

June 2003 • No.13

ANNUAL MEETING - YORK 2003

The Annual Meeting at York in March 2003 was one of the most interesting for many years. In fact delegates complained that they could not get to all the papers that they wanted to hear, so appealing were the sessions.

The meeting kicked off on Sunday with a workshop on *Writing and Presenting Scientific Papers* run by Phil Garnsworthy from Nottingham University. The feedback from participants was excellent and several used the training in subsequent presentations at the meeting. BSAS will be running another workshop in 2004.



Satellite Meeting

The main meeting commenced with a well attended Satellite on *Animal Science and Globalisation* followed by an invited session on *Functional Foods* and one on *Companion Animals* (organised with ISAE). The Hammond Lecture was given by Professor Maggie Gill from the Macaulay Institute, comparing *Global and Local Research*. The *Aquaculture* session had a series of excellent papers but attracted a very small audience. *Nutritional and Environmental Impact*, *PMWS/PDNS* and *Nutrition for Pro-active Health* did much better.

On the final day BSAS and BGS joined forces to run a very popular and effective *Re-connecting the Food Chain* Satellite, which included a butter tasting session.

The poster sessions were characterised by too many non-appearances, which the Programme Committee will be deliberating over for 2004. Whilst some poster presenters do fail to get finance to attend there is a suspicion that some overseas authors submit papers only as a means of getting a publication.

The food at York has improved a good deal to the extent that we got complaints there was too much. The weather for March was excellent which made the campus at York very attractive. Not everyone likes the ducks, though, or the deposits they leave behind!

YORK 2004

In an effort to increase the number of delegates for 2004 all participants have been asked for comments. The Programme Committee also asked those who could not come, what might attract them for 2004. The fall in numbers this year might have reflected the situation in Iraq, but also the continued decline in research in the UK. BSAS Council is keen to attract more delegates from Europe.

A number of topics have already been discussed as possible sessions for 2004. These include:

- *Anti-bodies/Profolatics*
- *Poultry Diseases*
- *Breeding and Welfare*
- *Livestock Production for Sustainable Livelihoods*

These are not exhaustive. If you have any ideas please contact the BSAS office.

New Council Members

Council welcomes the following three members:

Dr Spiridoula Athanasiadou, a veterinarian, who is at SAC, Edinburgh. Spiridoula's current work concerns the anthelmintic effects of plants and forages on ruminants.

Dr Jonathan Mills, a researcher from the University of Reading, specialising in nutrient utilisation in dairy cows. Jonathan also has a keen interest in websites.

Dr Aidan Moloney is from the Teagasc Grange Research Station in Ireland. Aidan is currently heading the Irish contribution to an EU project on improving the healthiness of beef from a consumer's view.

Many thanks to John O'Doherty, Nigel Scollan and Peter Williams who have stepped down from Council.

Inside this issue...

Annual Meeting 2003 York 2004 New Council Members	1
Committee members Free subscriptions Nutritional Standards Joyce retires Subscriptions 2004	2
Annual Meeting Awards New Presidents Website re-vamp BSAS Secretariat	3
Conferences	4

BSAS,
PO Box 3,
Penicuik,
Midlothian EH26 ORZ. UK
Tel: 00 44 (0)131-445-4508,
Fax: 00 44 (0)131-535-3120,
Email: bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk
Website <http://www.bsas.org.uk>

Committee Members

The three new Council members have joined standing committees. Spiradoula has joined Programme, and Jonathan and Aidan Technical & Ethical Committee.

The following are new to committees as ordinary members:

T&E – Kate Breuer, ADAS Terrington
Programme – Basil Wolf, Aberystwyth University
Programme - Henry Greathead, University of Leeds
Publications – Grant Walling, Roslin Institute

Our thanks go to George Perrot, Jon Day and Mike Lomax who have now stepped down as committee members.

Overseas Members Join-in

In an effort to involve more non-UK members in standing committee decision making, two overseas members have joined the T&E Committee as 'distant participants'. Poitr Pasciak, a pig researcher from Krakow, Poland and Carlos Sandoval, a ruminant nutritionist from Merida, Mexico have been asked to become 'out of country' members. Whilst T&E cannot afford to fly them to committee meetings, they will be involved in all postal and email communication.

