

Who's land and resources are they?

This editorial thing is a great lark, really. 4 times a year I get to write about whatever I like, I get to edit people's stories to read the way I like, select material for the newsletter that I want, and so on. As I've mentioned before, I know full well that its not the most coveted job on the committee. President Chris has some interesting comments on where professional organisations like ours may need to go in the future – specialisation seems to be a common strategy in business these days, perhaps we need to look at the same. Allow the researchers and producers to get on with what they do best, and get experts in for some of the services we require?

This is, afterall, *your* newsletter, not mine, and how its written and delivered needs to meet your needs, not mine. So while I rush to get it completed, that's what has to be kept in mind. Even though I'm in a hurry to get it done before April, which of course is *the roar*, closely followed by the opening of duck-season! I'm quite partial to my hunting and shooting, if you didn't already know. And that piece of information allows me to segue into the topic I thought I'd cover in this editorial (I note that I use a technique like that a bit in my writings – must check the reason with my shrink!).

Everybody else is having a say on the tenure of the South Island High Country, so why not me? I wonder whether the debate hasn't become more about process rather than outcomes – *how* we do things rather than *what* we want to achieve. The process and debate seems to be about who gets what, how its split up, and who gets paid, rather than the things we want to conserve in our high country and 'wild places'.

To me, 'to conserve' means *to make wise use*, not to preserve or lock up. A process that seems to make everybody unhappy, as it was described in a recent documentary, doesn't seem like wise use to me. I like to access the high country, to hunt the wild game, and I view it as my birthright as a New Zealander. But I also am a free-marketeer, and believe in private property rights. I also don't have much time for central planning of economies and don't believe that resources are automatically better cared for in Government control. In short, I believe that leaving a lot of our high country in farming is the best way ultimately to achieve the outcomes we want. I also recognise that the lessees on Pastoral Leases have a very stong form of tenure, very close to freehold.

Recently I spent a week in one of our high country valleys, hunting tahr and staying in a DOC hut. But to access the area and indeed for most of the hunting, I needed permission to cross and access Pastoral Lease land. Arguably there would be a paper road somewhere that might give me automatic legal access, but then I certainly wouldn't be able to drive along it. The farmer's track gave us straight-forward access, but somebody has to pay to establish and maintain that track. Areas returned to the Public in my experience rarely have vehicle access maintained – money isn't being earned off the land, and what funds are available are directed to weed management and upkeep of facilities such as huts.

The best solution I've seen is proposed "Whole Property Covenants", a quasi-market, Public:Private Partnership solution to the situation. Leave the land available for farming, but in effect renegotiate the terms of the lease, perhaps to allow for assured public access. A full report is available from the High Country Accord website, and it offers an elegant solution to allowing continued farming of these areas and maintaining and enhancing the other values we place on this land.

There is a challenge here for our Society – integrating animal production with other ecological and aesthetic considerations. And I suspect this will be the unifying thread of all our work in the years to come. To 'add value' to our primary products, the secret added ingredient won't be 11 herbs and spices, but rather will be the land, people and culture that produce them. The 'story' we can attach to every container load, about the land, the people and the *resilience* of our management, will be the key to our success.

Aaron

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily those of the NZSAP.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Adapting to change.

Darwin demonstrated that the mechanism driving biological evolution and genetic continuance is "survival of the fittest". But being 'fit' in one particular eon does not guarantee survival to the next. For example, a very fast pukeko gets to food the quickest but is no match for the modern car! Hence, the term "fittest" should refer to an organism's genetic ability to adapt to an ever-changing environment. Logically, the attributes of the 'fit' individual that confers gene survivability may actually present a degree of awkwardness during the here-and-now. For argument's sake...a slow pukeko with sensitive feet and an aversion to hot tar seal maybe left with crumbs, but doesn't lose its head over it. I know I feel very "fit" most of the time!

Do we as a Society need to change? Perhaps not right now but adapting to an ever-changing environment is an essential survival strategy. During my time on Management Committee over the last four years, I have encountered perhaps three external pressures that, in my view, will need to be addressed at some point in the future. These are (1) format of the annual conference and Proceedings; (2) greater expectations of professionalism; and (3) "the modern scientist's squeeze" – increased accountability for time and money, and less of it to begin with.

