

MARCH 2005

THE GAP BETWEEN THE TOP AND THE BOTTOM IS GROWING.....ISNT IT?

You may have read recently of the creation of a Stonehenge replica in NZ. There has been an eternal fascination with ancient edifices in this country, and one of the most famous is the title of this month's editorial. As a famously egalitarian society, it is a national concern at times that one section of society might be sneakily stealing a march on the rest of us, and agriculture is no different. I've only been in this field for 9 years now, so I don't know when it started, but I do know that it is a matter of faith that there is an ever increasing disparity in the production and performance levels of farmers in New Zealand – *and what are funders/the Meat and Wool Board/scientists/Government/AgResearch/vets/we going to do about it???*

But, is it actually happening? A closer look suggests it isn't.....but also that it is. Confused? It all depends on how we assess "the gap". Take for example intensive Southland sheep farms, as monitored by Meat and Wool New Zealand's Economic Service. From 1976 to 2004, "Top Performers" (as judged by EFS/stock unit) lifted their lambing percentage about 26 percentage points, or an annualised gain of about 0.9% points per year. "Average performers" however lifted 30%, at an annual rate of nearer 1.1%. In production terms, we are actually seeing a narrowing of the gap, as further gain becomes increasingly harder the higher we go.

However, as our bank manager's favourite saying goes – "Performance is vanity, profit is sanity". Top performers in this instance have much lower costs of production. Average Farm Working Expenses over the 28 years have been 62% for this group, compared to 68% on average. That might not sound a large difference, but when it is compounded by differences in Gross Incomes, the gap between top and bottom in terms of Economic Farm Surplus is indeed growing.

So what is my point? I worry that the New Zealand pastoral industries are verging on the point of "buying production". Performance levels are approaching technological limits, and for some the costs of increasing are taking up most of the benefit. Where do we go from here? A focus on less cost (both in terms of direct financial costs and indirect labour and time costs) seems to be the key in future, as well as high output and top quality. We should aim for a sheep industry that can still make a healthy profit at \$50 per lamb, and a dairy industry profitable at \$3.00/kgms – and work hard to make sure we never need to cope with those prices.

*Aaron Meikle*

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

### VERY IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. SUBS ARE NOW DUE – SEE THE YELLOW SHEET INCLUDED – AND SEND THEM TO LYNNE SMITH, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
2. 2005 CONFERENCE – DETAILS INSIDE, REGISTRATION FORM INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

## **PRESIDENT'S PIECE**

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"Time and tide wait for no man". As we age and witness more tides I am certain a negative relationship develops and the time interval between high tides progressively shortens!!! Maybe I have a personal bias in my biological clock? About a quarter of 2005 has passed with our annual Conference scheduled for half-time in June at Lincoln University. It does not seem all that long ago that we met at our last conference in Hamilton!

Thank you to all members who offered to present papers at this year's Conference by submitting an Abstract. They made interesting reading. You will all now be "hard at it" crossing your "t's" and dotting your "i's" after your paper has been refereed. The diversity in papers offered will make for an interesting Conference, bridging the gap between science and production. This is particularly so as changes in research funding priorities are increasingly causing research to shift in the direction of adding value further along the value chain.

As in 2001 when we last held the Conference at Lincoln the Local Organising Committee, under the chairmanship of Andrew Sykes, are aligning our conference beside the South Island Dairy Event (SIDE). While this may give a slight bias towards dairy related papers the other papers continue to cover a wide range of production related fields as outlined in the programme listed in this Newsletter.

Make your bookings to attend early. It is easier on the budget than waiting to the last minute. I look forward to seeing you all there as we renew friendships and discuss agriculture *ad nauseam*, whether it is in formal sessions or at the planned social functions.

*Roland Sumner*

## **CONFERENCE 2005**

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### **Note from local conference organisers**

The local organising committee looks forward to welcoming you to the 65th meeting of the Society at Lincoln University. A reminder that the first day of the programme deliberately overlaps with the SIDE Dairy Farmers Conference; the field trip on the Thursday explores a development that will have major impact on the livestock industries of the Canterbury region and will be followed by a social event in one of Christchurch's premier entertainment venues. That's in addition to the Conference Dinner on the Wednesday evening following the AGM, a day earlier than usual. A reminder also that the Lions are at Jade Stadium on the day after the meeting!!

