

Belfast 2010 - A sunny sensation

The Annual Conference at Queen's University Belfast was held jointly with the Irish Agricultural Forum and WPSA. It was one of the biggest and best in recent years - it didn't rain and the sun shone throughout. The Irish, as they always do, made everyone welcome so it was a really friendly event. Nearly 500 delegates attended and it was brilliant to see so many folk from south of the border given the economic situation.

Everyone was very positive about the diversity of the presentations - with economics, soils, and agronomy mixed in with the traditional animal science. We thus had a great interchange between different disciplines and it was really gratifying to find delegates sitting in on sessions they would not normally see as main stream - even pig nutritionists went to equine sessions!

The conference started with the Student Sunday at Stranmillis College, which focused on statistics, a subject that even established scientists struggle with! Dr David Kilpatrick from The Department of Agriculture in Northern Ireland put everyone through their paces, after which Catherine Hale of the student Council calmed then all down again with her relaxation techniques session. On Monday morning the Irish Dept of Agriculture ran a very topical workshop on EU Funding Opportunities for researchers that was very well attended.

With a record number of papers it was difficult for delegates to get around everything and many left much fitter than when they came – despite the excellent food! The *Animals and the environment* session was packed out on day 1, with equine sessions also very popular given the Irish audience. On day 2, John Oldham gave a thought provoking Hammond Lecture on *Animal Science - Recent progress and future challenges*.

In a break with tradition the Hammond prize was presented at the end of the lecture. BSAS President Sinclair Mayne gave it to Dr Melissa Royal from Liverpool Vet School for her work *at the interface between science and education and work in the dairy fertility field*.



Queen's University, Belfast



Speakers at the lunchtime workshop

The Tuesday also featured a Devenish Nutrition sponsored lunchtime workshop '**Where Now for Animal Science?**' It attracted many relevant stakeholders from industry, research education and government and some useful and robust exchanges between scientists and funders!

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

Inside this issue...

Annual Conference	1
Annual Conference Prizes and Awards	2
President	3
Council Members	
Honorary Members	
Animal Recruitment Group	
Student Council	
Collaboration between Societies	
Future conferences	4

European Workshop on Equine Nutrition

20-22 September 2010
 Cirencester

Register by 5 July to take advantage of discount

Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge: A Resource in developing livestock systems

1-5 November 2010
 Nepal
CALL FOR PAPERS by 20 August

BSAS,
 PO Box 3,
 Penicuik,
 Midlothian, EH26 ORZ, UK
 Tel: 00 44 (0)131-445-4508,
 Fax: 00 44 (0)131-535-3103,
 Email: bsas@sac.ac.uk
 Website <http://www.bsas.org.uk>

Highlights

This year for the first time, the conference featured Highlight sessions at lunchtime and in extended coffee breaks. Presenters got 2 slides and 2 minutes to present work that would have traditionally gone to a poster presentation. The chairpersons struggled to control these sessions but the presenters and audience enjoyed the new format. As 3 sessions ran in parallel in one long hall the event was likened to a *cattle market* because of the noise! BSAS will certainly try this format again as the best presenters were very very good and the commercial folk absorbed a great deal of information in a short time which suited their needs.

The conference dinner was held in the stunningly refurbished Belfast City Hall. A glittery Monday night occasion with great Ulster food that everyone enjoyed –



see the photo. On the Tuesday *Belfast City Hall delegates* assembled in the Students Union for food and the traditional Student Council run quiz – we shall have to do something about use of blackberries next year!!

The Belfast Conference attracted a great deal of support for which BSAS is very grateful:

- Devenish Nutrition
- Alltech
- Irish Department of Agriculture
- Teagasc
- DARDNI
- AFBINI

Prizes and Awards

President Prize winners at the Annual Conference

The competition was strong but the following were successful.

