

February 2002 • No.8

### **Annual Meeting, University of York, 8-10 April 2002**

#### **The 2002 BSAS Annual Meeting is bigger and better value for money and time than ever before.**

- ◆ The delegate fee for BSAS members is £185 and we have negotiated VAT free accommodation.
- ◆ The number of invited sessions for 2002 is up on 2001 with over 30 invited speakers, including experts from North America and many European countries.
- ◆ Students can go for less than half price!

#### **Students - A really special deal!**

The Conference fee for students will remain at last year's level and we have negotiated a special rate for accommodation and meals eg B&B will only cost £ 17 per night and the total package excluding the conference dinner will be less than £130!

#### **Coordinated Theatre Sessions**

This year we have tried to arrange the sessions in a co-ordinated manner so that time pressed delegates who can only attend for part of the meeting will still be able to listen to many papers. The two sessions on *Leptins* are on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning with a poster session in the middle. The *Ethical Issues* session is on Tuesday afternoon so that members of ISAE can come in early and then go on to the joint BSAS/ISAE papers on Wednesday.

#### **Industry day**

A number of sessions of interest to those in commerce have been grouped to cover Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. These include the feedback session on *Nutritional Standards* to be held last thing on Tuesday and *Enzymes in Feed Resources* and *Hazard and Risk Analysis* on Wednesday. We hope that those in commerce, or those who advise, will be encouraged to attend as the information presented will be extremely relevant to them.

#### **New format**

Some of the theatre sessions, eg *Leptins*, have one keynote presentation to set the scene and then a selection of submitted papers. This enables the session to have world expertise on hand to further enhance the discussion on the scientific work presented

Two sessions - *Ethical issues in Animal Science* and the session specially aimed at farmers - *Improving Beef Production Systems* have been carried over from last year when F&M prevented them from being held. The farmers session has been significantly modified to reflect the current climate for beef farmers, whilst the ethical issues session should go ahead as previously programmed.

There is a small session on *Animal Production in Developing Countries* which will be led by Chrissie Peacock, Chief Executive of the NGO *Farm Africa* that operates in a number of East and Central African countries. We are also very pleased to have a theatre session on *Horses* as this is an area which we think will be of increasing importance in the future

#### **The Hammond and President's Sessions**

Professor John Webster from Bristol University will deliver the *Hammond Lecture* on 'Has animal science failed society'? The two Presidential sessions this year cover the very important area of *Integration of Animal Science*.

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## Annual Meeting 2002

### Submitted Papers

Once again there are a large number of submitted papers and we are pleased that we have been able to accommodate those authors those who have ask for a theatre slot.

#### The theatre sessions are :

- Effect of leptins
- Have fatty acids a role in nutrition and health
- Maximising dairy cow performance
- Pig nutrition
- Horses
- Pig management and health
- Dairy cattle
- Control of leptins
- Ruminant issues
- Advances in genetics
- Animal production in developing countries
- BSAS/ISAE Open Communications
- Diet manipulation and ruminant health

#### Six poster discussion sessions:

- Non-ruminant nutrition
- leptins
- Feed to food product quality
- Rumen degradability studies
- Diet manipulation and ruminant health

#### Other poster sessions include :

- Ruminant nutrition issues
- Browse legumes & tannins
- Tropical feeds
- Animal breeding
- ISAE/BSAS Ethology & welfare
- Lactation
- Reproduction
- Growth - cattle/pigs

We have tried very hard to avoid direct clashes but inevitably there will be some. If you have a problem do please talk to us.

Our meeting at York last year was a learning curve and we have consequently made a number of changes to arrangements for this year. We intend to go again to York Racecourse for the Conference Dinner, but the Tuesday night meal at the University will be better value than last year and more relaxed. The option of a alternative meal at budget cost will be available to students. We also hope to have entertainment and receptions to add interest. The lunches during the conference will be better value for money as we are opting for baguette style rather than formal meals. We also intend to have the bars open on a more long-term basis to stimulate discussion as well as alcoholic intake!

### Sponsorship

Pete Williams and George Perrott from the Programme Committee have sent out a flyer to potential sponsors for York 2002. Despite F&M last year a number of organisations did sponsor our sessions for which we are very grateful. BSAS is looking to build upon this support as it enables the funding of invited speakers especially those from overseas and so enhances the scientific aspects of the conference.

