

## Future Challenges to Animal Science Education Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 23 September 2004

This one day workshop aims to tackle what those involved or interested in animal science or agricultural education should do, given the dramatic changes occurring in the industry in the UK. The views of educators, policymakers, schools and employers will be given, and a series of workshops will try to address where next? Please encourage someone from your organisation to come along and contribute. It is a competitive world and thus sometimes a prickly topic to discuss, but unless we take a view, especially for policymakers, we may have no influence on educational provision for the future. We need a flow of good graduates for a changing industry, but how do we attract them, if we don't give them a positive view of what animal science and agriculture will be doing in 50 years time. Do come!

## YORK, 4-6 APRIL 2005, BSAS Annual Meeting

**CALL FOR PAPERS** for the BSAS Annual Meeting 2005, held at York University. We need your **summaries by 22 October 2004**. Contact BSAS or visit [www.bsas.org.uk](http://www.bsas.org.uk) for submission guidelines.

### PROGRAMME

The 2004 BSAS Annual Meeting was an excellent one and 2005 is programmed to be even better. We have invited sessions on :

- Genetic Evaluations
- Breeding for Health
- President's session – Farm Animals and Biodiversity
- Developing Countries – livestock and livelihoods
- Lessons from Model Animal Species
- Microbial Ecology of the Gut
- Immunology for Health and Production

We would like papers, theatre or poster, that fit these sessions as well as topics reflecting any aspect of animal science including equines and companion animals. In 2005 poster papers will get enhanced profile with dedicated plenary sessions, with no competing theatre sessions. If you have a series of papers that you think could make up a specific theatre, poster or discussion session please talk to us. We are interested in all ideas.

### Prices

The registration fee for 2005 will be the same as 2004. York University are pushing us hard on faculty and accommodation prices but we anticipate most delegates will face only a modest increase on their total conference costs. BSAS will even subsidise half price Sunday accommodation for all students attending the student satellite programme, prior to the main meeting (details page 2).

### Dining

For the first time the Monday Conference Dinner will be on campus. The Tuesday evening will have options for dinner in-house or a buffet at the Castle Museum in town. There will be also be a students orientated event, entertainment or you can, under your own steam, take some time out and take in the delights of York.

As you can see the new Programme Committee led by Peter Rowlinson is working hard to make BSAS 2005 excellent value for money. They would welcome any comments on how the whole meeting should evolve.

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## BSAS Scholarships

BSAS scholarships are now open. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2004, although the Technical & Ethical Committee will now also accept applications by 31 March for projects/tours/conferences, where the applicant cannot apply by 31 October 2004, but intends to undertake work before 31 October 2005. Early notice of an intended Spring application would be appreciated, as the majority of monies will be allocated on the 31 October deadline.

### The BSAS awards are:

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Kenneth Blaxter</i> | <i>BSAS members only</i>     |
| <i>Murray Black</i>    | <i>BSAS members only</i>     |
| <i>Alan Robertson</i>  | <i>Open to any applicant</i> |

Churchill scholarships available visit [wcmt.org.uk](http://wcmt.org.uk) - submissions by 21 October 2004.

## Summer Placement Scheme

A number of students took up the BSAS summer placement opportunities this year and their reports are available on the website. The scheme offers undergraduates an opportunity to undertake a 4-8 week period of research or work experience with an institute, college, university or commercial organisation so that they get a taste of the workplace. Despite its name BSAS is happy to consider placements at any time of year. Matched funding for the £500 given is required along with an opportunity to see how the work would be used in its industrial or end-user environment.

2004 Summer Placements undertaken in the UK by the following:  
Rebecca Brown, University of Newcastle  
Marion Ritter, IUT Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg)  
Bruno Tele, Harper Adams Agricultural College

## Student Sunday, 3 April, organised by Student Council

You might have read the article in the June newsletter about the BSAS Student Council. The Student Council has been formed with the aim of advising the BSAS Council on how BSAS should better meet the needs of students interested or involved in animal science. The Student Council will collect, collate and communicate the views of animal science students on issues affecting them such as scholarships, opportunities to present information and network, student conferences/workshops, training in various skills and representation within BSAS.

In the last few months the Student Council has planned a series of events for students that will take place before and during the Annual Meeting in York, 2005. These include a 'Student Sunday' to be held on the Sunday, 3 April before the Annual Meeting and will be based around an 'Introduction to Genetics' workshop presented by Genesis Faraday. On the Monday morning a 'Presentation Skills Workshop' by Phil Garnsworthy is scheduled and on the Tuesday there will be a 'Party Night' for all students featuring a live band. These will hopefully bring together many animal science students from across the UK and further afield with a chance to talk to each other, to improve their knowledge of genetics and presentation skills, and have fun too!

The workshops and activities will be **FREE** to BSAS students (join now) and Sunday night accommodation will be subsidised by 50%.

Any student interested in becoming a Student Council member is encouraged to contact BSAS or a current member of the Student Council (see below). The Student Council wants to become a democratical part of BSAS. See you all at York in 2005!