The first issue gets continually raised and then swept under the rug. I therefore commend Richard Dewhurst, David Scobie and Jason Archer for taking on the daunting task of reviewing this issue and agreeing to present their findings to the Society. Members should not panic about this review. Changes will occur if, and only if, we as a Society want to make that change. There is no current agenda to make changes....but, we'd all like to be informed of the issues.

The other issues are interlinked, and perhaps self-explanatory. Being on Management Committee is an honour and its fun, but the pay is bad...in fact it's really bad...like nothing. I foresee increased expectations of professionalism and a continuance, or worsening, of "the modern scientist's squeeze". Unchecked, this may reduce willingness and quality of services to our Society

Potential solutions include Committee contracting out tasks where possible. Examples of this already exist with a salaried Executive Secretary, typesetting of Proceedings, and production of Occasional Publications. I think it very fair and reasonable to expect contracting work out to increase in future. That way the Society as a whole funds the activity and not just a few individuals.

In my view, the issue of the "modern scientist's squeeze" needs to be dealt with by each of the institutions supporting NZSAP (e.g. AgResearch, Dexcel, Lincoln and Massey, etc). I know these institutions are very supportive in principle. However, some 'formal' way of accounting for the time and effort that their employees may be putting into NZSAP would lighten the load of "the modern scientist's squeeze" on the individuals who are generous with their time when it comes to industry good activities.

Chris Burke
NZSAP President

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. SUBS ARE NOW DUE – SEE THE YELLOW SHEET INCLUDED – AND SEND THEM TO JANE KAY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
2. 2007 CONFERENCE – DETAILS INSIDE, REGISTRATION FORM INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

LYNNE SMITH RETIRES!

After 10 years as NZSAP executive secretary the big R has finally arrived. From mid April 2007 Dr Jane Kay, a scientist at Dexcel, will take over. I have enjoyed my time as secretary and learnt lots of computer and secretarial skills on the way. I was very green in this field as my training was a B.Sc.Agr. from Sydney Uni .

I would like to thank all past and present committee members for their help and mostly electronic friendship. Special thanks must go to my husband John who in spite of not being endowed with the virtue of patience has always given me great help and support. Special thanks also to Neville Jopson who even after he had left the NZSAP committee was never too busy to give help with any computer or internet problems. He still organizes our CDs to be cut.

I have also enjoyed contact with NZSAP members though must admit I will not miss the members who in spite of being sent two personalized subscription invoices contact me to ask what fees they owe. Please do Jane a favour and pay your yellow invoices in the next newsletter. Nor will I miss dealing with pedantic novice auditors (I am sure Catherine and John would agree) or some of the overseas journal agencies who had no idea of world geography (they learnt).

I am sure Jane will do a great job as genes will be to the fore

Lynne Smith

MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome on behalf of NZSAP to our new members:

Sergio Blos Lopes, Balclutha

Roger Barnard, Kerikeri

Steve Webb, Cawthron Institute, Nelson

No resignations were received from members, leaving a Current Membership Total of 517.

NZSAP CONFERENCE 2007

Welcome to Wanaka!

Wanaka is a spectacular venue for holding the NZSAP annual conference, so please reserve the dates **Wednesday 20th – Friday 22nd June** in your calendar, send in your registration form and make your travel plans now!

We have a great program planned, with the conference starting with a farmer-oriented day, with the aim of promoting our connection with the sheep, beef and deer industries many of us work in. We then will have 1.5 days of science sessions, including the young members session, the Landcorp Speaker (Dr Ben Hayes) and a contract session which will give opportunity for those of us who are not "gene jockeys" to understand the implications of "Whole Genome Selection", a new breeding technology set to revolutionise breeding in dairy and other industries. We finish off with a visit to Mount Aspiring Station where the Aspinall family operate a pastoral business in a setting with fantastic scenic and recreational opportunities in high demand – approximately 70-80,000 people are allowed access on the 10,000 hectare property every year!

The conference dinner will be held in true southern style, with a "Southern Man/Woman" theme (that should probably be "a Southern Person theme", but the PC brigade have not quite made it this far south yet!), so bring along your hat, boots and oilskin! The conference is immediately prior to opening week-end for the ski season, and for those wishing to stay on for the weekend the conference has arranged a discount arrangement with the Cardrona ski field. So, before you put this newsletter down, grab the registration form, fill it out and send it in to our conference organiser (Pat Johnston and her team at DCMS) – and we'll see you in Wanaka!

