

A warm welcome in Ireland Moving on to York

Our Irish Double Header September

Belfast - Milk Composition
Galway - Fertility in the High Producing Dairy Cow

The Science

Some 250 delegates from 20 countries listened to 46 papers and viewed over 78 posters at the two Irish meetings in September. And whilst statistics do not tell the whole tale, the vitality of the questioning and discussions, the networking out of sessions and comments by many participants indicated that both meetings lived up to their potential and met real scientific needs. If you would like to read the book of summaries for either meeting they are being put on the BSAS Web site for your use. We hope to have the proceedings published early in 2000.

Powerpoint is now the speakers choice of visual aids and worked almost flawlessly.

The other reasons people come to our conferences

Despite the fact that the meetings were held many (Irish) miles apart and in different EU countries there were a number of similarities between the two meetings. Both were held in first-class hotels where major building work was being undertaken. Aside from the odd hammering and drilling, the construction did not interfere thanks to much dialogue with the hotel management and encouraging workmen to be noisy only during meal breaks!

The warmth of welcome in both Belfast and Galway was tremendous. It exceeded what we expected, and the evening entertainment as well as the food at both conference dinners was excellent.

It rained a good deal, as it does in Ireland, and some delegates were separated from their luggage as a consequence of difficult flying conditions, but nobody seemed to mind and the Americans in particular found it all a great adventure.

There were some differences. In Belfast we shared the hotel with the Irish rugby team during their final preparations for the World Cup. You could tell the players from the delegates

by who ran up the stairs and who used the lift! We also had an excellent visit to Stormont Castle to view the now new devolved Northern Ireland Assembly building.

At the longer Galway meeting some delegates and their wives took the opportunity to 'sneak out' and visit a very attractive city and surrounding countryside.

Well done to Rosemary Agnew and her team in Belfast where the Hillsborough engine (and others) swung into efficient and influential action and twisted many arms (nicely) for gratefully received sponsorship.

And well done to Michael Diskin and his group for organising the Galway meeting. Many people said that this meeting would never start on time, but it did and ran to schedule with most delegates staying right through to the final session. The whisper now is that the team from University College Dublin may be in the running for an occasional meeting in the future.

BSAS is grateful for the support of the following organisations

Belfast - Milk Composition

James Clow & Co Ltd,
Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland,
Irish Farmers Journal,
Dr W A McIlmoyle, Animal Nutrition and
Agricultural Consultants,
G E McLarnon & Sons Ltd,
Nenagh Co-operative,
David Patton Ltd,
John Thompson & Sons Ltd,
Town of Monaghan Co-op,
Dromona Quality Foods,
The Kerry Agribusiness Division of Kerry Group plc,
Nutrition Services International Ltd,
Roche Products Ltd,
Trouw Nutrition,
United Dairy Farmers Ltd

Galway - Fertility in the High producing Dairy Cows

Teagasc, Irish Farmers Journal,
Intervet Ltd J & M Veterinary Services Ltd,
AI Services (Ireland) Ltd, Trouw Nutrition.
Irish AI Centres,

The Challenge of genetic change in Animal Production Edinburgh 1999

Although this meeting attracted mainly geneticists, the sprinkling of the farmers, nutritionists and the occasional economist made for a very lively dialogue on how animal productionists might cope with the continuing rapid advances in genetic change. Many breeding programmes are still primarily only interested in higher production as was outlined in the talk on broiler chickens. Consumers are no longer interested in more of the same product, and producers are increasingly concerned about having animals that suit the environment in which they are kept, for example many dairy farmers are struggling with lameness in high genetic merit dairy herds. It has long been recognised that in some environments such as the tropics, survivability is more important than productivity. In areas of more intensive animal production, managers are also beginning to recognise that they need an animal that can perform all the usual natural functions, including reproduction, without recourse to expensive or extreme levels of management.

The discussion at the end of this workshop became extremely interesting with views from farmers, breeders and those involved in marketing. They concluded that breeders needed to talk to consumers and producers to agree on what type of animals are required for the modern market at a time when production is no longer the primary issue.

One of the speakers at this meeting, John McInerney of Exeter University, has been invited to Scarborough to talk to a wider audience, on how he sees animal production in a new technological environment.

EAAP scholarships - Young Scientists

If you are a young BSAS scientist under 30 years of age then the EAAP is offering scholarships for those authors giving a paper at **EAAP 2000** in The Netherlands. The scholarships will usually cover registration, travel and a contribution towards accommodation. Applications must be channelled through the BSAS office. If you are interested please contact the office for details. Please note the deadline is February 1st so the information below must be in the BSAS office by 24 January 2000.