### Building - Men at work

There is some refurbishment work taking place at York which will reduce the size of the exhibition area but we hope will not causing any inconvenience. Some posters will be displayed in the dinning area of the adjacent Goodricke Hall.

## RECRUITMENT

In October we sent BSAS members a request to recruit a new member. The result of this campaign to date is a little disappointing and we would urge you to consider encouraging a colleague to join. It is not just a case of more revenue but maintaining a good cross section of scientists to invigorate and develop the society so it can fulfil its objectives. There is an electronic application form on the web site which you can use.

Do get colleagues to look at the website, especially the abstracts of Animal Science which are open to all. Increasingly we will make information available only to members (including students) so there will be major advantages to being a member.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Alan Robertson Fund or Animal Genetics

This award had not been made for two years so it was agreed the monies available would be given as follows:

£1,200 was awarded to David Telford of the University of Newcastle to complete a study tour to the USA. Santiago Avendano, Nicola Lambe, Huw Jones and Annemarie van Heelsum of SAC are to receive £500 each to attend the World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production in France in August 2002.

### Sir Kenneth Blaxter Award

Two applicants were each awarded £750 - Vlasta Demectova of the University of Plymouth and Maria del Mar Campo Arribas of Bristol University.

### The Murray Black Award

Jayne MacIntyre of the University of Newcastle was awarded £950

### The Sir John Hammond

This Award will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

## Summer Placements for 2002

Applications are once again invited from any students interested in undertaking a period of 6-8 weeks research during their summer vacation. A sum of £500 is available per placement from BSAS to be matched by the participating organisation which can be a commercial company, academic or research body. The placement can be anywhere in the world. If you are interested as an individual or as an organisation wishing to offer the placement contact the BSAS.

## WHAT PRICE CHEAP FOOD?

A joint SCAWS/BSAS Workshop, University of York

This is now a satellite meeting of the BSAS Annual Meeting at York on Monday 8 April 2002. Delegates may attend as a stand alone event or as part of the main BSAS meeting - see the application form of the Annual Meeting for details.

This very exciting workshop will discuss the implications of a cheap food policy. It is relevant for farmers, consumer representatives, supermarket managers, legislators, animal welfare groups, environmentalists and animal scientists

### PROGRAMME

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April

10:30 Introductory remarks/chair  
Overview and Animal Welfare

Prof Colin Whittemore, University of Edinburgh

Dr Mike Appleby, Humane Society of the United States

11:15 UK Farmer's perspective

Mr Ben Gill, NFU

11:45 Third world perspective

Mr Andy Redfern, Traidcraft

12:15 Questions

12:30 Lunch

13:15 Food Quality and Safety

Dr John Gazzard, ADAS

13:45 Environmental impact

Prof John Milne, Macaulay Institute

14:15 Workshops:

Farm incomes/food security

Welfare

Quality/safety/environment

15:15 Brief Plenary

Close

## NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS

In the September newsletter we announced that we had submitted a proposal to DEFRA to consider nutrient standards in five species of farm animals. This proposal was subsequently accepted and currently five BSAS groups are looking at and reviewing current information on nutrients standards for UK livestock (dairy, beef, sheep, poultry and pigs). They will be reporting back this month and the information will be made available in a special session at the Annual Meeting. They will be making recommendations for future research work and provide information that might be of use to advisers and companies who give advice to livestock farmers. It is hoped this review process will enable research funds to be targeted towards areas where there is either inadequate, outdated or no information. As many of you will be aware a good deal of current information is extremely old. The situation is further confused because of the different systems operated throughout the world. It is hoped that BSAS will be involved in future initiatives as a facilitator and disseminator of relevant information. The reports will be placed on a special section of the BSAS Web site to allow public access.

### Website changes - photos

We are about to refurbish the BSAS website and would be grateful for access to any good digital photos you may have that show the activities of members and the Society. eg animals, people, labs, farms, conferences, slides, overseas. Please contact us.

