

June 2002 • No.9

BSAS Annual Meeting , York 2002

This year's Meeting in York attracted 440 BSAS delegates, and with WPSA and ISAE over 560 delegates enjoyed the sunny spring weather, an excellent programme and some fruitful networking.

The conference got off to a flying start with nearly 100 delegates coming bright and early for the What Price Cheap Food satellite. This included some fine presentations from Mike Appleby (Animal Welfare USA), Andy Redfern (Traidcraft), Neil Cutler (NFU Dairy Farmer) John Gazzard (ADAS) and John Milne (MLURI) which stimulated a thorough discussion around the implications and philosophy of not paying enough for the food that we all consume. The satellite format worked well and is one that will be continued in 2003 (see ideas for the next meeting below).

Having started well the conference had Monday sessions covering immune responses, dairying, pig nutrition, genetics, fatty acids, horses and leptins. The horse session attracted a very lively audience who subsequently formed an organising committee for an occasional meeting, to be held at the Royal Agricultural College Cirencester, September 2003. The session on leptins was one of several theatre sessions with a keynote speaker followed by several submitted papers. The two leptin sessions and their associated poster discussion attracted 30 submitted papers on a topic that is relatively new to BSAS. Presenters came from a wide variety of countries. The sessions were organised by Melissa Royal from Nottingham University and set a useful model for future scientific sessions.

The conference dinner was held at York racecourse with 320 diners enjoying an excellent meal and some concise and witty talks. These included the presentations to prize winners and a presidential address by Professor Emyr Owen on his theme for the coming year.

Tuesday of the conference was very full. It commenced with Professor John Webster's (University of Bristol) very lucid presentation of the Sir John Hammond Memorial Lecture which addressed Has animal science failed society? As you would expect the lecture was excellent and the audience well entertained. The presidential sessions covered integration and included papers that discussed helminth control and livestock grazing ecology. Other sessions on the day included pig management and health, dairy cattle, ruminant issues, genetics, leptins, ethical issues in animal science, animal production in developing countries and the reports by lead scientists on the Nutritional Standards for Livestock project for DEFRA.

Please note that the reports from the lead scientists covering poultry, pigs, beef, dairying and sheep are all available on the BSAS Web site

Both the sessions on ethical issues and animal production in developing countries managed to squeeze very large audiences into very small spaces. Topics like these that cut across the various disciplines have a very wide appeal and are likely to set a trend for future meetings.

Wednesday was no less busy than the previous two days, with invited sessions on enzymes in feed resources, hazard and risk analysis, diet manipulation, and a farmers session on improving beef production systems run in collaboration with the National Beef Association. This also included a farm visit to Richard Fuller's JSR farms at Givendale, just outside York. It was an excellent day out!

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**2003
Annual Meeting
University of York
please mark up
your diaries
24-26 March**

**BSAS,
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The final day also included an integrated session with the ISAE on ethology and welfare, before IASE went on to their own sessions on laboratory animals.

WPSA also had a good meeting running from Tuesday morning.

Not everything was perfect and the organisers have identified a number of problems to be avoided next year. York University's policy of policing car parking got a little out of hand with the BSAS President, Treasurer and several delegates getting their vehicles clamped because they hadn't displayed their parking ticket in time. BSAS refunded the fines to all involved and have taken the case up with the university's Vice Chancellor. If you use the noise levels in the bars as your measure of a successful event then York 2002 went very well. There was ample opportunity for every one to talk informally either over a pint or during the meal and coffee breaks. A lot of informal networking took place, which is an important aspect at any conference.

BSAS negotiated VAT free accommodation for 2002 which made the costs for delegates more attractive than 2001. There was also a special deal which meant half price accommodation for students. This should be available again in 2003.

We are grateful to Degussa, Finnfeeds and Syngenta for their kind support.

AWARDS

President Prize 2002

Emma Whittemore, SAC Edinburgh, won the best theatre presentation for her paper on Predicting food intake and performance during adaptation to a new food. Commendations were given to Andrew Crawford, ARINI; Marie Jackson, Harper Adams University College; and Beverly Muhlhausler, Adelaide University, Australia.

Jonathan Mills, University of Reading, won the best poster presentation for his paper on Application of a dynamic mechanistic model of small intestinal starch digestion in the dairy cow. Commendations were also given to Jonathan Amory and Sarah Cooper, Harper Adams University College; Maria Campo, University of Bristol; Homayoun Farhangfar and Ruba Mohamed, University of Newcastle; and Richard Wynn, University of Nottingham.

We were extremely impressed with all their presentations and hope to see them at future BSAS meetings. Emma and Jonathan received a cheque for £100 and will be presented with their certificates at next year's Annual Meeting.