We need:

- Five copies of the full paper (not exceeding 5 pages)
- A copy of the original abstract form
- Estimated travel expenses
- Bank details
- Name, address, date of birth, and a very short description of your scientific work and any publications

An EAAP abstract form and scientific programme can be downloaded from the EAAP 2000 Website at www.wageningenpers.nl/eaap.

Successful candidates do not usually find out about funding until April/May so you must E-Mail your abstract form as normal to EAAP2000@wageningenpers.nl

York 2001 - Time to move on

Members of the Programme Committee visited York University in early September to look at the facilities so that they could take a view on whether the Annual Meeting should move. They went in a very sceptical mood but came away convinced that the new venue would be a very positive opportunity for BSAS, offering a host of new options for the format and structure of the meeting. WPSA who accompanied them were equally impressed. Consequently Programme Committee and Council have now agreed to recommend to the AGM a move for the Annual Meeting 2001 which will be **9-11 April**. This is slightly later than our usual timing but would fall in the vacation period of most universities, so creating less disruption than usual for our many academic members!

The Soft Sell!-

Despite being a University, York is a professional conference centre. The conference complex is centred around a lake in the middle of the campus which is just on the edge of the city. There are a number of state of the art lecture theatres, a poster display area, smaller rooms, bars, restaurants and very modern en-suite accommodation all within a two minute walk of each other.

Getting to York is easier than Scarborough for most people. There is plenty of parking on campus for drivers and the station is a short taxi ride or 20 minute bus trip away. Leeds-Bradford Airport is nearer and trains run directly from Manchester Airport to York. York itself is a very attractive city, ideal for walking around, shopping or sightseeing. We plan to have the Conference Dinner in the new Grandstand at York Racecourse, and you will be able to choose whether to go to the Tuesday evening entertainment as there is more than one bar at the University!

The biggest advantage to York is its flexibility of use and the opportunities it offers to try new formats and ideas. It is perhaps time to move away from a seemingly randomised general meeting towards a more integrated programme, that matches delegates needs and deals with the constraints they have on their time.

In 2001 we plan to hold a satellite meeting on *Improving the Quality of Animal Products*. There is enough room to integrate WPSA into the main meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday. There are also opportunities to encourage other societies to have workshops and symposia at the same time as BSAS. Programme Committee are already talking with organisations such as IASE and the Beef Association. Maybe we can persuade the Teaching Vets to come!

Yes we will miss Scarborough. It is a nice place and the people are great but if you look at the facilities and location objectively..... you do ask whether we, as a society, are forward looking enough.

Come to the AGM if you have a view about this. Go and have a look at York.

The Programme for the BSAS Annual Meeting 20-22 March 2000

The full programme for Scarborough 2000 is included with this newsletter. The deadline for cheaper applications is the end of February so do not delay!

The invited sessions include:

- ◆ The Hammond which will be given by Michel Georges from the University of Liege in Belgium is *Livestock Genomics: friend or foe?*
- ◆ The President's session will address *Genetic Problems and Genetic Solutions*. It will be in two parts and cover disease resistance/genetic interactions and designing animals for the tropics
- ◆ This year's farmer session will cover *The Meat Supply Chain*
- ◆ *Sex Determination in Animals. Opportunities and Challenges*
- ◆ *GMO's*
- ◆ *What do people want from animal science?*

Submitted theatre sessions will include:

Ruminant Intake; Pigs; Dairy Cows; Cattle & Sheep Genetics; In vitro-techniques; Breeding & Genetics; Ethology & Welfare and Ruminant Health & Nutrition.

Submitted poster sessions will include:

Beef & Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Mineral Nutrition, Ruminant Nutrition, Pigs, Environment & Ethology, Dairy Cow Intake, Milk Composition. There will also be poster discussion sessions on *In vitro-techniques, Pigs, Cattle Genetics and Sheep Genetics.*

There are many sessions that include either genetics or breeding in running with the Presidential theme this year. The Programme Committee are conscious that many people who attend are not geneticists, therefore we are asking all authors to present their information in a way that will suit the majority of the audience.

Powerpoint Following the overwhelming success of Powerpoint at Scarborough's 99 Meeting the Programme Committee are encouraging all theatre presenters to try using this computer generated presentation with acetates as a back-up. Slide projection will still be available for those unable to provide a Powerpoint presentation. A new Powerpoint guide for authors will be sent to all theatre presenters. If you would like a copy then please contact the office or visit the BSAS website.

Students wanted We need 12 students as technical assistants at Scarborough to run the lights, visual aids and sound systems. If you are interested in helping we need you to be hardworking, Powerpoint literate and a BSAS member. We pay your registration fee and give you board and lodging. You can apply even if you have helped before. You will be asked to come on the Sunday afternoon before the meeting and stay until the end.

CPD -Continuing Professional Development

The growth of farm assurance schemes and proliferation of EU and UK legislation is creating an increased interest in a recognised qualification for livestock consultants. BSAS is looking into the possibility of being involved in running a professional CPD scheme. This will be the subject of a short presentation at the Annual Meeting in Scarborough. If you are interested please come and listen and complete one of the response forms that will be available.