Jason Archer, Conference Convenor for Wanaka 2007

2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 67th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production Inc. will be held on Wednesday 20th June 2007 at the Lake Wanaka Centre, Wanaka, at 4.30pm..

Agenda

Apologies
Minutes from 2006 Meeting
Matters Arising
Presidential Report
Treasurer's Report
Editor's Report
Election of Officers
General Business

Signed: Executive Secretary

NOMINATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2007-2008

Nominations for committee members are requested by April 22nd, to the Executive Secretary. The nominee, nominator and seconder must be members of the Society. The committee will be elected by postal ballot with the result announced at the Annual General Meeting, except that the Vice-President automatically becomes President, and the current President automatically becomes Immediate Past President.

The management committee consists of the following:

President	Vice-President
Immediate Past-President	Secretary
Convenor of the Conference Organising Committee	Publications Manager
Treasurer	Website Manager
Editor of Proceedings	Newsletter Manager

All offices except the President and Immediate Past-President are open for election.

Presently the committee meets three times a year, immediately before and after the Annual Conference and once in December to evaluate abstracts of papers submitted for presentation at the next conference. In addition to that it holds two or three telephone conference calls each year. To understand how the various officers contribute to the strategy and operations of the Society, speak to current and past committee members.

NOMINATION FORM FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Position nominated: _____

Name of Nominee (Print): _____

Signature of nominee: _____

Proposer (Print name): _____

Signature of Proposer: _____

Seconder (Print name): _____

Signature of Seconder: _____

Date: _____

DOES THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEET YOUR NEEDS?

One of the main purposes of our Society is to facilitate presentation and discussion of research work in animal production. At the end of our recent meeting to review abstracts for the 2007 meeting in Wanaka, several management committee members were left asking the above question. We have taken some initial soundings among society members, but are planning to open up a discussion of the format of the meeting and Proceedings during the AGM at the Wanaka Conference.

We are fortunate to have a wide range of participants involved in our meeting- including farmers, consultants and scientists. Our scientist members cover the range from quite basic science through to applied studies. For some, the meeting provides review papers to update them on new or topical areas. For others, the meeting provides a first experience of presenting a scientific paper. The meeting has always been an important test bed for applied studies that may not interest the editors of international journals- but which are key for New Zealand's livestock industries.

Is the current Conference and Proceedings format meeting your needs? Please give the matter some thought and come to the AGM armed with you views. We have no fixed views of whether, or how, things should change – at this stage, we just want to hear how the current formats work for you.

AGRESEARCH ANIMAL GENOMICS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUND AWARDS FEBRUARY 2006_____

Travel Award Applicants receive \$13, 612 from the January 2007 Funding Round

Management Committee and the AgResearch Genomics Award Selection Panel met in February 2007 to consider applications for the NZSAP Animal Science Awards and the AgResearch Animal Genomics International Travel Award respectively. We are pleased to announce that the following applicants have received funding:

NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD

Craig Thomas (Veterinarian and Beef Consultant, South and Mid Canterbury Veterinary Services, Ashburton)

To attend the Beef Improvement Federation of America conference at Ft. Collins, Colorado, USA in June 2007. While in Colorado a visit is also planned to Colorado State University to see Professor Dorian Garrick who is the genetics consultant for a Sustainable Farming Fund-supported study of beef cow efficiency of which Craig is the project leader.

Dr Lindsay Matthews (Programme leader, Rumen, Nutrition and Welfare, AgResearch, Hamilton)

To attend the 41st Annual Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) in Merida, Mexico (30 July to 3 Aug 2007). Dr Matthews will present papers on the welfare implications of variations in body condition of dairy cows and variations in ewe nutritional status on lamb welfare. Lindsay will also be monitoring international trends in animal welfare research that have the potential to influence the development of animal welfare research, practice, policy and trade in the New Zealand pastoral livestock industries.

Dr Karin Schütz (Scientist, Rumen, Nutrition and Welfare, AgResearch, Hamilton)

To attend the 41st annual congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) in Merida, Mexico (30 July-3 to Aug 2007). Dr Schütz will be presenting results from recent work and aiming to create discussion and receive feedback on research being presented. Karin also hopes to develop new contacts and collaborations with other scientists in this field and to promote animal behaviour and welfare research that is being performed in New Zealand to an international audience.

Dr Penny Back (Secretary, NZSAP Management Committee 2007).