Sir John Hammond Memorial Award

Ilias Kyriazakis of SAC Edinburgh was the recipient of the 2002 Sir John Hammond Memorial Award for his contribution to animal science, particularly the development of new theories of food intake and of relationships between food consumption and performance, nutrition and health, across farm animal species.

RSPCS/BSAS Award

Temple Grandin from Colorado State University in the USA was the worthy winner of the BSAS RSPCA award for innovations in animal welfare. Temple received her certificate and fine rose bowl from Mr Mike Tomlinson the Chairman of the RSPCA

Ideas for York 2003

This is a list of ideas for sessions at York 2003, discussed at the recent joint meeting between Programme and Technical & Ethical Committee. If you want to comment on or help develop the session then please contact the relevant organiser below*:

Hammond Lecture

Global v local research

Organiser: Emyr Owen e.owen@reading.ac.uk

Presidential theme

Globalisation - Monday satellite: morning to mid-afternoon

Organiser: Emyr Owen e.owen@reading.ac.uk

Companion Animals

Organiser: Jonathan Cooper jjcooper@dmu.ac.uk

Fish - including disease prevention, welfare, breeding, husbandry, and nutrition

Organiser: Colin Morgan c.morgan@ed.sac.ac.uk

Welfare implications of breeding and genetics

Organiser: Geoff Simm g.simm@ed.sac.ac.uk

Disease Management: PMWS in pigs

Organisers: Paul Blanchard paul.blanchard@basf-a-n.co.uk

Nutrition for pro-active health

Replacements to antimicrobials, gut micro-flora issues, use of anti-oxidants,

Organiser: Howard Simmins howard.simmins@danisco.com

Functional Foods

Organiser: Adam Lock adam.lock@nottingham.ac.uk

Nutritional and environmental impact

animal/nutrient dynamics, modelling, ecology.

Organiser: Caroline Rymer caroline.rymer@adas.co.uk

What does the public want from Agriculture?

Issues to do with communication, Curry report, DEFRA perspectives, supermarket perspectives.

Organiser: Steve Bishop stephen.bishop@bbsrc.ac.uk

Farmers session- organics

Organiser: Lindsay Heasman Lindsay.Heasman@adas.co.uk

Integrated approach to fertility

Combining physiology & genetics

organisers: Melissa Royal melissa.royal@nottingham.ac.uk

Presenting Scientific papers

Phil Garnsworthy will also be running a workshop for students on writing and presenting scientific papers. *Please note places for this workshop will be limited.*

phil.garnsworthy@nottingham.ac.uk

* contact details also available in the BSAS membership list.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr Susan Jarvis

Following an Animal Science degree at the University of Edinburgh, Susan did her Ph.D with Prof. Alistair Lawrence in the Animal Behavioural Sciences Department of the Scottish Agricultural College where she currently works.

Susan's main areas of interest are stress, behaviour and welfare of the pig. The first six years of her research has focused on the impact of the environment on the maternal behaviour and welfare of the sow at farrowing and throughout lactation. This research on maternal behaviour in pigs resulted in her becoming interested in piglet mortality and trying to find ways to improve piglet survivability, and also in how stress reactivity develops and how this impacts on responses to farrowing and maternal behaviour of the pig.

She has enjoyed the scientific aspect of the society over the last 10 years, and is keen to be involved in the Council of BSAS and to make a contribution to its future success.

Nominated by Professor Sandra Edwards and Professor Alistair Lawrence

Dr Melissa Royal

Melissa Royal is an ideal candidate for membership of BSAS Council. She has excellent organisational skills (for example, she organised the Leptin session at this year's Annual Meeting) and always has plenty of novel ideas for programmes and activities. Her main attribute is that she is very forthright, so she makes sure that ideas are implemented. At the same time, she puts in lots of hard work behind the scenes to help things run smoothly.

Scientifically, she combines the areas of animal physiology and genetics. She gained a BSc in Biology from the University of Hull in 1995, specialising in molecular aspects of human fertility. The University of Nottingham awarded her a PhD in 1999 for her studies on genetic variation in endocrine parameters of fertility in the dairy cow. She currently holds a postdoctoral research post at Nottingham, specialising in the genetics of fertility in cattle, with further interests in the genetics of milk composition in dairy cows and infertility in pigs.

In conclusion, we commend Melissa to you as an active young scientist who will make a big impact on the workings of the Society.

