.

Animal Bytes for the Dairy Event and Livestock Show 2010

BSAS is in discussions with RABDF to bring byte size pieces of science to the Dairy Event and Livestock Show on 7-8 September, 2010.

Mike Steele visited the NEC in Birmingham in December to join one of the familiarisation days and discussed how BSAS could help bring scientists into the show to give 'take home message' mini briefings for producers, consultants and industry's technical members. The objective would be to get scientists and end-users in direct communication.

The 7th issue of Animal Bytes is now available featuring Beef and Dairy bytes of topical easy to read information.
<http://www.animalbytes.org/>

Accommodation

We have negotiated some really good B&B deals with quality 3* & 4* hotels, but rooms are limited so our prices will only hold until end February 2010. Quote 'animal science' to get this rate. Please contact hotels direct. Stranmillis College booked through BSAS.

University area, 5-10 minutes walk

Wellington Park (Best Western) £65

Express by Holiday Inn £59

Ibis (University Street) £55

In town, 10-15 minutes walk

Park Inn £55

Days Inn £59

Good budget accommodation

For students and the budget minded there are standard rooms at Stranmillis College just behind Queen's for just £29 B&B!

Sponsorship

We have also managed to secure some significant sponsorship and thus underwrite this year's conference. This means registration prices are held at 2008 levels which should help everyone in these credit crunch times.

Registration

Authors must register by Monday 22 February. To take advantage of the discounted conference fee delegates should register by 28 February.

Programme and Publications group meet in Belfast

The Publications & Programme group met with members of the Irish Agricultural Research Forum and WPSA in Belfast in early December. They reviewed all the summaries for the 2010 Annual Conference and put the programme together. There was also a short tour of Queens University campus.

Policy Roadshow goes to Belfast

This BSAS 'road show' moves on to Belfast in 2010 where there will be a lunchtime workshop to address future challenges for animal science at this time of food security and climate change concerns. BSAS will be bringing policymakers, scientists, industry and producers together to discuss the way forward.

New name for Technical & Ethical Committee

T&E is changing its name to reflect its changing role. It will be asking Council and the AGM to endorse a change to Strategy & Innovation. In these changing times when at last agriculture, food production and investing in skills & research are all back on the agenda we need a fresh approach. The group discussed the matter at some depth at their recent meeting in Belfast and are now taking the proposal to Council in January.

SCHOLARSHIPS

EAAP scholarships 2010

If you are a young scientist (<38) wishing to present a paper at the 2010 EAAP Conference in Crete next August then there are EAAP scholarships available to BSAS members. EAAP is gradually increasing the number of scholarships available by using its share of the surplus from the journal Animal. If you go to the EAAP website (www.erasmus.gr/en/congresses/athens/2010/eaap_2010/scholarships/) you can look up the rules. Applications must come through BSAS. Funds cover travel, registration and a contribution to accommodation so it's well worth applying! We need your papers and information by 27 January 2010.

RSPCA Prize 2010

For 2010 RSPCA & BSAS have agreed to extend the scope of the annual award for innovations in animal welfare to include managed animals. If you know of a research activity that you think merits nomination please let us know. See www.bsas.org.uk for full details or call 0131 445 4508 for a confidential chat.

Autumn 2009 scholarships

T&E group decided to grant the following awards to applicants for the 2009 autumn round of scholarship applications.

Blaxter

- Catherine Hale of Hartpury College receives £850 for a study on feeding leguminous forages to horses
- Jenny Gibbons gets £850 to visit Malawi where she will be assisting MSc students working on small scale dairy units
- Helio Lima Neto a 2nd year PhD student at Newcastle University also gets £850 to present a paper at a conference on Greenhouse Gases and Animal Agriculture in Banff, Canada and visit research organizations in Alberta

Alan Robertson

- Marco Morelli of University of Glasgow is using his £500 towards attending a workshop on Molecular Evolution in the Czech Republic in January 2010
- Bruno Louro from Roslin Institute also gets £500 and is going to the Plant & Animal Genome Conference in California in January 2010
- Sophie Eaglen from SAC receives £800 to present a paper in Leipzig next August at the World Congress in Genetics Applied to Livestock Production

If you are interested in attending the World Congress in Genetics Applied to Livestock Production in Leipzig next August then there is a final round of Alan Robertson Applications in the spring of 2010

Life Cycle Analysis Workshop, October 09

BSAS and the Society of Society of Feed Technologists worked together on 7th October 2009 to produce a very effective workshop on Life Cycle analysis at the National MotorCycle Museum in Birmingham. Over 70 delegates attended from a wide range of backgrounds to discuss this very topical issue.