Travelling to Vietnam on request of Management Committee to partake in a meeting of the organising committee for the 13th Asian-Australian Association of Animal Production (AAP) Congress to be hosted by Vietnam. This follows on from Penny's involvement as NZSAP representative at the 12th AAP Congress in Korea last year. Our historical involvement in AAP established the NZSAP Animal Science Awards, and NZSAP guidelines state clearly that travel awards involving AAP be considered high priority.

AgResearch Animal Genomics International Travel Fund

Nadia Mclean (Research Associate, AgResearch Animal Genomics Group, Mosgiel)

To visit the Scottish Agricultural College in Sept-Oct 2007 to enable the comparison of the CT methodology for assessing meat quality used by Dr Geoff Simms and Elly Navajas, with those used for assessing meat quality in NZ. A visit is also planned to Anthenry, Ireland to the lab of Dr Seamus Hanrahan who is improving cervical AI techniques and is now achieving an 80% success rate. The visit with Dr Hanrahan will provide an opportunity to learn the techniques he is using. Nadia is also planning to meet with the Marks and Spencer team in the UK to advance a collaborative project developing genetic marker tests for meat quality. This will further knowledge in the areas of meat quality, particularly consumer requirements.

Applications for the next round of travel awards closes on **31 July 2007**. Details on the NZSAP website and application forms from the Executive Secretary.

NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD REPORT – PETER AMER

Brazil has 15 million breeding sheep. Hair sheep are common, including the Santa Innes which has small mature size, poor carcass conformation, and modest prolificacy, but which is an aseasonal breeder, and reasonably well adapted. Performance recording and genetic evaluation is focused largely on growth traits. There is a strong interest to improve carcass yield.

There is a problem with Facial Eczema that occurs in the beginning of the wet season, in one kind of tropical grass. In bad years, high rates of mortality can occur, and this tends to be particularly a problem for sheep bought in from the North East of Brazil where sheep farming is much more common, but there is not a problem with Facial Eczema. Texel and Dorper sheep breeds are being tried, as well as at least one composite breed from New Zealand.

Farmers get twice as much per kg of carcass weight for sheep meat compared with beef. This reflects the widespread availability of beef relative to lamb which is very scarce. In the Minas Gerais region of Brazil, lamb is primarily available for consumption at specialized restaurants.

The 8th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production attracted over 1000 delegates from around the world. There is a great deal of research work going on around the world involving the application of molecular genetics to livestock improvement. While their successful applications in industry and commercial breeding programs are limited outside of New Zealand, there is currently a great deal of interest in genomic selection systems involving very large numbers of densely spread SNP markers throughout the Genome.

Other new areas of interest include the application of market research techniques to the formulation of breeding objectives, and the development and application of software for managing genetic diversity within a selected population while still maintaining high rates of genetic progress in economic traits.

NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD REPORT – SIMONE HOSKIN

Is New Zealand animal production getting left behind?

Dr Simone Hoskin recently visited South Korea as a lead speaker on ruminant nutrition at the Asian Australasian Association of Animal Production 12th Animal Science Congress, Busan. This large congress over 5 days involved 1200 delegates from 25 countries. There were concurrent sessions on everything from growing shrimps to camels. In addition, 8 satellite symposia on major topics such as nutrition and animal breeding took place.

Yet despite such a major meeting of minds and showcase for new agricultural technology, New Zealanders were noticeably scarce (n=3) and the most poorly represented of the member countries of the AAAP. This contrasted with neighbouring Japan, renowned for their high-tech science, who sent 250 delegates. Questions were asked like “why are there not more New Zealanders here?” and “isn’t animal production important to the New Zealand economy anymore?”

Growth in animal production across Asia is a huge 12-18% per annum on average. The higher values are for ruminant production, particularly dairy and aquaculture. Demand for ruminant meat and dairy products is growing fast in Asia. Although Asian countries are starting from a low base, this makes the NZ dairy industry target of 4% per annum pale in comparison.

In Korea, rice paddies are increasingly being converted from growing rice for human consumption to forage for silage to feed beef and dairy cattle, deer and goats.

It's not just growth, but the jump into high-tech systems that is impressive. Adoption of Western technology has got them so far, but Asian countries are now doing some quick thinking to rapidly meet their own challenges. There are fully automated and serviced high-rise “apartments” for pigs for example.