A small team headed by Dr Bruce Cottrill, with representatives from BSAS, UKASTA and BIAC, is currently investigating the feasibility of a scheme. They are looking at other schemes and want to measure the amount of demand in the industry for CPD.

They see significant advantages of a scheme for animal scientists and livestock advisors. These would include having:

- A recognised qualification in providing expert advice in legal matters.
- Competence in providing advice in relation to feed staff regulations.
- A quality assured status that would enable clients to meet the needs of QA schemes.
- A recognised method of professional development.

The essence of the scheme would be that a qualification would be awarded by BSAS, accredited by any independent recognised body and supported by a scheme of continuous professional development. This would involve the collection of points from relevant training courses and attendance at appropriate conferences and workshops. BSAS would not be a primary training provider but an umbrella body to oversee and coordinate the scheme.

3rd Annual Langford Food Industry Conference

Organised by Bristol University and British Society of Animal Science

Marketing Opportunities for British Livestock Products

17th May 2000 at University of Bristol,
School of Veterinary Science, Langford near Bristol

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Lawrence Alderson	Executive Director, Rare Breeds Survival Trust	Meat Production from Rare Livestock Breeds
Sava Buncic	Head of Food Microbiology/ Public Health, University of Bristol Veterinary School	Developments in Food Safety in the Meat Chain
Mick Price	Professor, Livestock Growth and Meat Production, University of Alberta, Canada	Traceability and Meat Production: A view from North America
Robert Forster	Chief Executive, National Beef Association	Importance of Quality for the Future of British Beef
Helen Lo	Head of Food Marketing, National Farmers Union	Marketing Opportunities for British Farmers
Malcolm Smith	Chief Executive, Grampian Country Food Group Ltd	Integrated Poultry Production to Meet Consumer Requirements
Tony Suckling	General Manager, Porcofram Marketing	Marketing British Pigs in a Global Context
Sally Bagenall	Chief Executive, Organic Milk Suppliers Cooperative	The Future for Organic Milk Production

For further information on registration etc contact: Rita Hinton
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Programme Committee tries hard

The Programme Committee has recently finished assessing the summaries for the Annual Meeting in March 2000. Once again it has had a very difficult task. Balancing high standards with the need to have enough authors is not easy! Many authors are still not reading the guidelines and failing to appreciate that they must explain their work completely in the summary and not assume that information which is not there will be taken for granted. What is often obvious is that many supervisors or co-authors do not read or correct summaries.

Every summary is read and assessed by five committee members before they come together and agree to accept, reject or ask for amendments to a summary. The process is, as far as possible, very fair.

Despite that, a number of members get very hot under the collar and the office receives emails, telephone calls and letters that are written with a great deal of emotion. By Christmas things cool down with dialogue and common sense leading to re-assessments and understanding. By March we hope that everyone recognises that the peer review that is UK science is rigorous and for some a useful learning curve. Until next October!!