President's Committee Decides

The President's Committee met on 7th May after the joint Programme and T&E meetings. Whilst this meeting is normally held before Council in September, Dr John Newbold, our new President, was keen to see early action in 2003.

The group discussed the Presidential theme, which is one that consolidates many of the initiatives started by Emyr Owen's Globalisation theme last year.

One important proposal is to set up a database of all Animal Science societies and organisations throughout the world with which BSAS and its members might interact. The aim then would be to make active contacts to bring benefits to BSAS members through joint ventures like conferences and networking and, where relevant, securing EU funds for initiatives and projects. BSAS is also keen to work with or assist sister societies especially in developing countries.

Twenty Free Subscriptions Available

As part of BSAS's commitment to assisting Animal Science/ Production societies, projects and NGO's in developing countries, there are up to 20 memberships available FREE for a three year period. The idea is to allow scientists unable to afford subscriptions to gain access to *Animal Science*, the newsletter and other BSAS information that they can share with colleagues. There are a number of countries where BSAS has no members and we would be keen to encourage contacts in such places. CICA, UAEM, Mexico will be the first to benefit.

If you know of individuals within societies, NGO's, projects or institutions who would be interested please let us know.

Nutritional Standards

As we reported in the last newsletter, Colin Whittemore's team was looking at Nutrient Tables for Pigs. His findings were presented at the Annual Meeting in York. Colin has also had very fruitful discussions with colleagues in France, Denmark and Holland. The booklet with this information is now available from BSAS (£10 or 15 Euros).

The Nutrient Standard's group is now discussing what next. Possibilities include using some of the 'Feed into Milk' information, which will be released into the public domain in October 2003 for dairy, beef and sheep publications.

Joyce Darling Retires

After 22 years working for BSAS Joyce Darling retired from the Secretariat in April. At a presentation during the Conference Dinner of the Annual Meeting, she received an original landscape watercolour of the Pentland Hills (near Edinburgh), a watch and also a cheque.

These were the result of a tremendous response from members who contributed to a leaving gift.



Joyce and BSAS President, Emyr Owen

Joyce thanked everyone and said that she had very much enjoyed her time with BSAS, and especially the friendships she had built with so many members. She looks forward to moving to Fife, North of Edinburgh, later this year.

On Line Submission to Animal Science

On line submission to Animal Science gets nearer. The President's Committee, with Council's backing, have agreed to fund the provision of an on-line submission facility for *Animal Science*. This will bring the journal into line with many other progressive publications and will help the editorial team maintain high standards. Discussions are now underway with the provider, Manuscript Central, to coordinate a seamless introduction later this year.

Subs up by less than inflation

The AGM in March agreed a very modest below inflation level increase of £1.00 (50p for retired and post graduates) for society membership from January 2004. Membership rates (for the electronic journal) will be:-

Full member - £58.50

Retired and Post Grads - £29.25

Awards at the Annual Meeting



Iain Wright receives his award from BSAS President, Professor Emyr Owen

Sir John Hammond Memorial Prize

Dr Iain Wright of the Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen, was the recipient of the Sir John Hammond Memorial Prize. Iain was given the award for his *outstanding contribution to research in animal science, particularly on the nutrition and reproductive biology of beef suckler cows, and to the development of grazing systems for beef cattle*. The BSAS President, Professor Emyr Owen, presented Iain with a scroll and cheque.

BSAS/RSPCA Award

Professor David Fraser from the University of British Columbia, was the recipient of the BSAS/RSPCA Award, presented for his *outstanding contribution to the science, philosophy and practice of animal welfare*. The award was presented by Dr Tony Suckling, Deputy Director General of the RSPCA. Professor Fraser serves as an advisor on animal welfare issues to numerous foundations and organisations including the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada, the World Organisation for Animal Health (Paris), the Food Marketing Institute and National Council of Chain Restaurants (Washington DC).

Best Theatre presentation

Angela Fahey, of the University of Nottingham won the best theatre presentation for her paper on *The effect of maternal undernutrition on muscle fibre type in the newborn lamb*.