Asian countries are also at the forefront of research to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. Japan and India in particular, are focussed on reducing ruminant methane emissions. Other countries are looking to make the most energy efficient use of animal manure.

The 13th AAAP Animal Science Congress is due to be held in Vietnam in 2008. New AAAP members Sri Lanka and The Peoples Republic of China will no doubt be making an impression. So New Zealand animal scientists, don't be afraid to ride the Asian animal science knowledge tsunami, rather than get left in its wake.

AGRESEARCH ANIMAL GENOMICS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUND REPORT – DIANNE HYNDMAN _____

The Horizons in Livestock Sciences conference 2006. The Farm of the Future

‘The Future ain't what it use to be’ as I discovered while attending a most thought provoking conference, held in October at Surfers Paradise. People from different disciplines and nationalities were invited to present their prospective on how to deal with the challenges of feeding an accelerating world population (predicted to be over 9 billion by 2050), global warming, shortage and degradation of natural resources by the impact of intensive farming. Around a 150 people attended

Mario Giampietro of Rome, for sees no technology capable of replacing the depleting natural resources. His solution is ‘Globally lower the population density’. His prediction is hyper specialised farm managers rather than owner operators, growing bio fuel along side crops and livestock.
Other approaches were intensive farming monitored by computers

Waste management was practically addressed by Anne Wilkie from the Florida University who promoted the use of Anaerobic Digestion Technology to convert manure produces by intensive farming to energy in the form of Bio Gas, thus solving two major problems with one process, pollution and energy production. Mean while out in the field. Monitoring pasture growth and stock movement from satellites would allow farmers to set up virtual fences to control grazing. Instead of a bell the cow wears a GPS system that could give negative feedback if she strays out of a designated area. Gates could also be controlled from the computer.

The role of genetics caused some debates. Leif Andersson of Sweden was all for transgenics while. Augustin Blasco of Spain pointed out the limitations of cloning for a single trait that is more likely multi gene related or environmentally controlled. Bruce Walsh of The Arizona University used evolutionary theory to cautions against single trait selection, pointing out that natural selection for multi traits is continually going on in the background of breeder selection.

Mike Archer from the University NSW delivered an important message in an entertaining way. “We need a revolution, first between the ears then on the land” .Mike promotes Conservation through Sustainable Use CSU. Instead of treating kangaroos as pests, farm them rather than less resilient cattle. Planting drought resistant native shrubs as feed would also restore the natural balance that has been undermined by soil erosion.

The good thing to know is that government policy around the world is directing its attention to sustainable farming. The most encouraging presentation on this subject was given by Dr Janet Dwyer. Of the UK. The key moves in Europe are; to reconnect the population with the farming community. Encouraging farm based

education as part of school curriculum's, localizing outlets and retraining farmers to produce quality food for different niche markets while promoting environmental quality standards.

The event has given me a greater awareness of the value of agricultural research. I feel more passionate about the role I can play in securing the future..

My thanks to the members of the society for the opportunity to attend

Dianne Hyndman

AGRESEARCH ANIMAL GENOMICS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUND REPORT – PHIL FARQUHAR _____

NZSAP AgResearch Animal Genomics Travel Award Report-

During the week 14 – 18 August 2006 I attended the 8th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production, which was held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Two main factors, Varig bankruptcy and terrorist threat in London resulted in fewer people (approx 10%) attending the congress, with the number attending being approximately 1100.

At the congress I presented a poster paper titled "Introgression of the Booroola Mutation (FecB) Leads to Hyper-prolificacy in a Romney Sheep Flock." There appeared to be considerable interest in the paper and during the poster session I was approached several times to discuss certain aspects of the paper.

The Congress involved speakers from all over the world and the scientific programme included all facets of animal breeding, including biological, statistical, agricultural, social and economic aspects. The congress opened with plenary session covering the Basis of Animal Breeding. From this point on there were 4 sessions each day with 5 - 6 concurrent papers per session, which made it impossible to attend all the papers of interest.