BSAS MEETINGS

- 17 May 2000
Bristol
- 3rd Annual Langford Food Industry Conference**
BSAS will be sponsoring the 2000 conference along with Bristol University. The programme is outlined on page 4 of this newsletter. Contact Rita Hinton at Langford for further details see page 4.
- 18/19 August 2000
The Netherlands
- Workshop - Gas Production: Fermentation kinetics for feed evaluation and to assess microbial activity,**
A joint BSAS /Wageningen Agricultural University meeting. This is a follow up to the Reading meeting in 1997. The workshop will be held at the WICC in Wageningen, The Netherlands on the Friday/Saturday before the EAAP meeting in The Hague in 2000. (*Please see the separate leaflet enclosed*)
Transport from the UK could not be easier via Schipol Airport and The Netherlands Railways. Its cheaper than flying to Edinburgh from London !! If you are interested in more details on the programme then please contact any of the following Eddie Deaville email: eddie.deaville@adas.co.uk Barbara Williams barbara.williams@alg.vv.wau.nl or John Cone j.w.cone@id.dlo.nl
- 5-7 September 2000
Nottingham
- The Weaner Pig: Its Nutrition and Management**
To be held at the conveniently situated Sutton Bonnington Campus, University of Nottingham. This meeting comes at a critical time for the UK Pig industry when the advice and information it contains will be most valuable (*Please see the separate leaflet*). Contact Mike Varley mvarley@scanutrition.com or Julian Wiseman email: julian.wiseman@Nottingham.ac.uk for more information.
- 18-20 September 2000
Aberdeen
- Early regulation of mammalian development**
Ardoe House Hotel & Conference Centre, Aberdeen. This conference will bring together animal scientists and those in medical research to discuss state of the art science with world authorities (*please see the separate leaflet*). Contact Kevin Sinclair email: k.sinclair@ab.sac.ac.uk for further information.
- September 2001
Silsoe
- Sept 2001 - Engineering Livestock Production**
A joint BSAS/Institute of Agricultural Engineering meeting to review recent developments in livestock science and agricultural engineering that promotes sustainable animal production. Topics likely to cover livestock housing, livestock production and livestock handling and transport. Chris Wathes at Silsoe is organising this meeting and would be happy to receive comments or suggestions on Tel: 01525 860000.
- October 2001
Greece
- Organic Meat & Milk Production from Ruminants**
To be held in Athens, Greece. BSAS and the Hellenic Society of Animal Production have now agreed to run a joint meeting in early October 2001. This will take the form of eight invited keynote papers as well as submitted theatre and poster papers, discussions and workshops. The keynote papers will include :
- The future of the European market for organic produce - opportunities and challenges.
 - Standards, regulations & legislation.
 - Animal health issues.
 - Human health; the quality and health implications for organic production.
 - The impact of organic agriculture on socio-economic structures.
 - The development of suitable farming systems
 - Marketing and consumer awareness.
- The meeting will be held at a dedicated conference centre in Athens with a Thursday-Friday programme and an optional visit to Delphi (Greek cultural visit) on the Saturday. Athens is a very cheap and easy venue to reach from most other European cities, as well as being very friendly and attractive. The aim would be to attract as many European scientists and productionists as possible to attend. EAAP is supporting this meeting. If you are interested in getting involved or have some thoughts on papers or topics then we would like to hear from you. Contact BSAS Office.
- Early 2003
Mexico
- Responding to the Increasing Global Demand for Animal Products**
The UK organising team for this meeting chaired by David Leaver from Wye College held their first meeting in London recently and agreed to accept an offer from the University of Merida, Mexico, to jointly run this meeting. The ASAS are also involved, so expertise from several continents can be brought together. The organisers are working closely with the BSAS International Group to make this meeting a success.

April 2001
York

April 2001- Improving the Quality of Livestock Products is the theme for Professor Jeff Wood's Presidential year 2000/2001. As part of that year BSAS is co-sponsoring the Langford Food Industry Conference (*see above*). There will also be a satellite symposium on Improving the Quality of Livestock Products at the Annual Meeting in 2001 when BSAS goes to York for the first time. (*Contact Jeff Wood with your thoughts on Tel: 0117928 9293*)

Other interesting meetings

9-16 April 2000

Australia

Beef 2000

Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia. With everything from a Beef Stake Race Day to scientific papers, this is where the beef enthusiasts will be next year. Details www.tbc.csiro.au/beef2000.html or Beef 2000 Office, Cattle House, Quay Street, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia 4700

15-18 August 2000

The Netherlands

Measuring Behaviour 2000.

The Third International Conference on the Methods and Techniques in Behavioural Research. Details from www.noldus.com/events/mb2000 or PO Box 268 6700AG Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Royal Society Fellowships for Japan, Korea and SE Asia.

The Royal Society promotes scientific research visits to Japan, Korea and SE Asia through its fellowships for post-docs. Agriculture is one of the applied sciences covered. Details on www.royalsoc.ac.uk/ies/ies.htm or telephone 0171 451 2557.

Nutrient Requirements for Livestock.

For those of you who attended a very useful meeting at Scarborough last March discussions are still going on behind the scenes as to how BAS could help deal with the lack of current UK nutrient requirements for livestock. Many consultants are struggling with the lack of up to date information.

Technical & Ethical discussed the problem in December. They are under no illusions about the need for information but recognise the size of the task and problems associated. These include difficulties over intellectual and commercial property rights, the globalisation of the market and the speed of change that is occurring with information.

There are potential areas that BSAS could assist with. These include requirements for minerals and vitamins, setting acceptable standards of welfare and promoting cross European collaboration.

The New Agriculturist is now an on line magazine

<http://www.new-agri.co.uk/>

It includes the latest news, developments, book reviews, courses and conferences.

National Science Week 17-26 March 2000

The British Association is holding its next National Science Week in March 2000. The aim is to raise the profile of science to the general public. If your organisation is interested in participating there is more information on www.britasoc.org.uk or tel: 0171 973 3074.

Books

A special issue on *Genetics and Animal Welfare* is now available from UFAW, The Old Schoolhouse, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts, AL4 8AN. Tel: 01582 831818. Price £15 (including postage and packaging).

Animal Production/Science

Availability of 1981-1996 copies of Animal Production from Dr. Paul Hooper. Masterbreeders AI Ltd, Mill Farm, Fowlmere Road, Melbourn, Royston, Herts. SG8 6EZ .
Tel. (01763) 260248, Fax. (01763) 263098.

