

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

Next year's Annual Conference is at the newly refurbished Southport Theatre Convention Centre where we had such a good conference in 2007. The complex now has a new entrance and a bigger range of meeting rooms which will be used instead of the main theatre. WPSA are using the same venue.

Its now time to submit your one-page summary if you intend to present a theatre or poster presentation next year. **The deadline is 24 October 2008.**

As usual summaries can be on any relevant topics relating to animal science and we would especially welcome papers that can be linked to invited sessions as listed below. As last year all submissions must be electronic online via the BSAS website. Any problems please contact us in the BSAS office for help.



Below are the invited scientific and social scene programmes.

- President's session: What the funders want
- Equine sessions - health and behaviour and welfare
- Hammond Memorial Lecture
- Impact of climate change on food supply, feed supply and animal health Conflict with consumer desires (joint WPSA) - 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

Student Sunday will be in the Scarisbrick Hotel whilst the conference dinner on the Monday night will be in the conference venue where the food is very good. On Tuesday evening we will have an informal buffet and quiz or you can go out to one of the many hundreds of restaurants in the town.

There will be the traditional invited and submitted oral presentations and three minute presentations will continue to feature but the number of slides will be **strictly limited to four!** Posters will be in the Floral Hall and will be included in a number of poster discussions to raise their profile during a plenary *posters only* session. This year we are limiting the number of parallel sessions, thereby increasing the audience and enabling delegates to attend more of the programme. After many years of maintaining the registration fee, there is a slight increase this year.

Those who came to Southport last time were surprised at what a friendly and relatively easy place it was to get to. Accommodation in Southport is good value given the wide range available with many guesthouses/B&Bs and the three traditional large hotels (Scarisbrick, Prince of Wales and The Royal Clifton). These have now been joined by the new upmarket Ramada Plaza Hotel which adjoins the conference complex.

Our conference hotel is the Scarisbrick on Lord Street but all accommodation is just within a few minutes walk of the venue, so park up and walk everywhere. Please note the parking wardens!

Continued/....

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

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2009
Annual Conference
 Deadline for summary submissions
24 October 2008

'FREE' BSAS Student Workshop
11/12 November 2008
Reading University
 Free for all BSAS student members - but places are limited so apply early. Subsidised accommodation and free food!! (see page 3)

BSAS Poster
 BSAS are looking to promote Animal Science so are asking if all members would please display the enclosed posters on staff or work noticeboards.

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We have already let a number of the town's best hotels/guesthouses know we will be in town and will, in due course, be issuing an accommodation list of guesthouses and B&B that have been inspected or recommended. As before we will expect all delegates to organize and pay for their own accommodation directly.

Southport is much easier to get to than you think! There are good road and train links and Easyjet, Flybe and Ryanair use Liverpool John Lennon airport whilst Manchester airport, which has many international links, has direct trains to Southport via Wigan. If you are coming from London by train then change at Liverpool on to the local metro line to Southport. From the North you can change at Wigan. More travelling tips on the website nearer the time.

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

Belfast , 12-14 April 2010

Plans for the 2010 Annual Conference in Northern Ireland are going well. Queens University on the edge of Belfast is booked and an organizing team is visiting this September to review facilities and discuss programmes. Our colleagues from Ireland's IGAPA which normally meets in the Irish Midlands each March and covers animals, crops, soils and economics are coming along.

The Association of Applied Biologists have also been invited. There will be a stand at BSAS 2009 to explain the 2010 Conference.

Presidents go to Brussels

Professor Jamie Newbold and Mike Steele joined colleagues from INRA France in Brussels in late July to talk with EU officials about animal science and climate change. This followed discussions at the Livestock and Global Climate Change conference in Tunisia and offered an opportunity for BSAS to raise its members profile as a source of expertise in future research and development plans. This is a further example of collaboration with INRA partners.

