

February 2003 • No.12

### BSAS Annual Meeting 24-26 March 2003, York

#### Calling all students An opportunity not to be missed! BSAS Presentations Skills Workshop 23-24 March 2003 York

This BSAS Workshop is designed to give new presenters the skills and confidence to enhance their theatre presentations. It will enable all participants to improve their oral presentations, visual aids and ability to handle questions.

Places on this first workshop are limited to 12 on a first come first served basis. The workshop will start promptly at 15:30 on Sunday 23 March finishing at 10:30 on Monday 24 March, in time for the start of the BSAS Annual Meeting. There will be three sessions which includes an opportunity to give a practice presentation.

The Workshop Tutor is Dr. Phil Garnsworthy of Nottingham University who has been running similar workshops, prior to EAAP meetings, for several years.

Cost for students is £55 which includes B&B Accommodation at York and the book Presentation Skills.

#### New BSAS Initiatives for students

BSAS has a number of ideas for attracting students into the Society. Our membership numbers are falling and we need to encourage more people to join. Ultimately this means more young people. Here are some of the initiatives. If you have ideas let us know.

#### Subscription Fee included in your Annual Meeting Registration

If you tick the box you can now pay your annual BSAS subscription as part of your Annual meeting registration fee. This means that forward thinking institutions can pay the BSAS subs for their students and staff.

#### Bigger and better prizes for the BSAS Presidents Prize at York

There will be more winners at the 2003 York meeting this March. BSAS will be giving the best poster and theatre presenters in the Presidents Prize competition £150 each and up to two runners up in each category will receive £50 each.

#### A new student essay prize

Starting at the 2004 Annual Meeting there will be a new essay competition for BSAS students with the winner receiving £250 plus an invitation to the BSAS Conference Dinner. Aimed primarily at undergraduates in their final year this will be based on either one of the BSAS issue paper areas or on the student's dissertation topic. Academic supervisors will be asked to forward the best 2000 word essay from their organisation for a team of BSAS judges to assess. Details of the essay competition will be placed on the website in due course.

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**Have you registered for the BSAS Annual Meeting? - Details on [www.bsas.org.uk](http://www.bsas.org.uk)**

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## **New Certificates of Attendance**

All students attending the BSAS 2003 Annual Meeting at York will now receive a Certificate of Attendance. Ordinary delegates can also receive one on request.

## **More student helpers at York**

BSAS is now using more students at York to run the technical aspects of the Annual Meeting. This is a deliberate policy to get more students into the meeting. This year we will have students from five or six different organisations. They are all fully funded by BSAS including travel costs. If you are interested for next year please let us know in September 2003.

## **New Powerpoint recruitment presentation.**

Alistair Carson from T&E Committee is currently working on a new power point presentation that can be used to encourage students to join BSAS. This will be sent to academic supervisors as well as made available for downloading from the website.

## **Student Reception York 2003.**

There is a student reception (including a free drink voucher) at lunchtime Tuesday 25 March for all students attending BSAS York this March. We would like to listen to what students want from BSAS and to tell them what we are trying to do for them at the moment.

## **Half price student registration for all Occasional Meetings**

From 2003 BSAS will have a policy of offering student half price registration fees if they would like to attend Occasional Meetings. Attending the Annual meeting is already less than half price!

## **Summer Placement Scheme**

It is time to think about the 2003 scheme. If you are a student or organisation and interested in a placement please complete the relevant forms (on the web or from the office). BSAS will match up to £500 provided by a placement provider, so that a student can gain experience in research or work place to undertake a short project (usually 6-8 weeks in the summer vacation). For full details see the bsas website.

## **Wanted!**

### **Issue Paper Writers @ £100 each**

BSAS has six very good issues papers on its website for information and for use in teaching. We need many more and would like volunteers to come forward with ideas and papers! We will now pay £100 in BSAS vouchers for each accepted Issue Paper. Vouchers are redeemable against BSAS books or conference registrations. The list of topics that the Technical & Ethical Committee would like is on the website but you may have others in mind. Members may work together on topics and for example supervisors may have an excellent student with time who they can supervise on such a project.

### **Nutritional Standards - making a real difference - update**

Professor Colin Whittemore will present the findings of the current BSAS nutritional standards initiative at York on Tuesday 25 March at 21:00. His team have been looking at developing a series of nutrient tables for pigs which will cover requirements for amino acids, energy, and vitamins and minerals.

### **New Ethical Policy**

Whilst BSAS has had a developing ethical policy we have never written it down until now. Susan Jarvis and Jon Day from the T&E Committee are currently working on a draft that will be placed on the website.