Nominated by Dr Phil Garnsworthy and Professor Geoff Simm

Dr Alastair Wylie

Alastair graduated in Biochemistry from The Queen's University of Belfast (1973) where he subsequently took a PhD in research on the interactions of proteolytic enzymes with blood coagulation factors

He joined the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland as a Research Project Leader in Ruminant Nutrition in 1978 and was subsequently jointly appointed a lecturer within the School of Agriculture and Food Science at The Queen's University of Belfast. Early research interests included chemical methods for improving nutritive value of poor quality forages

Latterly, he has focussed on the digestive and splanchnic physiology of ruminants including characterisation of insulin, growth hormone, IGF-1 and leptin responses to diet in dairy cows, beef cattle and sheep and a fundamental investigation of insulin receptor characteristics in these animals

Current interests extend to hormone interactions in the nutrition-fertility interrelationships in the dairy cow

Nominated by Dr Rosemary Agnew and Professor Mike Lomax

We are pleased that they have volunteered to join Council and look forward to them influencing BSAS policy. If you would like to run for Council, one of the committees or express an interest in a specific role such as where BSAS liaises with other organisations then please contact the BSAS Office.

BSAS President Prof Emyr Owen

Emyr Owen of Reading University was elected President of BSAS at the AGM in York. Emyr is a nutritionist with much experience of, and enthusiasm for, livestock in developing countries. He is well known and respected by animal scientists from the developing world. His presidential theme for 2002/3 will reflect this interest and encompass a global approach to animal science. The 2003 York meeting will include sessions that reflect this theme. It is also very appropriate that we have an overseas meeting in Merida this year.

Dr John Newbold - New Vice-President

John Newbold has been elected as the new BSAS Vice-president. John is a ruminant nutritionalist and played an important role in setting up the steering group for the Nutritional Standards project. John now works for Provimi based in Belgium.

Thanks!

Our thanks to the technical assistants who worked so hard behind the scenes at York
Helene Bento - SAC, Leon Broom - University of Leeds, Anthony De Torres - Moulton College,
Caroline Docking - ADAS, Isobel Hanson - Harper Adams University College, Sian Ilesley - University of Leeds,
Juliet Lay - Harper Adams University College and Sophie Whitehead - University of Leeds.

EAAP

We have a new EAAP representative: Dr Melissa Royal of Nottingham University will be succeeding Phil Garnsworthy as the BSAS/EAAP representative at the forthcoming meeting in Egypt. Melissa has recently joined BSAS Council and T&E Committee. Council and BSAS are very grateful for the excellent work that Phil has undertaken in representing our interests at EAAP – Melissa will have a hard act to follow!

Prof. Cled Thomas of SAC has joined EAAP Council and been elected as Vice-President. With Prof. John Oldham as Chairman of the Nutrition Commission and Maurice Bichard continuing as Auditor, BSAS members make a significant contribution to animal science on the European stage.

BSAS would like to wish Professor Jean Boyazoglu well on his forthcoming retirement, when he completes his second term as General Secretary of EAAP. Jean will step down at the forthcoming EAAP AGM and has, over the years, done a tremendous job in developing the organisation and particularly more recently in assisting in raising the scientific standards of meetings.

THE FOOD CHAIN: PLANTS, ANIMALS, MAN Nutrition Society Meeting, Leeds, 2-5 July 2002

Joint part of Meeting - Nutrition Society/BSAS - 2 July 2002 - Farm Animals Outdoors

Intake of nutrients from pasture by poultry

Andrew Walker, ADAS Gleadthorpe Research Centre

Intake of nutrients from pasture by pigs

Sandra Edwards, University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Impact of accumulation of heavy metals on grazing animals

Mike Wilkinson, University of Leeds, Julian Hill, Writtle College and Clive Phillips, Cambridge University

Plants and plant extracts for improving animal health and productivity

Henry Greathead, University of Leeds

What are the limitations to increased production of dairy cattle in pasture-based systems?

Eric Kolver, Dexcel Ltd., New Zealand.

Short communications (oral and posters)

For registration form and a full programme including days 3-5 July, please contact
Mrs Liz Costin, Nutrition Society, PO Box 485, Tring HP23 6YT; e.costin@nutsoc.org.uk;
Tel: 01442-825568 ;<http://www.nutsoc.org.uk/Meetings/registration.htm>)

Back copies of the journal looking for a home!

The following are available:-

Vol. 3 part 3

Vol. 6 part 1 to vol. 54 part 3

Vol. 55 parts 2 & 3

Vol. 56 part 1

Vol. 57 part 1 to vol. 73 part 3

Please contact Alastair Renton -telephone 01604 810890

email: arrenton@msn.com

Depending on location Alastair maybe able to help with transport.

BSAS Subscription 2003

The AGM at York agreed the following modest change to the Society's subscription

*Full members £57.50

*Postgraduates and retirees £28.75

* includes on-line access to the journal, payment for paper version remains at £20 extra

Summer Placement Schemes 2001

BSAS has summer placements available for 2002.