Edited presentations and notes on the workshop discussion are available on the bsas website http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Past_Meetings/

- An overview of life cycle assessment and carbon footprinting
- Livestock, life cycle analysis and the broader view
- Greenhouse gas emissions related to livestock in the UK inventory
- Carbon accounting for changes in livestock systems
- Building carbon footprints from the bottom up: issues of farms, farmers, scale and uncertainty
- The application of life cycle analysis in the marketing of milk
- Collaboration on a global basis can work – The Dairy Industry example
- Ensuring consistency in assessment of product carbon footprints

Domestic Animal Diversity Network (DAD-Net)

The Domestic Animal Diversity Network (DAD-Net) is managed by the Animal Production and Health Division of FAO. This electronic service provides an informal forum for the discussion of issues relevant to the management of animal genetic resources at national, regional and international levels.

Subjects include: characterization, conservation, utilization, breeding, data and information management, training and education, emergency planning and response, research and technology transfer. Free registration - to join send a message to: DAD-Net-L@mailserv.fao.org

Future Conferences 2010

29-30 March

Managing Farms

To explore how teaching and research farms can maximize intellectual outputs whilst controlling financial costs. Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester See www.rac.ac.uk call for papers Deadline 1 Feb 2010

12-14 April

BSAS Annual Conference

Queen's University, Belfast - see programme on BSAS website http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/ or enclosed .

20-22 September

European Workshop on Equine Nutrition

(EWEN) RAC, Cirencester See full programme with this leaflet

The deadline for short abstract submissions is **January 20th 2010**

Call for papers under the following categories:

1. Tailoring Nutrition to the Physiology of the Horse
2. Nutrition, Behavior and Welfare
3. Promoting Health and Preventing Disease
4. Nutrition and Gut Health
5. Nutrition and Metabolic Disease
6. Nutritional Functional Ingredients
7. Preventing Problems while Maximizing Performance

www.ewen.vet.ed.ac.uk/author.htm

October

Indigenous Knowledge as a Resource in Developing Livestock Systems

Katmandu & Chitwan Nepal, Sponsored by FAO

This exciting conference will now be in late October 2010 and is to be jointly organised with FAO. FAO have offered \$21000 to support speakers and delegates.

The aim is a two centre conference; Kathmandu will feature policy papers followed by a technical workshop in Chitwan. Travel between the two venues will include cultural and technical visits. The conference is in collaboration with the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Chitwan and the Nepalese Animal Science Association. The organising team includes Jes Scaife, Jamie Robertson and Caroline Rymer. Sponsors, ideas for sessions and expressions of interest for papers are very welcome.

15-18 November

Sustainable Animal Production in the Tropics - Farming in a Changing World

INRA are organising this exciting conference on this beautiful Caribbean island of Guadeloupe.

Tropical Livestock production faces great challenges in future decades if it is to meet rising demand for protein in the face of climate change and an increasing world population. Scientists, farmers and policy makers will need to help seek solutions at various levels including:

- Better animal breeding,
- Better use of feed and forage resources
- Identifying innovative appropriate farming systems that match land resources and global demand.

Call for papers:

2-page summaries from prospective authors are required by 31 May 2010. Preference will be given to papers fitting themes:

- adaptation of livestock to their changing environment;
- local feeds, their value and strategic use
- sustainable and integrated livestock farming systems.

Although all appropriate submissions are welcome.

The conference website will be available shortly – watch the BSAS website for details