

FOOD SECURITY
Challenges and Opportunities for Animal Science
Annual Conference, 4-6 April 2011, Nottingham

Preparations for the Annual Meeting next April 4-6, 2011 in Nottingham University's Jubilee Campus are progressing well. Discussions with our partners WPSA, AVTRW and the BBSRC Animal Science Forum have been very good and the meeting will have a lot of opportunities for joint sessions and interaction.

There is a certain amount of management needed to get the papers sorted but we hope to put them all into the one publication, apart from WPSA. Deadlines will be slightly different for the partners but the BSAS deadline for submitted papers is **31 October** so don't delay!

The Jubilee Campus is Nottingham's innovative new business school. It is close to the city centre and has excellent good value on site accommodation, with lecture theatres and space to eat and talk. There is also some stunning hotel standard bedrooms on site or city centre hotels 10 minutes away.

The conference theme is "Food Security - Challenges and Opportunities for Animal Science"

Hammond Lecture – Prof John Beddington, UK Government Chief Scientists is speaking on "Food security in the 21st Century" and Marion Dawkins of Oxford University is giving the WPSA/Gordon Memorial Lecture.

Other sessions include:

Presidents Session

- Food Security, challenges and opportunities for animal science
- The interrelationships between agriculture, nutrition and health and food policy
- Skills agenda for animal and veterinary education
- Challenge to the industry relating to food security

Plenary Sessions

- Availability of Feed Resources
- The Gut Microbiome
- Interplay between Immunity, Endocrinology and Nutrition
- One health/one medicine - populations/pathology/genomics
- Education Knowledge
- Equine Tropics Diseases - Risk of exotic disease to equestrian international competition, West Nile Virus, African Horse Sickness
- Equine Performance Session – Thermoregulation and welfare implications for horses competing at international games in hot and humid conditions

Industry day

A series of sessions are being put together to address the needs of those working in industry and will be programmed to fit time constraints.

To submit your summary please go to http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/

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

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Annual Conference
 Please submit your summary by 31 October

Scholarship Applications
 to be received by 31 October

*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>*

EWEN A successful conference at the Royal Agricultural College

BSAS recently managed the European Workshop on Equine Nutrition at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester in late September. Over 200 delegates attended the two day science meeting, overlapping an applied one day meeting.

A large international group organised the event, which runs every two years and will be held in Portugal (2012). The late summer weather was very Mediterranean for Gloucestershire and added greatly to the ambience of the event. Aside from some very good presentations, the delegates enjoyed a gala dinner where The Princess Royal was the guest of honour and an English fair with Morris Dancers, Brass band, beer, cider and wine tasting, as well as a range of stalls selling traditional English goods.



With thanks to some serious sponsorship, the event should make a small surplus to be shared between BSAS and the next meeting organisers.

RABDF and BSAS at the Dairy Event 2010

BSAS, with Nigel Scollan, Mike Steele and Andrew Clempson chairing, helped organise and manage two days of short technical talks at the Dairy and Livestock show in September. This was held at the NEC Birmingham, a new venue for 2010.

This was the first time such a series of talks had been held at the Dairy event which attracted farmers, consultants, students and those from industry. The feed science talks rolled on throughout the day in parallel with those covering animal health, and both involved delegates being able to vote on questions posed by speakers. Robotic milking proved the most popular session with farmers wanting life style changes. It also gave BSAS the opportunity to meet BSAS members - current and lapsed!

Federation Meeting

BSAS hosted a second meeting held in Edinburgh in September of like-minded scientific societies. The societies have agreed to exchange information and develop a database of skills that could form the basis of future collaboration and joint working arrangements.

Knowledge Transfer Meeting

BSAS is working with a number of organisations involved in knowledge transfer to arrange a meeting on more effective KT for scientists. A one day event is planned for March 2011 for all those who provide knowledge transfer, exchange, or use participatory methods with farmers.

The day will be a mixture of talks on successful examples of knowledge transfer (KT) delivery to farmers. As such the event will perform at least two functions:

- Examples of technical knowledge transfer and;
- A knowledge exchange / sharing opportunity for those involved in the animal sectors.

Case studies will be presented from the dairy, sheep/beef and pig sectors. Additionally, to maximise the learning opportunity, talks will cover a mixture of successful KT delivery mechanisms. The case studies could include examples from KT delivery organisations together with examples from academia, veterinarians and from a commercial company.

This event is a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunity for training and knowledge sharing

'WANTED' EAAP Representative

As a member of EAAP, BSAS has a dedicated representative who attends the EAAP AGM and networks/liases with other EAAP member countries. Geoff Pollott of RVC has been our rep for nearly four years and will be stepping down next year, we are therefore looking for a replacement. Could the Strategy and Innovation Group please have expressions of interest by Friday, 26 November. The new person would also join the S&I Group and attend their two meetings a year. BSAS will fund attendance at all meetings.

Geoff, who has done a great job at EAAP, will be taking on the role of Chair of the EAAP Scientific Committee so will still be involved.

ANIMAL BYTES

If you haven't looked at this farmer friendly version of BSAS Annual Meeting and ANIMAL papers then follow this link... <http://www.animalbytes.org/> Its a really popular way to read animal science – ideal for keeping up to date and for students and lecturers.

Why not sign up for the publication alerts?



ANIMAL – We need your help in citing papers

Your journal ANIMAL is progressing well. All issues are coming out on time and with a first impact factor of 1.47 declared in the summer submissions are increasing. This means that the editors led by Michel Doreau of INRA, France, can maintain the highest quality of journal by only selecting good quality papers. ANIMAL does need your help however. Impact factor relates to the number of citations that ANIMAL papers get either in ANIMAL or better still in papers published elsewhere – so please, please cite ANIMAL papers where you can and as many as you can. The journal wants to push the IF above 2.0 and we need your help to do so!!