### Dr Maurice Bichard

Dr Maurice Bichard was elected as an Honorary Member of the German Society for Animal Breeding (Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zuchtungskunde) at the AGM in Freising-Marzling, Bavaria on 10 Sept 2001. The citation from the President, Prince Solms Lich read

*'In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the application of scientific knowledge to international pig breeding and his particular services to the reshaping of the European Association for Animal Production'.*

## A new journal?

One of the issues that Publications Committee and Council have been discussing recently is the possibility of commissioning an additional electronic Journal. Whilst *Animal Science* continues to do well, there are some applied areas like environment, organics, companion animals, horses, rural affairs and production in developing countries that need a better profile. The possibility of establishing a new, electronic only, refereed journal covering livestock and rural development issues is thus being discussed. Any new journal should have a strong international profile. It would also need to have a good market for both authors and readers. Funding is likely to be the crucial issue.

Whilst attracting new scientists is good it is equally important to continue to meet the needs of current BSAS members. Any comments would be gratefully received. As the number of animal scientists declines there is a need for BSAS to attract members from disciplines and areas associated with animal science. A new journal would help cater for such requirements.

## BSAS Meetings - Past

### **Integrated Management Systems for Livestock, 11-12 September 2001 Cambridge - a joint success!**

Despite world events this joint meeting of BSAS/ Institute of Agricultural Engineering was a resounding success. Held in the leafy environment of ivy covered Selwyn College, Cambridge, the meeting focused upon sustainable production of livestock using integrated management systems to monitor and control the main production processes. A succession of excellent speakers comprehensively reviewed the biological knowledge and engineering technology needed for successful production of high quality product at minimum environmental cost. Just under 100 delegates from animal science and engineering backgrounds debated and questioned the papers presented. These covered future aspects of livestock production as well as cows, pigs and poultry. A series of workshop sessions tried to identify the way forward for milk, pig and poultry production. Tesco, DEFRA and MLC provided welcome sponsorship.

The organising group was very ably led by Prof Chris Wathes from SRI at Silsoe. The level of cooperation between BSAS and IAGRE was excellent and may lead to future joint projects.

If you did not get to the meeting then the publication is available on the BSAS website to members. CD versions can be purchased from the BSAS office at £30 each.

### **Organic meat and milk from ruminants - in sunny Athens, 4-6 October 2001**

This joint meeting with the Hellenic Society of Animal Production attracted 100 delegates from 12 countries in Europe Asia and Africa. The current and past two BSAS Presidents were included in the British delegation. Most delegates gave a paper or presented a poster which generated much discussion and questioning. Not everyone was convinced that organics was the way forward but many did see a profitable future for some.

The eight invited keynote papers as well as most submitted theatre and poster papers will be available as an EAAP series publication through BSAS and the Hellenic Society in 2002. The keynote papers were:

- The future of the European market for organic produce - opportunities and challenges. *Prof Steen Kristensen & Prof S Milan Thamsborg, Denmark.*
- Standards, regulations & legislation. *Prof G Rahman, Germany.*
- Animal health and Welfare issues. *Dr G Arsenos, Greece & Dr S Athanasiadou & Prof I Kyriazakis, UK.*
- The product quality and health implications for organic production. *Dr M Kouba, France*
- The impact of organic agriculture on socio-economic structures. *Prof G Siardos, Greece*
- The development of suitable farming systems. *Dr I Wright, UK, Prof L Louloudis & Prof G Zervas, Greece*
- Marketing and consumer awareness. *Dr C Brown, UK*
- Research in organic animal production. *Dr C Dabbert & A Haring Germany*

An optional workshop on organics and developing countries on the last day attracted 20 talkative participants. A bus took other delegates to visit historic Delphi and returned in time to allow enthusiasts to watch the honourable 2:2 soccer draw between England and Greece which was arranged as part of the conference package! The conference weather was excellent and a number of delegates brought their families and went on to holiday elsewhere in Greece.

The taxi service in Athens generated some anger and much head scratching for delegates. The variability between fares and travel time from the brand new airport and conference venue defied statistics. Greek delegates did not fare any better than other nationalities. The Greek conferences organisers got so cross at one stage they complained to the local taxi drivers union which led to a live debate on local radio. However, this was a minor irritation at what was a superbly organised event for which our Greek colleagues must take much credit. Organic production is an issue that is likely to have a high profile role in European Agriculture over the next few years.