I met Dr Elisha Gootwine from Israel who has been involved with the introgression of the Booroola gene into milking breeds in Israel. Time spent with Dr Gootwine was valuable as we were able to discuss all aspects of the Booroola programme. Dr Chanda Nimbkar presented a paper outlining the preliminary results of the number of lambs born and weaned per ewe lambing for the Fec B heterozygous and non carrier ewes in smallholder flocks in Maharashtra State of India. Results were similar to those of our studies in that although the Fec B mutation had a positive effect on numbers born, the number of lambs weaned did not increase as much due to high mortality among lambs from heterozygous ewes. Studies were undertaken in areas where there were no fences and considerable cross fostering occurred resulting in continuous deaths from birth. Common practice in these flocks is to wean lambs early as the rams run with the ewes all year round.

It was interesting to hear that the South African Dorper sheep only weans 0.95 lambs and that the Dorper has a high rate of carcass fat as a percentage of carcass weight. From this information and the fact that it is generally accepted in South Africa that breed improvement in the Dorper sheep breed is based on subjectively assessed traits as determined by show standards it is not surprising that the Dorper breed has not become popular in New Zealand.

In Denmark today the meat sheep population are of limited size. With only about 100,000 breeding ewes and 10,000 flocks, inbreeding has the potential to become a big problem. Studies to date provide evidence of inbreeding depression for birth weight, daily gain and litter size in the three major meat sheep breeds.

The experience gained from my attending this Congress was extremely valuable in being an opportunity to present a summary of my many years' work with Booroola sheep to an international forum and it was a great opportunity to network with the world's best in their field. .

I am extremely grateful to the NZSAP for providing funding towards this trip.

2007 AUSTRALASIAN DAIRY SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

The National Dairy Alliance, in association with Symposium partners Dairy Australia and Dairy Insight, is pleased to announce the 2007 Australasian Dairy Science Symposium to be held at The University of Melbourne this September.

The theme of the Symposium is: '*Meeting the challenge for pasture-based dairying*'. The objectives of the Symposium are to:

1. review the scientific knowledge underpinning sustainable pasture-based dairy production and identify key areas where new knowledge is required to maintain the competitive advantage of the New Zealand and Australian dairy industries;
2. build the capacity of the Australian and New Zealand dairy science communities, to ensure their research and development work continues to place Australasian dairy farmers at advantage;
3. provide a forum for information exchange and networking amongst Australian and New Zealand dairy scientists, and encourage Trans-Tasman research collaboration;
4. provide a forum for young / early career scientists to develop their skills and capacity.

The Symposium Organising Committee have planned an exciting program which will bring leading researchers from New Zealand and Australia together to focus specifically on the science of pasture-based dairying. It is many years since a dairy science-focused event of this sort has been available for New Zealand and Australian dairy researchers to get together to discuss their work and its implications for their industries. The program will appeal to all those involved in dairy research on both sides of the Tasman (and potentially, in other countries). It should also appeal to those involved as professionals servicing the dairy industry as advisers, consultants or educators.

The Symposium Organising Committee invites submissions of abstracts for oral and poster papers that align with the Australasian Dairy Science Symposium 2007 sessions of:

- Feed conversion efficiency
- Biotechnology for the dairy industry
- Forage production and animal response, and
- Dairy production systems

Submissions are also invited on topics that do not necessarily fit with the sessions listed above. If accepted, these papers will be presented as short oral presentations rather than posters. Abstracts related to either research or extension are welcome. Abstracts should describe original, completed work. Abstracts are to be submitted online via the Conference website www.mcmconferences.com/dairy from Wednesday 7 March with submission due by **Friday 27 April 2007**.

For more information, visit www.union.unimelb.edu/conferences/dairy

CGIAR'S GENDER DIVERSITY PROGRAM GLOBAL DATABASE CAMPAIGN

Looking for jobs, scholarships and funding opportunities? Join G&D's Global Database of Women Scientists and Professionals!

If you are a woman working as a scientist, researcher or management professional with a Master's or PhD, you are warmly invited to join the CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program's (G&D) Global Database of Women Scientists and Professionals. Once you register, you will automatically receive *targeted* notification by email whenever we learn of a new opportunity relevant to *your area of expertise*. Over 4659 women have signed up and are currently enjoying the benefits of the information received through the database.

Our purpose for the database is twofold:

- (1) to inform women around the world, in a timely manner, about job vacancies in the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and other international organizations; and,
- (2) to ensure that women everywhere receive timely information on fellowships, scholarships and grants. Our overall goal is to increase the pool of qualified women who apply for research and managerial positions.

This database is for information distribution only. We will not give your contacts to any other organization.

Please note that G&D does not accept CVs and plays no role in recruitment or selection decisions.