### **Online submissions for Animal Science**

You will have noticed that the time from submission to publication for the Journal has improved by almost a month. This is due to the hard work of all the editors and the use of e-mail to send papers and reports between editors, referees and authors. However, the Journal staff would like to improve times even more and are investigating the possibility of online submissions as many of the US Journals do. The company who supplies the website for this will be giving a demonstration at the York meeting for editors. The process is however not cheap at £4-5000 yearly so the benefits have to be tangible for editors and authors given that Animal Science does not charge authors for publishing.

### **BSAS visit Pig Farm**

The BSAS secretariat had a wonderful escape from the hustle and bustle of office life for a few hours one afternoon at the end of January.

Bridget and Fiona were shown around the SAC pig farm in Edinburgh and given a very interesting insight into the life of a pig. The 'hands on' experience had them learning about the weaning, feeding and housing of pigs, from holding piglets only a week or so old, to being introduced to the older sows and to scratch behind their ears (the pigs – not Bridget and Fiona!).

It was an intriguing few hours and Bridget and Fiona would like to extend their thanks to Dr Susan Jarvis for all her time, information and patience with all the questions asked.

### **Continuing Professional Development**

Following some very fruitful discussions with the Nutrition Society a small group led by Bruce Cottrill has now reached agreement to proceed with a Continuing Professional Development Scheme. Bruce will bring a paper to the AGM in York to invite support for the scheme which BSAS will run jointly with the Nutrition Society for Animal Scientists. There will be a joining fee and then a small annual fee. The scheme would start as a register and then introduce CPD in early 2004. WPSA are also likely to be involved.

## Council Members wanted

Three new members of Council are required for the AGM. Nominations are invited from interested members of BSAS who would be willing to serve for 3 years and also join one of the standing committees. Each nomination must be supported by two BSAS members and accompanied by a ½ page CV. Nominations can be sent electronically but must reach the secretariat by Tuesday 18 March 2003.

### MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Prof Emyr Owen	President	
Dr John Newbold	Vice-President	
Dr Brian C Cooke	Honorary Treasurer	
Mr Mike A Steele	Secretary	
Mrs Joyce Darling	Finance Officer	
Prof John C MacRae	Publications Chairman	
Prof Steve C Bishop	Programme Chairman	
Prof Geoff Simm	T& E Chairman	
Dr John O'Doherty	2000	stepping down
Dr Nigel D Scollan	2000	stepping down
Dr Peter E V Williams	2000	stepping down
Dr Sandy M MacKenzie	2001	
Prof John C Alliston	2001	
Dr Peter Rowlinson	2001	
Dr Susan Jarvis	2002	
Dr Melissa Royal	2002	
Dr Alastair Wylie	2002	

### Members wanted for Committees & adhoc groups

BSAS is always looking for new blood for its committees. If you have an interest in joining any or a specific group then please let us know at any time. We would also welcome inputs from members who are far away. You can still contribute by e-mail even if we cannot afford to pay your long distance flight. Many of our editors are now overseas and they do an excellent job without coming together. Each of our standing committees draws some members from the Council but ordinary committee members are usually volunteers. Most committees meet twice yearly but also have contact by telephone and e-mail. BSAS also has need of adhoc groups from time to time and welcomes volunteers here too!

**Standing committees** are Programme, Publications and Technical & Ethical. These all meet twice yearly.

**Current adhoc groups** include International and CPD. They often meet at conferences or conduct business electronically. Organisers of occasional meeting are also keen to attract members. If you are interested in any of the above please contact the BSAS office.

## Annual General Meeting - 26 March 2003

### BSAS Constitutional changes

The 2003 AGM will be asked to agree a number of minor changes to the BSAS Constitution to bring it up to date. The main change concerns the constitutional role of the Secretary. Currently this position is paid and carries voting rights as a full member of the Council. There is therefore a potential conflict of interests as perceived by bodies such as the Charities Commission, who oversee organisations like BSAS. Council has agreed to transform the position of Secretary to one of Chief Executive of BSAS. The Chief Executive will continue to perform all the roles of the Secretary but will no longer be a full voting member of Council. This change will bring BSAS in line with other similar societies like the British Grassland Society. The current Secretary will become the new Chief Executive at current remuneration levels.

A copy of the Constitution, indicating the proposed changes, is available as an electronic copy from [bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk](mailto:bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk) or as a hardcopy at the AGM.