Best Poster presentation

Ian Wellock of SAC Edinburgh, won the best poster presentation for his paper on *Modelling the effects of the thermal environment and dietary composition on pig performance*.

New Presidents

Our new President is Dr John Newbold who works for Provimi in Belgium, heading up their Research Technical Centre. John is a ruminant nutritionist and specialises in dairying. Within BSAS he has been very much involved in the nutritional standards initiatives.

Our new Vice-President is Professor Sandra Edwards of the University of Newcastle, who is a pig scientist, specialising in behaviour and welfare. Sandra was previously based at the University of Aberdeen.

The Appliance of Pig Science,

Sutton Bonington, University of Nottingham
9-10 September 2003

Emerging Equine Science

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester
15-16 September 2003

For both these occasional meetings the deadline for summary submission has been extended to 30 June.

List of members and committees - would you please take a minute to check that your contact details which we have on file are correct. Thank you.

Website re-vamp

Besides online journal submission facilities, the Technical & Ethical Committee web group is aiming to radically up-grade the BSAS website later this year. We now have a short list of companies who tendered. The aim is to make the site easier to use and also make available a database of information on animal science contacts and subjects of use to students, researchers and advisors.

If you have any special items you would like to see incorporated then now is the time to contact BSAS.

BSAS Team Visit Sheep Farm

As part of a 'window into what members do' the BSAS Secretariat continued their learning process by visiting the SAC sheep farms in Edinburgh. Frances, Fiona and Bridget discussed research projects with Dr Cathy Dwyer, including the husbandry and welfare involved, the characteristics of different breeds and why breeds are crossed. The office staff can now recognise and put a name to Blackface, Greyface and Texel! Although they saw plenty of lambs, they didn't see any ewes giving birth – suppose not everything can be produced on cue!

The secretariat were grateful to Cathy for showing them around and answering their questions. They also took some smashing photos.



Yes, we are very interesting

BSAS Conferences in 2003

9-10 Sept 2003

The Appliance of Pig 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 MLC 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. **Deadline for summaries 30 June.**

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. 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 or rail. Please see enclosed and ~~website for full details~~. **Deadline for summaries 30 June.**

18-19 Oct 2003

Merida Satellite Workshop - Wild and domestic herbivore diet characterization - 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. Workshops will cover *alkanes methodology, in situ methodology* and *in vitro* (modelling of data). One idea is that the workshop produces a small handbook, which would describe the three techniques. There will also be integrated and measurement sessions. Deadline for abstracts is **11 July 2003**. Visit website address <http://isnh6mexico.org/satellite.htm>

Asia 2005

Next Global BSAS Conference - Integration theme

The International Group is currently forming a committee to run the next Global BSAS Conference in Asia in 2005 to follow the successful Nairobi (1999) and Merida (2003) meetings. Current favourite venue is Khon Kaen in Thailand, although the conference will be regional in aspect and probably cover an 'Integration Theme' to include crops, aquaculture and trees as well as animal science. Poverty reduction will play an important part.

The team will be led by Peter Rowlinson from Newcastle University. He is keen to involve potential sponsors from an early stage so that they can help mould the programme. He is very interested in any ideas on content. The format will include lectures, poster presentations, visits and workshops.

Other conferences and courses

30 Aug- 3 Sept 2003 **EAAP**

BSAS will be out in force at the EAAP Annual Meeting to be held in Rome, Italy, in September, with a display on the Nottingham University Press stand. This is to advertise the journal and attract new members. Melissa Royal and Mike Steele will be networking with delegates to identify potential members, advertise the BSAS Annual Meeting in 2004, and start a dialogue on how the society can work with EAAP to collaborate with like minded societies and individual scientists. For details on the meeting visit <http://www.newteam.it/EAAP2003>

26 -31 October 2003 **WCAP 2003**

The 9th World Conference on Animal Production will be held in 2003 in Porto Alegre, RS Brazil at the FIERGS Convention Centre. The purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge and to present the latest advances in technology and animal science with various cross-scientific disciplines. The theme of the conference is Animal Production for the Well-being of the Human Population. For further details contact E-mail: wcap.2003@ufrgs.br visit: www.wcap2003.ufrgs.br