How do I register?

There are several avenues. We encourage online applications.

Online: You can register through our website at http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/cast_the_net

Email: Complete the registration form attached and email to Pauline Bomett at p.bomett@cgiar.org or Amelia Goh at a.goh@cgiar.org

Fax us your completed form at +254-20-7224001

Mail the form to the Gender & Diversity Program, P O Box 30677-00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya.

For more information on the CGIAR Gender and Diversity Program, see www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org

AWARDS APPLICATIONS

- 31st July – Animal Science Award Applications to Executive Secretary
- 31st July - AgResearch Animal Genomics Award applications to Executive Secretary

The Animal Science Award is to promote and advance Animal Science and Production. Specifically it encourages early career development and supports contact with AAAP activities. Applicants must normally have been a member of NZSAP for at least one year prior to application and be a current financial member. Applications are to be sent to the Executive Secretary by 31st July for consideration by the management committee in August/September.

The objectives of the **AgResearch Animal Genomics Award** are to facilitate research in the wider field of animal genomics including gene discovery, gene function (physiology) and gene inheritance (animal breeding) studies. In particular, the Award is intended to support conference travel and/or the acquisition of new technical skills by technicians and research associates.

Application forms are available from the Executive Secretary, or on the website <http://nzsap.org.nz>

VII INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE NUTRITION OF HERBIVORES

- *Brief introduction to ISNH symposiums*

The International Symposium on Nutrition of Herbivores (ISNH) is a series of symposiums which focus on advances in the field of nutrition of herbivores. It has been hosted by different countries all over the world six times. Now, in Sept. 16-22, 2007, the 7th ISNH will be hosted in Beijing China . Every time, the symposium will have a proceeding which collected the invited speakers' contributions to the symposium. And also, the ordinary plenary contributors' papers will be collected as another proceeding.

- *Introduction of ISNH7*

ISNH7 is expected to be the most specialized international symposium in the herbivore nutrition for the year 2007 in Beijing , China . We expect an attendance of more than 400 foreign and local participants. The theme of ISNH7 is "the herbivore nutrition associated with the development of efficient, safe and sustainable livestock production." The symposium will include 8 sessions. They are:

- 1) The role of herbivores in mixed/integrated agriculture and agro-forestry systems in Asian countries;
- 2) gastrointestinal microbial ecology in herbivores;
- 3) Assimilation of carbohydrates and nitrogen in the herbivore intestine;
- 4) molecular advances in forage breeding and utilization;
- 5) gene expression and gene-nutrient interactions in herbivores;
- 6) stress factors associated with herbivores nutrition;
- 7) nutritional practice;
- 8) nutritional options to secure environmental and food safety based on intensive animal production systems.

Each session is composed by several topics, 2 or more. We will have 19 topics in total. And for all, we will invite 19 famous nutritionists who have great abilities as senior authors, and 13 other nutritionists has been recommended as the co-authors to help the seniors to finish the contribution more scientifically. Also, senior authors can organize their author teams by themselves. Each topic will get a invited contribution as a 30-35 A4 - pages paper to be as the main presentation . And under each topic, 2 or 3 presentations each lasts for 10-15 min will be included. More scientists who works on the herbivores nutrition will get the chance to share their research with others. The most famous 18 animal nutrition scientists will compose as the international advisory committee to help to host a successful symposium. And the local organizing committee will also hire a lot of other scientists to examine and revise all the contributions in order to give the researchers all over the world a fantastic working.

With the supporting from China government, especially from the Ministry of the Agriculture of China and the China Association of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, we all think that the ISNH7 will be a successful symposium! It can improve the researching level on the herbivores nutrition greatly!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 30th – May 3rd 2006: The international Conference on Nutrigenomics and Gut Health.** Auckland, New Zealand. www.nutrigenomics.org.nz
- **Sunday 20th - Wednesday 23rd May 2007: ASB Agribusiness Conference, Queenstown.** Contact: www.agribusinessconference.co.nz/
- **November 13-15 2007: New Zealand Grassland Association Inc 69th Annual Conference.** Bayview Wairakei Resort, Taupo
- **16-21 September 2007: International Symposium on Herbivore Nutrition** which will be held in Beijing. All the information on the Symposium can be obtained at www.isnh7.org.cn

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An electronic version of this newsletter and other information on the Society is available at:
<http://nzsap.org.nz>

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