## **Trails and Trials in Livestock Research**

By E. R. Ørskov

International Feed Resources Unit, Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen AB15 8QH, UK 2002 £22.00, Hardback, 204 pp.

ISBN:0-9541377-01-1

This book gives an insight into the research programmes that provide the understanding of ruminant animal nutrition that now underpins many of to-day's on-farm feeding systems and strategies. It describes a number of research trails, the background information that stimulated their initiation and evolution and the main findings which are set out in over 90 Tables and a small number of Figures and photographs. The tables provide valuable illustrations of nutritional principles for both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

The first trail, which was initiated by a study of the protein and energy requirements of growing lambs, stimulated much of the work in the trials and trails described in the first half of the book. Along with Professor Ørskov's concurrent studies of the oesophageal groove reflex, post-ruminal digestion and hind-gut fermentation, it exposed the weakness of apparently digested protein as a feeding standard and replaced it with rumen degraded and undegraded fractions. It also amplified the use of the nylon bag for studies of the rumen environment, roughage evaluation and the prediction of forage intake. Meantime the oesophageal groove studies stimulated trials that led to the development of a completely non-milk-based diet for artificially-reared lambs.

The early trials on the protein and energy requirements of growing lambs coupled with the rumen environment studies, also provided the stimulus for the trail that led to the identification of the branched-chain fatty acids as the cause of soft fat in the carcasses of grain-fed lambs. They also provided the solution to both the soft-fat and ruminitis problems caused by feeding processed grains to sheep, namely the feeding of cereal grains in the whole form. But what about cattle for which some form of grain processing is essential for efficient digestion? Here, the circumstances, the thinking and the reasoning that went into the discovery that, for cattle, the alkali treatment of grains provided an on-farm alternative to rolling or grinding with added benefits for forage digestion and milk quality are fascinating. The story is just one of a number of examples in the book of the unbridled enthusiasm with which Professor Ørskov conducted his research. Another is the tale of the trail behind the discovery that urea could be used to preserve moist grain in storage.

The trail involving the quest for information on the efficiency of utilization of the volatile fatty acids resulted in the development of complete intragastric nutrition which, in turn, brought new understanding to the effects of fasting on energy and protein metabolism and on glucose requirements. It also contributed to clarification of the role of specific nutrients in influencing milk yield and composition as well as body tissue mobilization during periods of energy deficit. Practical outcomes include slimming diets for overfat animals that sustain lean-tissue growth, guidelines for post-ruminal amino acid requirements for meat and milk production and, perhaps in the future, assays of urinary purine derivatives for the estimation of microbial protein production and the prediction of intake at pasture. The final series of trails deal with how Professor Ørskov established his International Feed Resource Unit, initially at the Rowett Research Institute and now at the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute. Their description reflects his resolve in improving resource utilization and animal production in developing countries.

The book not only provides useful teaching and lecturing material, it is also full of examples of how to build a dynamic research team, how to stimulate staff, students and collaborators by identifying their skills and building on their strengths. It contains examples of where more work and a better understanding of the principles of ruminant nutrition are still needed to help the ruminant animal industries.

*John J Robinson*

## BSAS Conferences in 2003

- 24-26 March 2003** **BSAS Annual Meeting, University of York**  
Programme and Application form on the website. Register by 28 February to take advantage of the discounted conference fee.
- 9-10 Sept 2003** **Pigs - The Appliance of Science, Sutton Bonington, University of Nottingham**  
This conference comes at a time when the UK pig industry is struggling to find its place in an increasingly global and competitive market place. The meeting will examine the problems facing the industry and how it might cut through the difficulties facing it to become more competitive. Knowledge transfer will form an integral part of this process. The organisers are led by Dr Jayne Thompson of Nottingham who has consulted widely to fine tune the programme to make it attractive to both producers, advisers and scientists. Sutton Bonington is the ideal pig conference venue being easy to reach and having excellent conference facilities. Please see website for full details.
- 15-16 Sept 2003** **Emerging Equine Science, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester**  
John Alliston is leading the posse for this conference which is BSAS's first on Equine Science and will be aimed at academics, their students and the professional equine people and their advisors. As it is still in its early stages there is room for any innovative ideas that you have so contact us now if you wish to be involved. Currently it contains sessions on *Exercise Physiology, Health Welfare and Behaviour, Breeding and Genetics, Nutrition and, Grassland and Equine Business Management*. There will be a tour arranged on the last half day of this two-day meeting to visit professional equine enterprises.  
  
We have already had a great deal of interest from sponsors and are looking to develop some new ideas for the meeting, which for example might include special prizes for student presentations.  
  