### BSAS Student Council

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Alison Bond, Harper Adams University College | (00684230@harper-adams.ac.uk)   |
| Catherine Hayhurst, University of Liverpool  | (cath@chayhurst.fsnet.co.uk)    |
| Penny Hawken, University of Newcastle        | (P.A.R.Hawken@newcastle.ac.uk)  |
| Jenny Macfarlane, SAC Edinburgh              | (j.macfarlane@ed.sac.ac.uk)     |
| Victoria Morris, Writtle College             | (Victoria.Morris@writtle.ac.uk) |

### Interesting websites.....

#### .....for gap year students

Anyone interested in a period working with an NGO (non-government organisation) during their gap year might like to visit [www.marinebiology.co.uk](http://www.marinebiology.co.uk) for ideas

#### ...for those interested in policy & science [www.iob.org.uk](http://www.iob.org.uk)

for a rundown on the new Science and Policy Review of IOB 2001-2004 that covers

- The state and status of the UK research community
- Researchers careers structure and pay
- The post-genome challenge
- Public understanding of science
- Science and sustainability
- Education

### Conference Ideas for 2005 and beyond please

It is never too late to let us have ideas for future Annual Meeting sessions or for specialised conferences – please let us have your thoughts – don't be shy - we won't necessarily ask you to organise!

### Scholarships & Project Money

Genesis Faraday has CASE and SPARK money available for two student-ships and 10 awards respectively. Please see [www.genesis-faraday.org](http://www.genesis-faraday.org) for details and deadlines.

## Student Essay Competition

Essay competition 2005 - £150 prize, plus two £50 runner ups. Following the success of the 2004 competition BSAS would like to receive applications for the 2005 competition – 1200 words maximum, on one of the following by 17 December 2004.

1. *Silvo pastoral systems, more talked about than applied. Discuss advantages and disadvantages*
2. Meat quality - Discuss the factors influencing meat and carcass quality and strategies for improving meat and carcass quality in a species of your choice.
3. *The impact of genetics on livestock production.*
4. The environmental impact of livestock farming.  
See [www.bsas.org.uk](http://www.bsas.org.uk) for full details.

## Equine Interest Group

BSAS is helping to establish an Equine Interest Group to bring together anyone interested in equines to join a network and series of workshops, discussions and meetings. Andrew Hemmings from the Royal Agricultural College is heading up the group and would welcome input. If you are interested please send him an e-mail to [a.hemmings@rac.ac.uk](mailto:a.hemmings@rac.ac.uk). He is interested in finding out what people (members or not) would like such a group to provide.

## Membership of the Home Office Animal Procedures Committee (APC)

During 2005 and 2006 the Home Office will be seeking new members for its APC. The Committee gives advice to the Home Secretary on the UK legislation and meets six times a year, usually in London. Details of the full functions of the APC are to be found at [www.apc.gov.uk](http://www.apc.gov.uk). If you are at all interested please let Mike Steele know in confidence so that the T&E committee of BSAS can nominate you at the appropriate time.

## The Edgar Pye Research Scholarship - £1750

Research-based project in any area of farm animal feeding including animal nutrition and management, feed production and marketing. The project can be undertaken in the UK, abroad or based on travel to study the appropriate subject and is open to anyone who is either studying agriculture or a related subject, or who is already employed in the Animal Feed Industry, and is resident in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.

Closing date for submission - 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005. Contact the Society of Feed Technologists – email: [SFTEurope@aol.com](mailto:SFTEurope@aol.com)

## Obituary

### PROFESSOR ERIC LAMMING OBE

It is with sadness that the society announces that Professor Eric Lamming died on 2nd June. Professor Lamming was a member of the society for 45 years.

He was the Professor of Animal Physiology for many years and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Nottingham. Professor Lamming was internationally renowned, particularly for his research work in the area of Large Animal Reproductive Physiology and through his efforts and guidance Sutton Bonington has built up an international reputation in this area. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

## ANIMAL SCIENCE - Publishing

As previously reported the Publications Committee of BSAS has been actively looking at how it should publish Animal Science in the future. Our citation factor needs to improve so that the best quality authors are encouraged to submit papers. A number of UK institutions now insist that their researchers only place papers in the highest ranking journals, in order to achieve better results in the RAE assessments. This often means AS loses good papers to journals like the US Journal of Animal Science.

So the status quo for AS is not really an option and the Publications Committee and Editors will meet on 14 Sept in London to consider a number of issues including:

- *The future content and format of AS*
- *How the citation rating and profile of the journal could be increased*
- *How more authors and subscribers could be encouraged*
- *How conference presentations could be used to enhance the journal*
- *Improved marketing*
- *A series of partnership proposals with commercial publishers*

Rather like the discussions BSAS held at York 2004 on 'where does the Society go', AS may need to reflect changes away from just farm animals, towards integrative biological sciences.

## NEW BGS President

John Vipond sheep specialist from the Scottish Agricultural College, Edinburgh is now the new BGS President. We wish him well in his year in office. BSAS and BGS have always had a close relationship which we all hope continues.