Guadeloupe, March 2009

This exciting conference will present and discuss the science behind sustainable tropical production systems in the context of socio-economic needs. Participants will have the opportunity to compare their findings, home situations and discuss constraints and competition over resources. They will have the opportunity to identify future strategies. We look forward to welcoming you to Guadeloupe an ideal place to examine how rural communities can be strengthened and developed.



BSAS goes to Wales

Welsh Assembly Event 25 November

Following the very successful BSAS events in the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments earlier this year BSAS is organizing another in the Welsh Assembly on 25 November. Our host is Elin Jones who is the Assembly Minister for Rural Affairs. The evening event will be in the Senedd Building in Cardiff Bay and will be an opportunity for BSAS to underline the importance of animal science in economic and social terms. With climate change and food security issues high on political agendas this is an opportune time to open a dialogue with policy makers in Wales on how BSAS can help policy makers make the right decisions.

Nepal



Jes Scaife from Writtle College and Peter Rowlinson from Newcastle University recently visited Nepal to discuss the proposed Indigenous Knowledge Conference to be held in November 2009. They went to Chitwan down on the Indian Plains where IAAS the local organizers are located and also visited Kathmandu to see potential sponsors.

The current thinking is that the conference will be in two parts with invited speakers delivering presentations in both Chitwan and Kathmandu. This will enable



a wider audience to attend this very relevant conference.

animal 

Your journal is looking for new editors or referees. Interested? Please contact the Editor in Chief, Michel Doreau doreau@clermont.inra.fr

59th EAAP Annual Meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania, August 2008

This year's EAAP meeting in Vilnius had the theme "Efficient and environmentally friendly livestock farming" and comprised 36 sessions of the 9 study commissions plus some farm visits. There were 307 theatre presentations and 273 posters. Because of the recent policy about authors having to register for the meeting before the book of abstracts has been prepared, the number of no-shows was very small making for a good meeting with over 800 delegates. There were also 10 satellite workshops around the meeting and two workshops included in the main programme. There was much to interest delegates across a wide variety of topics but the highlight was the plenary session on cloning held prior to the General Assembly on the Tuesday afternoon. The session comprised three presentations dealing with the science, application (given by Chris Warkup) and ethics of cloning. The Danish speaker on the ethics of cloning gave a very different and thought-provoking paper from a perspective not commonly heard at scientific meetings. The representation from the UK appeared to be somewhat less than usual but congratulations go to Simon Turner (SAC) who won the prize for the best presentation in the Genetics Commission; his prize – a free trip to the next EAAP Annual Meeting in Barcelona and the honour of chairing a session of the Genetics Commission there.

EAAP remains a lively forum for our science and is constantly moving forward in its organisation. Not only has the Association set itself an ambitious Strategic Plan (http://www.eaap.org/Content/Strategic_plan.htm) but has made several organisational changes for the future. From next year in Barcelona, meetings will start on the Monday morning and will last all week. The Annual Meeting will include the formerly 'satellite' workshops within the main programme, thus providing even more choice for delegates. EAAP has also introduced a system for evaluating each session at the Annual meeting in both quantitative and qualitative terms. This should help plan future sessions and improve the organisation of the Study Commissions.

The organisation and social events by the local organisation were most enjoyable, despite some very British type of weather and we should congratulate Chris Knight for being awarded the 2008 Leroy Fellowship, EAAP's highest prize. Hopefully many of you will put in papers for the next meeting in sunny Barcelona from the 24th to 28th August 2009.

Geoff Pollott (BSAS representative to the General Assembly of EAAP)

BSAS Scholarships - Kenneth Blaxter & Alan Robertson Awards

Its time! So if you want to attend that conference or undertake a short study tour or some research then apply **by 31 October 2008** See http://www.bsas.org.uk/Funds,_awards_&_Jobs/

Note that Judges are keen to see that you have researched your application fully so details matter! You cannot apply for more than one award with the same application. Also be realistic about costs. Don't cut and paste old applications or someone else's!