Best Theatre – Eileen McCloskey, AFBI/Queen's University
Grazing patterns and habitat selection of the Scottish Blackface compared with a crossbred using GPS satellite telemetry collars

Commended – Laura Corbin, Roslin Institute
Characterisation of linkage disequilibrium and subsequent estimation of effective population size in thoroughbred horses using single nucleotide polymorphism markers

Best Short Theatre – Lara Pocock, RVC
Conformation and its effect on laterality in the thoroughbred racehorse

Best Highlights – Andrew Clempson, RVC
Associations between single nucleotide polymorphisms in the leptin gene with body measurements and IGF-1 in UK dairy heifers

Hammond Award

Dr Melissa Royal from Liverpool Vet School was presented with the award for her work *in disseminating knowledge within teaching, industry and the science community and her expertise in dairy cattle fertility.*



Technical helpers at the BSAS Conference, Belfast

2011 Annual Conference "Food Security in a Climate Changed World"

Next year's conference is now at Nottingham University, Jubilee Campus, 4-6 April. This follows talks with two other organisations that are coming to join WPSA and BSAS. They are the AVTRW (The teaching vets from vet schools) and ASF (scientists from the BBSRC funded animal science research institutes like Roslin, Compton & Purbright). Whilst AVTRW and WPSA will still run parallel conferences, they and ASF will try to integrate as many papers into one main programme so as to promote exchange.

The Jubilee campus is the brand new Business School at Nottingham and has lots of excellent accommodation, lecture theatres and space to eat and talk. There are also some stunning hotel standard bedrooms on site. (We looked at Sutton Bonington but sadly it has insufficient bedrooms available.)

The theme is "Food Security in a Climate Changed World".

A range of topics are being discussed including:

Presidents Session:

1. Production of food
2. Economics of food production
3. Nutrition and safety
4. Impact of disease on sustainability of production

Plenary Sessions:

1. Availability of Feed Resources
2. Gut Microbiology, the Environmental Impact of Carbon and Nitrogen
3. Interplay between Immunity, Endocrinology and Nutrition
4. Obesity / One Medicine, One Health / Using appropriate animal models for human health studies
5. Education and Knowledge exchange
6. Equine Tropical Diseases - West Nile Virus, Equine Infectious Anaemia, African Horse Sickness
7. Equine Performance

If you have other topical suggestions that would fit the theme then please get in touch.

New President is Prof Nigel D Scollan

Nigel Scollan is a Senior Principal Research Scientist and theme leader on Animal and Microbial Sciences at Aberystwyth University. He did his PhD at Edinburgh University, followed by a 2-year post doctoral period at the University of Guelph, Canada before joining the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, Aberystwyth in 1993.

His research is primarily related to designing improved feed systems for livestock, largely beef related, which will enhance not only the eating quality of the resultant products but also improve the sustainability and efficiency of the production systems. Improving nutritional quality is an important aspect of the research.

BSAS

1999 Council and Programme Committee
2002 Publications Committee
2004 Chair Publications
2006 Animal Management Board

Nigel was also a Hammond Award winner in 2007.

Nigel is off to the Australian Animal Science Conference in July and will both present a paper and represent BSAS. The Australians hold their conference every two years and the New Zealanders join in. With BSAS members already working with individual scientists and institutions in Australia its hoped BSAS can develop further links with our cousins down under exchanging speakers running webinars and sharing information.

BSAS New Vice President is Chris Warkup

Chris is MD of the new Biosciences KTN (previously Genesis Faraday) based in Edinburgh and has been a member of BSAS since 1984.

Honorary members

The AGM in Belfast elected two new honorary members. Professor Colin Whittemore is Emeritus Professor at Edinburgh University and has been both President of BSAS and, going back far enough, a Hammond Prize winner. Colin is a nutritionist by background, a great thinker and unflinching supporter of BSAS over the years.

Dr Michael Diskin is based at Teagasc, Athenry, Ireland. Michael is a specialist in dairy fertility. He has worked with BSAS over many years on a range of fertility conferences that the society has run. Michael has organised and managed the Irish Agricultural Forum and this year was responsible for bringing the Forum and BSAS together for the joint Annual Conference.