#### **Sir Richard Trehane- Former BSAS President**

*Sir Richard Trehane died in late November at the age of 88. Sir Richard was President of BSAS on two occasions in 1954-5 and 1961-62, a very rare occurrence. He served EAAP with distinction and was President from 1961-67. A memorial service was held at Wimborne Minster in Dorset on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2002. Dr David Allen represented the Society and five other ex presidents also attended. Lord Henry Plump gave the main address as a service which was a fitting tribute to a great farming leader.*

#### **Journals For Sale**

Animal Production Journals 1966-1994  
(Vols 8-59)  
Animal Science Journals 1994- 2001  
(Vols 60-72) (All unbound)  
Replies to S Flanagan. Teagasc Research  
Centre, Athenry, Co Galway  
E-Mail [sflanagan@athenry.teagasc.ie](mailto:sflanagan@athenry.teagasc.ie)

### **Edinburgh 2002 Farm Animal Genetic Resources**

A small team led by Professor Geoff Simm is organising an occasional meeting in Edinburgh in October/November 2002 on Farm Animal Genetic Resources. Discussions are at an early stage but topics may include :

- Conservation and its current status for rare breeds
- Heritage Gene Banks
- Government policy on conservation
- Managing populations at risk
- Managing genetic resources in breeding programmes
- Role of molecular genetic techniques
- Role of productive reproductive technologies

If you wish to be involved or have any suggestions we would be pleased to hear from you.

### **Reading 2002 Designing a Dairy Industry for Society's Demands**

A small group headed by Professor David Beever will meet in late January at Reading to discuss a possible meeting on Dairying. This is likely to cover a number of topics under the theme of Designing a Dairy Industry for Society's Demands. Contact us or Emyr Owen [e.owen@reading.ac.uk](mailto:e.owen@reading.ac.uk) if you wish to comment or become involved. Details will be on the website shortly.

### **Other new ideas**

If you have any good ideas for conferences (on specific species or wider topics) then we would be happy to discuss the issues involved. We at the BSAS office can provide all the support, but we do need your good ideas and involvement. If we cannot justify a separate meeting then there is scope to commission specific sessions at the Annual York Conference as is likely to happen in 2003 with Companion Animals and Aquaculture.

### **Nutrition of Farm Animals Outdoors Leeds, 3-4 July 2002**

BSAS is collaborating with the Nutrition Society to put together a one day symposium as part of the Annual Nutrition Society meeting Food, Plants, Animal and Man in Leeds in 2002. The symposium programme is outlined below and should be of interest to all animal nutritionists. The main meeting has some very interesting papers especially on the 4 July which would enable BSAS delegates to attend two days. Mike Forbes ([mike.forbes@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:mike.forbes@leeds.ac.uk)) is representing BSAS interests.

Intake of nutrients from pasture by poultry - Sue Gordon/Andrew Walker, ADAS Gleadthorpe

Intake of nutrients from pasture by pigs - Sandra Edwards, University of Newcastle

Impact of accumulation of heavy metals on grazing animals - Mike Wilkinson, Univ Leeds and Julian Hill, Writtle College

What are the limitations to increased production of dairy cattle in pasture-based systems? - Eric Kolver, Dexcel Ltd., New Zealand.

Plants and plant extracts for improving animal health and productivity - Henry Greathead, University of Leeds

#### **Plenary lectures to be held on 4 July**

Engineering food plants for improved nutritional value - Peter Williams, Syngenta, Switzerland

Organic agriculture; evidence for nutritional benefits - Carlo Leifert, Tesco Professor of Organic Agriculture at Newcastle University.

Food-borne transmission of disease from animals to man - Lord Soulsby of Swaffham

Ethnopharmacology - Nina L Etkin, University of Hawaii, President, International Society for Ethnopharmacology.

How to get the Nutrition/Health message over to the consumer - Lise Walter Lowe Lintas, the advertising agency responsible for *Flora*

Full information is available on the Nutrition Society website - go to the BSAS website and links will get you there.

### **British Association Festival of Science - Leicester - 13th September 2002**

As part of the British Association meeting in September this year BSAS is helping to organise a session on Animal Welfare and Behaviour. This meeting is always very high profile in the media and so we are looking for good stories that might be incorporated and presented by media friendly speakers. Any ideas?

**Responding to the increasing global demand for animal products, Merida, Mexico.**

**12-15 November 2002**

See BSAS website for latest programme and application form.