BSAS/RSPCA Award for Innovative developments in Animal Welfare 2009

Each year BSAS and the farms division of the RSPCA put their heads together to identify a person or group who they recognise as having made a substantial positive impact on the welfare of animal.

We would like to hear your thoughts on who we should consider for the 2009 prize which will be presented at the BSAS annual meeting in Southport next March. The recipient(s) will collect a splendid glass bowl and certificate and the acclaim of peers.

Recipients do not have to be BSAS members and may be from any appropriate discipline and do not have to be UK based

Sir John Hammond Award 2009

Sir John Hammond Award 2009

Each year BSAS awards its top honour to a scientist, teacher or farmer in middle career who has made a significant contribution to animal science working mainly in the British Isles. The award is given at the BSAS annual meeting and includes a magnificent scroll and £500. The recipient is encouraged to make a relevant technical presentation during the meeting. Recent award winners include:

- 2008 Dr Richard Dewhurst
- 2007 Dr Nigel Scollan
- 2006 Dr Alistair Carson

BSAS Council would like to hear your suggestion for persons suitable as 2009 award winners. You need to be a BSAS member to nominate but the winner does not.

'FREE' BSAS Student Workshop 11/12 November 2008, Reading University

Free for all BSAS Student members. Sessions includes:

- Epidemiology in livestock research
- Communicating science to the layperson and media
- Design and preparation of posters - as team building exercise
- You and your supervisor: working together
- Post-graduate student conference and travel funding

Subsidised accommodation and free food!! Email BSAS bsas@sac.ac.uk for enquiries or a form to attend.



The new BSAS magazine ANIMAL BYTES about all things related to animal science is now available on line. Please go to http://www.bsas.org.uk/Animal_Bytes/ The first edition features Cattle fertility and Biofuels. The next one will have articles about climate change.

The aim is to provide information from BSAS conferences and papers in an easy to read form for a more applied audience. Papers from ANIMAL will eventually include a short paragraph on the implications of the research presented. This will also be *easy to read*. Both are part of an initiative to get scientific information to a wider audience.

BSAS Council have decided that the ANIMAL BYTES will be free to all readers for the time being so you are welcome to use it or pass it on as long as BSAS is acknowledged and a link put in to the BSAS website.

We would welcome feedback on any issue and comments on what you would like to see in future issues. The aim is to have a second issue this year and then four each year. As well as sending ANIMAL BYTES to members we would welcome links to websites or contacts with other databases of organizations who would find distributing ANIMAL BYTES useful.

Your current Council are.....

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Everyone on Council is there to represent you so please feel free to contact them with ideas, comments or concerns and if you really want to get involved do think about joining at the next AGM in April 2009.

Future Conferences

2008

- BSAS Student Conference, Reading University, Nov 2008

2009

- Sustainable Animal Production in the Humid Tropics, Guadeloupe, 7-13 March 2009 (INRA - local organisers)
- Climate Change, Cardiff (Nutrition Society - organisers) spring 2009
- Annual Conference, Southport, 30 March - 1 April 2009
- Integrated farming systems Edinburgh, 2-4 June 2009, (Association of Animal Biologists - organisers)
- Positive husbandry for young animals, Liverpool, September 2009
- Indigenous knowledge as a resource in developing livestock systems, Nepal, November 2009

2010

- Annual Conference, Belfast, 12-14 April 2008
- Food and energy (with TAA), Newcastle, June 2010
- European Conference on Equine Nutrition (EWEN), RAC Cirencester, 20-22 September, 2010

2011

- Globalisation and the Challenge for Animal Production. Thessalonika, Greece, May/June 2011 (With Hellenic Society)
- International Herbivore Symposium, Aberystwyth, September 2011

STOP PRESS....

Harvesting Knowledge, Pharming Opportunities Publication now available. See the BSAS website for further details.