The RAC is an excellent venue for the meeting and very easy to reach by road to rail. Please see website for full details.
- 18-19 Oct 2003** **Merida Satellite Workshop - part of the international Herbivore Conference**  
Caroline Rymer, ADAS, now based at the University of Reading, is the BSAS UK organiser for a satellite workshop to be held in Merida, Mexico, October 18/19 2003, as part of the international Herbivore Conference. Caroline has been much involved in previous meetings covering *in vitro* techniques and will be working with Carlos Sandoval from the University of Yucatan. The workshop is likely to cover *in vitro* gas production, *in sacco* degradation measurements and alkanes. Bob Mayes will be involved with Alkanes. One idea is that the workshop produces a small handbook, which would describe the three techniques. Watch the BSAS website for future details.

### Other conferences and courses

- 18-19 March 2003** **International Animal Nutrition Conference** Nutritionist Association of Pakistan has planned to organize a conference with the collaboration of University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore. For details contact Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha, Organizing Secretary, Department of Animal Nutrition, University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore-54000  
Tel: 042-9211398, Mobile: 0300-4297959, Fax: 042-9211461&7512208 E-mail: [agrotech@brain.net.pk](mailto:agrotech@brain.net.pk)
- 23 June - 4 July '03** **Annual course Analysis, Design and Management of Organic Farming Systems** held at the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen, places/ fellowships are still available for people from selected countries. Please contact [info.iac@wur.nl](mailto:info.iac@wur.nl)
- 26 June - 2 July '03** **6th Budapest Workshop on Clinical Endocrinology** held in Budapest is focused on endocrinology of ruminant reproduction. For the programme and other details, please visit <http://tkk.tova.univet.hu> or contact the organiser Gyula Huszenicza Email: [gyhuszen@univet.hu](mailto:gyhuszen@univet.hu) This course is recognized and recommended by the education committees of ESDAR (European Society for Domestic Animal Reproduction), and ECAR (European College for Animal Reproduction).
- 19-24 October 2003** **Sixth International Symposium on the Nutrition of Herbivores** will be held next year in Merida, Yucatán, Mexico. **The deadline for submitted papers has been extended to 30 March 2002.** This symposium has a number of exciting themes including The role of herbivores in agro-ecosystems, Gastrointestinal microbiology, Gastrointestinal transformations and Strategies for nutrient acquisition. Contact details are Dr. Juan C. Ku Vera Jefe de la Unidad de Posgrado e Investigación Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia Universidad, Autónoma de Yucatán Carr. Mérida-Xmatkuil km 15.5 CP 97100, Mérida, Yucatán MEXICO Tel. +52 (999) 942 32 04 > Tel. +52 (999) 942 32 00 ext. 32 > Fax. +52 (999) 942 32 05 > e-mail: [gschan@tunku.uady.mx](mailto:gschan@tunku.uady.mx) <http://www.isnh6mexico.org>

# **Langford Food Industry Conference**

## **Global Meat Production: How should Britain and Europe Respond? 21 May, 2003**

Food, including meat, is now produced all over the world, often more cheaply than in Europe. This is due partly to the dismantling of trade barriers and partly to strong retailers and demanding consumers seeking the best products at the lowest price. This years Food Industry Conference looks at the implications of this trend. The aims of the conference are twofold.

To examine the challenges to the British and European meat industries as seen by industry leaders and consultants working abroad

To consider future strategies for Britain and Europe based on better integration in the supply chain and higher quality products, giving an overall better deal for consumers

### **PROGRAMME**

Can the European red meat sector survive in a free trade environment?

Ben Gill, CBE, President, National Farmers Union

The challenge for UK meat producers of trade liberalisation and the Sustainability agenda

Professor Michael Winter, Director, Centre for Rural Research, University of Exeter

Branding meat quality: the QMS experience

Alasdair Muir, Managing Director, Quality Meat Scotland

Future of the European beef industry: views of a processor

Richard Cracknell, Manager Director, Anglo Beef Processors

Future of the British beef industry: views of MLC

Duncan Pullar, Beef and Sheep Technology Manager, Meat and Livestock Commission

Reducing variability in beef quality by better integration in the demand chain

Alan King, Managing Director, Blade Farming

The challenge from overseas meat producers wishing to supply EU consumers

Roland Bonney, RL Consulting, Oxford

Impact of world trade on food production: labelling issues

Andrew Butterworth, Division of Farm Animal Science, University of Bristol

Improving the nutritional value of beef for consumers: the EC Healthy beef project

Nigel Scollan, Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research

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