Student Council

The new Chair of the BSAS Student Council is Andrew Clempson of the Royal Vet School in London. On this year's SC programme is a stand-alone student training day and a lecturers updating workshop. The SC is always interested in identifying new student members from colleges and institutions where there is currently no BSAS student representation- give Andrew a call via aclempson@rvc.ac.uk

New Council members

Three new Council members were appointed at the AGM in Belfast.

- Sinead Waters is at Teagasc, in the Animal Bioscience Centre
- Peter Williams is with KW Trident - a Division of AB Agri Ltd
- Karen Wonnacott is with DairyCo.

We are very grateful to the outgoing members Lindsay Heasman, Tommy Boland and Sinclair Mayne. Ian Richardson remains on Council as chair of Programme and Publications Committee.

Although Sinclair Mayne is no longer on Council he will remain on the Presidents Committee for one year, following his tenure as President.



ANIMAL – First Impact Factor 1.461!

Animal are pleased to announce its first full Impact Factor is 1.461. This ranks your journal as 13/49 in the Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science list. This is the highest non-specialist journal, other than the Journal of Animal Science.

This is an excellent position for the journal and one that the Management Board and editorial team want to build on over the next few years. This means we need your help to cite as many papers published in Animal as you can when you publish your papers.

The more we cite the better our ranking.

Collaboration between Societies - The way forward?

BSAS and BGS held a workshop in late May at Stoneleigh with a number of other societies to discuss sharing resources and joint ventures.

This was a very good first meeting and everyone learnt a lot. A common point was that all organisations were losing members and were interested in having a wider audience. They also saw the need to eventually consider sharing resources perhaps through a loose federation. Many would like to undertake joint meetings but all wanted to retain their own identity

The group will meet again in September in Edinburgh. If you know of a society that might be interested in joining the talks please let Mike Steele know.

RECRUITMENT

BSAS has formed a little 'Recruitment Think Tank', led by Michael Lee from Aberystwyth. The group will explore new strategies for building membership of students, scientists and those in the commercial and corporate world.

They are starting with a telephone conference in late June and would welcome any ideas which you have for attracting such people into the BSAS as members.

BSAS Council is very keen to build the membership so that we have a larger cohort interested in animal science.

Future Conferences

2010

20-22 September
1-5 November
7-8 September

European Conference on Equine Nutrition (EWEN), RAC, Cirencester
Indigenous Knowledge as a Resource in Developing Livestock Systems, Nepal
Dairy Event and Livestock Show, NEC Birmingham

2011

4-6 April

BSAS Annual Conference, Nottingham University, Jubilee Campus (see page 2 for details).

2010

20-22 September **European Workshop on Equine Nutrition**

(EWEN) RAC, Cirencester www.ewen.vet.ed.ac.uk

Sessions feature

- Tailoring Nutrition to the Physiology of the Horse
- Nutrition, Behavior and Welfare
- Promoting Health and Preventing Disease
- Nutrition and Gut Health
- Nutrition and Metabolic Disease
- Nutritional Functional Ingredients
- Preventing Problems while Maximizing Performance

Register by 5 July to take advantage of discount rate.

1-5 November

Nepal Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge: A Resource in developing livestock systems

Jointly organised by BSAS and NASA and hosted by IAAS with FAO support

This meeting considers current and potential contribution of traditional and indigenous knowledge to developing livestock systems. This will include ethnobotany and ethnoveterinary knowledge, use of locally available feedstuffs and local animal genetics resources. Technical papers will cover all aspects in which livestock may be affected including breeding, nutrition and health. Systems will include cropping trees and fish.

The conference will appeal to many participants including scientists, policy makers, knowledge transfer experts and those interested in animal science, animal production, indigenous knowledge, ethnobotany, integrated production systems, human - livestock interactions, knowledge transfer and livelihoods *inter alia*.

CALL FOR PAPERS 20 August 2010

Details http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Nepal/Nepal

7-8 September 2010, Dairy Event and Livestock Show, NEC Birmingham

BSAS is helping RABDF by putting together a series of practical science talks in the feed and forage section.
<http://www.dairyevent.co.uk/>