If you know of undergraduate students (in their penultimate of last year of study) who would like to undertake a piece of research lasting six to eight weeks then contact us now. Each placement attracts £500 from BSAS, which is matched by a participating company or academic/research organisation. The project can be part of a larger programme but students must be able to complete a coherent piece of work in the time period. If your organisation is interested in participating by offering a research project then we would also like to hear from you too.

BSAS Conferences in 2002 (see separate leaflets)

BSAS has three more exciting conferences this year!

9-10 September 2002

Dairying: Using science to meet consumers needs

University of Reading

Sessions include

- Cows for Lifetime Production.
- Management for Lifetime Production
- Feeds and Feeding
- Evening discussion on resolving local issues before taking on global issues.
- Opportunities & Impact
- Marketing - The myth against milk

Workshop groups- Animals, Health & Processing Industry.

Special farmers days - The BSAS Conference Roadshow

Two Farmers days are to be held immediately following the Reading meeting to cover some of the topics relevant to farmers.

11 September 2002

Cirencester, the Royal Agricultural College

12 September 2002

Newton Abbot, Seale Hayne University College

26-28 November 2002

Farm Animal Genetic Resources (FAGR) Edinburgh University

Aims: To create awareness of, and provide a forum for discussion of

- (i) the changing government role in conservation of FAGR
- (ii) the impact of FMD on rare breeds
- (iii) opportunities for increasing economic returns for those keeping rare breeds

Sessions will include :

Policy

Conservation of farm animal genetic Resources - a global view & European view

FAGR conservation in UK and current status of rare breeds

Heritage Gene Bank: origins, actions and future role

The UK government policy on FAGR conservation

Genetic basis for conservation

Genetic variation in animal populations

Managing populations at risk

Lessons from plant GR conservation

Managing genetic resources in commercial breeding populations

Molecular genetic techniques to assess variation

Molecular and reproductive techniques to support conservation

Use of molecular genetic techniques: A case study in the Iberian pig

Value of genome mapping and conservation

Role of reproductive technologies: current methods, new semen techniques, oocyte recovery.

Role of new reproductive methods

Other roles of rare breeds

Role of rare/traditional breeds in conservation: the grazing animals project

Role of rare breeds in conservation and tourism

Marketing opportunities

Conservation case studies

12-15 November 2002

Responding to the Increasing Global Demand for Animal Products

University Cultural Centre, UADY, Merida, Mexico

Extended deadline for submitted papers until 30 June 2002 (See bsas website for guidelines)

Time to register ! So far we have over 40 submitted papers but would welcome additional papers.

The conference numbers will be limited to fit the theatre size so do not delay registering. There is a list of hotels on the website all within easy walking distance of the venue. If you are looking for a good value airfare then do ask the flight consolidators like Trail Finders or Journey Latin America. The latter have fares from London via Houston for around £490. Take a taxi from the airport to your hotel. The Caribbean coast is very close to Merida and Cancun, holiday capital of the area, is just 3 hours by road - so you might consider a family break.

New ideas for occasional meetings

- 1) Horses - RAC September 2003 - contact John Alliston
John.Alliston@royagcol.ac.uk
- 2) Pigs - Nottingham or Holland September/October 2003 - contact Jayne Thompson
Jayne.Thompson@nottingham.ac.uk
- 3) Next Tropical Meeting, Thailand 2006 - contact Peter Rowlinson
Peter.Rowlinson@newcastle.ac.uk
- 4) Invitro Techniques - Satellite to the International Herbivore meeting, Merida, October 2003.

Other Meetings

- 14-18 July 2002** **BGS Summer Meeting.** University of Wales, Bangor. For details contact bgs@patrol.i-way.co.uk
- 4-6 September 2002** **2nd 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 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
- 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 or visit 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
- 18-23 November 2002** International Congress of Animal Improvement (during of Pan American Veterinary Congress), Havana, Cuba cima@ceniai.inf.cu
- 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 Telephone 01789 415667

Web Sites

Edition 02-3 of the New Agriculturist is now online <http://www.new-agri.co.uk/>.

Mexico is the subject of the Country Profile this month

News brief includes coverage of the worrying food scarcity in southern Africa, the programme to rebuild agriculture in Afghanistan, and the US decision to increase farming subsidies by 70%.

The publication of the rice genome, will have wide repercussions for plant breeding and rights of ownership. In this edition Hei Leung, a research scientist at the International Rice Research Institute gives his Perspective on this breakthrough.

There are many links between agriculture and health. Many medical and agricultural specialists believe that agriculture can actually be used as a tool to fight the disease.

In Focus on Rodent Management we again find health and agriculture closely linked. Rodents gnaw into farmers' food and profit, and are instrumental in the increasing spread of several life-threatening diseases, including plague and leptospirosis.

Agricultural Information Network. www.agnic.org focuses on providing agricultural information in electronic format over the WWW via the internet including conference information.