The Management Board of ANIMAL met in Holland at WUR Leylstad (The Dutch Animal Science Group) in October. Whilst there, they discussed future collaboration options with Dutch colleagues. The MB were also finalising the next five year contracts between the partners (BSAS, EAAP & INRA) and with the publishers Cambridge University Press.

There is an enormous amount of work that goes into running a successful journal and BSAS and its partners are really grateful to all the editors and reviewers involved. They usually often work for little more than the gratitude of their scientific colleagues. BSAS helps runs the sections on genetics and welfare from its Edinburgh office whilst INRA covers the other sections from Clermont Ferrand in France.

Journals

John Oldham has long runs of the British Journal of Nutrition, Proceedings of the Nutrition Society, Animal Production/Animal Science and Journal of Dairy Science that he is happy to give to any one or organisation who would like to organise collection of them? For further details please contact john.oldham@sac.ac.uk

Honorary Non-Vet Associate awarded to Dr Tony Lawrence

BSAS would like to congratulate Dr Tony Lawrence who has been awarded an Honorary Non-Vet Associate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in recognition of his special eminence/service to the veterinary profession. The full article in the Veterinary Record, August 21st, vol 167 number 8.

Awards and Scholarships

Nominations Required

BSAS needs you to nominate suitable persons for the following:

Sir John Hammond Award

This prestigious Prize is awarded by the society to anyone in research, teaching, advisory, farming or affiliated professions who has made a significant contribution to the science or development of animal production. Candidates must have worked mainly in the UK or the Republic of Ireland but are not required to be members of the Society. **Nominations by 30 November**

RSPCA/BSAS Award for Innovative Developments in Animal Welfare

The award will be presented to the person or groups whose work has done the most to promote the cause of farm animal welfare. The judges will, in particular, be looking for advancement in providing one or more the following freedoms:

- comfort and shelter
- freedom from hunger and thirst
- freedom of movement
- the company of other animals, particularly of like kind
- the opportunity to exercise most normal patterns of behaviour
- the prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment of vice, injury, parasitic infestation and disease
- the avoidance of unnecessary mutilation

The award will take the form of a certificate and a trophy to be retained by the winner. **Nominations to be received by BSAS before 31 October.**

The Sir Kenneth Blaxter Scholarship

For younger members of the Society or those in the early years' of their career. The scholarship is to be used for travel in the UK or overseas, or for a specified overseas study tour, or to fund a specific short research programme, it may also be used to part fund projects. Around £1500 is available annually for applicants each October. **Applications by 31 October.**

The Alan Robertson Fund

The aim of the fund is to "further research and education in the application of genetics to livestock production " About £1400 is available per annum. Awards shall be made to persons with an interest in Animal Genetics, particularly:

- young scientists attending meetings, or undertaking study tours or projects;
- animal geneticists attending the World Congresses in Genetics Applied to Livestock Production or similar events;
- overseas participants invited to contribute to UK based meetings;
- such other courses of a similar nature.

Candidates need not be members of BSAS. **Applications should be received by 31 October.**

Application forms where applicable can be downloaded from http://www.bsas.org.uk/Funds,_awards_&_Jobs/
All nominations or applications for the attention of Mike Steele to bsas@sac.ac.uk

Future Conferences

2010

15-18 November

Guadeloupe - Sustainable Animal Production in the Humid Tropics - not to late to attend!
https://colloque.inra.fr/sapt2010_eng/Provisional-programme

2011

3 March

Knowledge Transfer, Worcester, UK

4-6 April

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

28-29 June

Making Animal Welfare Improvements: Economic and other incentives and constraint

<http://www.ufaw.org.uk/UFAWSYMPOSIUM2011.php>

29 August - 1 September

EAAP 2011, Stavanger, Norway <http://www.eaap2011.com/>

6-9 September

8th International Symposium on Herbivores, Aberystwyth, UK <http://www.isnh8.org/>

Sweeter smelling sheep

Forget low-energy lightbulbs and solar-powered homes – curry spices could hold the key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Research carried out at Newcastle University has found that coriander and turmeric – spices traditionally used to flavour curries – can reduce the amount of methane produced by bacteria in a sheep’s stomach by up to 40%

Working a bit like an antibiotic, the spices were found to kill the methane-producing ‘bad’ bacteria in the animal’s gut while allowing the ‘good’ bacteria to flourish.

The findings are part of an on-going study by Newcastle University research student Mohammad Mehedi Hasan and supervisor Dr Abdul Shakoor Chaudhry – Mehedi's research was funded by the Perry Foundation and BSAS through a Sir Kenneth Blaxter Scholarship.

Latest figures held by Defra show that in 2009 there were an estimated 30 million sheep in the UK each producing around 20litres of methane a day. As well as the environmental implications of this, the sheep also wastes vital energy, losing an estimated 12% of its food energy to methane production which results in lower milk and meat yields.

The Newcastle study looked at five curry spices – cumin, coriander, clove, turmeric and cinnamon. The most effective was found to be coriander which reduced methane production from 14ml/gram of ‘food’ to 8ml/g – a drop of 40%. Turmeric produced a 30% reduction and cumin a 22%

STOP PRESS

- BSAS is consulting with the Scottish Government's Expert Forum on management of animal health and welfare.
- Nepal Conference has been postponed until 2011 because of civil unrest in Nepal.
- Congratulations to KTN Biosciences for a very successful conference in Edinburgh 18/19 October. It included a lot of BSAS members and brought together animal, crop, food and chemistry people.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Back issues of our BSAS journal, Animal Science/Animal Production, have now been digitised and will shortly be available through the members area. We will send you instructions on how to access them by separate email.