## Training

Oxford University have series of CPD training courses for Bioscientists. They have range of topics from genes, targets & therapy to stats for biologists  
see [www.conted.ox.ac.uk](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk)

## Conferences

**28 Sept 2004, Genesis-Faraday, Annual Conference** in Cambridge. They offer two free place to members. So if you are interested please check their website for the programme which contains several BSAS speakers and keynote speaker Prof. Herman Raadsma from University of Sydney, Australia. Let us know if you are going. BSAS is unable to fund travel.

**13-16 April 2005, Recent Advances in Pig and Poultry Modelling** Ithala Game Reserve, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. Visit [www.ukzn.ac.za/poultrysymp](http://www.ukzn.ac.za/poultrysymp)

**26 June-1 July 2005 XX International Grassland Congress**, Dublin, Grassland – a global resource. Details from Dr Frank O'Mara e-mail: [frank.omara@ucd.ie](mailto:frank.omara@ucd.ie) or visit [www.igc2005.com](http://www.igc2005.com)

**1-6 May 2006 Beef 2006 Australia's National Beef Exposition** Rockhampton, Queensland. Visit [www.beefaustralia.org](http://www.beefaustralia.org)

## BSAS Meetings 2004/2005

**23 September 2004**

**The challenge facing Animal Science Education, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester** - see programme for details. Please visit: [www.bsas.org.uk](http://www.bsas.org.uk) or [bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk](mailto:bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk) to register. Animal science education has been undergoing a change in its structure and provision with a substantial rationalisation in the traditional "animal production" focus. Institutions are looking to diversify and offer courses with an increased range of species. But are we able to continue to attract appropriate school leavers to our courses? Further, are we training graduates and diplomats adequately in relation to the new animal science environment on topics like welfare, food safety and human health? This conference/workshop will:

- focus on graduates
- look at how to better recruit school leavers to teaching programmes
- Identify how to develop and maintain effective linkages between schools and colleges
- Discuss progressively customising the number and type of candidates needed by the Animal Science Community.

An executive summary will be produced that can be of use to policy makers.

Please pass details to your networks.

**14-15 October 2004**

**Meat Quality - pigs and poultry, Agricultural University of Krakow, Poland** (leaflet enclosed).

Full details are in the accompanying leaflet. BSAS is very pleased to be working with the Agricultural University, Krakow as well as with our friends from the Hellenic Society in Greece. This meeting will not only give opportunities to discuss meat quality, but will allow BSAS to talk to delegates from Eastern and Central Europe on whether we could help establish a regional organisation to serve all those interested in Animal Science and Production. There is a great deal of potential for BSAS in this part of the world and scientists there are very keen to establish links with colleagues from other parts of Europe. Ample opportunities will exist to network and make initial contacts for future collaboration for individuals and their organisations.

Krakow is also an exciting city, "The New Prague". Why not visit before it changes. If you want source advice on cheap travel please contact the BSAS office who have information on a number of low cost airlines into Poland.

**4-6 April 2005**

**BSAS Annual Meeting, York, UK**

University of York - see page 1. Summaries to be received by 22 October 2004. Guidelines on the website: [www.bsas.org.uk](http://www.bsas.org.uk) or email: [bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk](mailto:bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk)

**September 2005**

**Emerging Equine Science, RAC Cirencester, UK**

The next Emerging Equine Science Conference is planned for Autumn 2005 (provisional date 20/21 September) at the RAC, Cirencester. The programme is now being developed and the organisers would like your thoughts on what to include as well as timing to best suit colleges teaching equine topics. This conference will emphasise the work of younger equine scientists and give students opportunities to present dissertations and research projects.

**15-18 November 2005**

**Integrating farming systems to meet the challenge of globalisation, Thailand**

Preparations for this exciting conference in the NE of Thailand are proceeding well with our colleagues at the University of Khon Kaen and the Animal Husbandry Association of Thailand. Mike Steele and Peter Rowlinson, visited Khon Kaen in late July to view the venue and hold discussions with Prof Metha Wanapat and his team on the programme, facilities, organisation, marketing and budgets. They had some very useful talks and visited a smallholder dairy farm, one of the possible venues for a delegate visit.

The venue is to be the Soffitel Royal Orchid Hotel in the centre of Khon Kaen which has good in-house conference rooms, exhibition space, a pool and fitness centre as well as 5 star standard rooms. The Soffitel costs about £25 room/night (all Thai hotels quote per room rather than per person) and there are a variety of alternative good hotels, literally within 5 minutes walk, costing much less! Thailand is rightly famous for its food and there are a multitude of excellent eateries around, where it is difficult to spend more than £2/3 a head.

If you have not visited Thailand before then this conference will give you an ideal opportunity to network with delegates from throughout the Far East, also China, India and Australasia. In addition, Thailand is an ideal place to take a break. Whether its beaches in the south, trekking in the north or just the food, markets and shopping. Transport within Thailand is very cheap with a multitude of low cost reliable airlines. Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam are a short flight away. Return flights from the UK for around £500.