**Deadline for papers - 1 April 2002**

## Other Meetings

- 26 March 2002** **Perceptions in the study of food intake in animals and man.** A one day conference organised by the Nutrition Society in Edinburgh. For further details contact the Nutrition Society at [www.nutsoc.org.uk](http://www.nutsoc.org.uk) or the local organiser Ilias Kyriazakis email: [i.kyriazakis@ed.sac.ac.uk](mailto:i.kyriazakis@ed.sac.ac.uk)
- 15-17 April 2002** **Conservation Pays** British Grassland Society/British Ecological Society conference at University of Lancaster. Contact: [bgs@patrol.i-way.co.uk](mailto:bgs@patrol.i-way.co.uk) Theatre sessions include :
- BGS**
- Policy Framework
  - Enhancement and maintenance of biodiversity
  - Problems of scale and fragmentation
  - Conservation and the farm business
  - Food and non-food products of conservation
  - Case studies
- 22 May 2002** **Fifth Annual Langford Food Industry Conference** - Progress towards a New Livestock Industry - Developments in Farm Assurance. School of Veterinary Science, Langford, Bristol. Contact Langford-CE@bristol.ac.uk or Tel: 0117 92895502 for details.
- 7-11 July 2002** **24<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of Animal Production** **“Finding the Balance- Profitability with Responsibility”**. Examining the need for animal producers to continually walk a tightrope; with pressures to remain *profitable* whilst at the same time meeting increasing demands from society to use *socially-acceptable* and *ecologically-sustainable* practices. The 24<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of ASAP will be held in conjunction with the International Society for Animal Hygiene. Full details of the conference available on the web <http://www.asap.asn.au/conference> Potential delegates can register their interest in the conference, and lodge their intentions to contribute a paper/s.
- 4-6 September 2002** **2<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level**, University of Bristol This will be the successor to the highly successful first workshop held in Copenhagen in 1999. will For scientists working in animal behaviour, health and welfare; in particular those working with group-managed animals such as farm livestock and laboratory animals. Call for Scientific Abstracts: submit scientific abstracts (not more than 250 words) to the Organising Committee [ellen.cooke@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ellen.cooke@bris.ac.uk) by 24 May 2002. Requests for further details, including arrangements for accommodation and travel, should be addressed to: Rita Hinton: [Rita.Hinton@bris.ac.uk](mailto:Rita.Hinton@bris.ac.uk)
- 10-12 September 2002** **Perspectives in Pig Science**  
Nottingham - Breeding and genetics; Management, marketing and meat quality; Health & welfare, Reproduction and productive management; and Nutrition. For details please contact Dr Julian Wiseman - [julian.wiseman@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:julian.wiseman@nottingham.ac.uk) or visit [www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/ah/pigs.html](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/ah/pigs.html)
- 11-13 September 2002** **XIIIth International Silage Conference September 2002**  
Please note that further information and registration details are now to be found at: [www.sac.ac.uk/isc2002](http://www.sac.ac.uk/isc2002)
- 6 - 10 October 2003** **International Symposium on Applications of Gene-based Technologies for Improving Animal Production and Health in Developing Countries**  
Sessions to include Gene-based technologies applied to livestock; applied to pathogens and host-pathogen interactions; applied to plants, rumen microbes, and systems biology; Gene-based technologies in environment, food safety and animal industry, and related ethical and intellectual property right issues Further details from Ian Givens - email: [ian.givens@adas.co.uk](mailto:ian.givens@adas.co.uk) Telephone 01789 415667
- 26-31 October 2003** **World Association of Animal Science 1X World Conference on Animal Production** Brazil on the theme – *Well being of the Human Population* - is to be held at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sol , Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. A draft programme and details of registration, venue, hotels, travel are now available at [www.wcap203.ufrgs.br](http://www.wcap203.ufrgs.br)

### Subs changes for 2002

Just to remind you that BSAS subscriptions changed for 2002. If we had not had a reply to the letter sent out in November, we assume the on-line version is required.

- Ordinary membership £55 includes the on-line version of the journal or £75 which includes the printed version + on-line
- Postgraduate students and retired members £27.50 (£47.50)
- Undergraduates are FREE. This subscription does not include access to the journal

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