This year's conference programme includes a contract session on the issue of traceability convened by Grant Shackell in which there will be an address by the Minister of Agriculture – Jim Sutton. The other contract session, convened by Alastair Nicol, provides a look at novel and future animal-based products. The field trip (on Thursday afternoon) includes a visit to the NZ Riding for the Disabled, the Canterbury livestock selling complex and Air Force World for a wide-ranging admixture of things to see and hear. We have planned to provide a substantial offering of papers whilst allowing plenty of time in the breaks for the usual informal interactions that make attendance at the Conference enjoyable.

Andrew Sykes

### **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

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Refereeing of the 65 papers (not counting ones from the two contract sessions) for this year's proceedings is largely complete at the time of going to press. A few referees have been slow to complete reports, but they are being chased along so that all authors of papers should be able to have their final revised copy in by 12 April. By May all authors can expect to have galley proof versions of their papers to check for return by the middle of the month.

Graham Barrell

## 2005 CONFERENCE - PROGRAMME OUTLINE

	<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Morning</b>		Contract Session: Traceability	Concurrent Sessions  1) Sheep Production or Dairy Production  2) Wool/Meat or Dairy Products	Reproduction  Contract Session: Novel Animal Products
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Conference Open 1.15pm</b>  Young Members Sessions  Dairy Genotypes and Systems	Welfare/Health  <b>AGM 4.30pm</b>	Field Trip Departs 1.30pm	Environment/Methane  <b>Close 3.00pm</b>
<b>Evening</b>		Annual Dinner and Awards		

### **NZSAP INNOVATION AWARD (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)**

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The NZSAP Innovation Award recognises the paper presented at the annual conference, which in the view of the judging panel represents the greatest advance in science and/or technology for animal production. All papers presented at the annual conference are eligible for the Award.

### **AND AN EARLY CONTENDER.....**

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One of the papers submitted for this year's conference is worth looking out for, and suggests innovative thinking on the part of the authors. In the abstract considered by the committee, the authors recorded that "the cows were fed louts".

Great stuff – lowering supplementary feed costs and targeting a social problem. That's the sort of approach guaranteed to catch the judges' eye.

### **2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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The 65<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production Inc. will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005 at Lincoln University, starting at 4.30pm.

#### **Agenda**

Apologies  
Minutes from 2004 Meeting  
Matters Arising  
Presidential Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Editor's Report  
Election of Officers  
General Business

Signed: Executive Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NZSAP 2004

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Held at the Tempero Centre, Newstead, Hamilton

President (Neville Jopson) declared meeting open at 8:40 pm on 30 June 2004 during the conference dinner at Narrows Landing for the presentation of the following New Zealand Society of Animal Production awards.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- Oration in support of nomination of John Frederick Smith presented by Grant Shackell. Seconded by Catherine Morrow.  
Carried by acclamation.
- Oration in support of nomination of Keith (Jock) Lindsay Macmillan presented by Chris Burke. Seconded by Gwyneth Verkerk.  
  
Carried by acclamation.

### 2004 AWARDS

- 2004 McMeekan Memorial Award – Colin W. Holmes.
- 2004 Sir Arthur Ward Award – John W. Penno.
- 2004 Young Member Award - Claire Cooper and Vanessa Crowley.
- George Davis was made a Fellow of Royal Society of New Zealand. The presentation made by Prof Carolyn Burns, Academy Council President, Royal Society of New Zealand.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Meeting re-convened on 1 July 2004 at 8:40 am at the Tempero Centre, Newstead.

### ATTENDANCE

Forty-one members in attendance. Minute Secretary Chris Burke.

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Robert Anderson, Vernon Clark.

Moved Sumner/ Morrow. Carried.

#### 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the 2003 AGM Minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved Shackell/ Pleasants. Carried.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

#### 4. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Key points:

- Current membership of the Society is 523, which is 9 more than last year. Obituaries for Sir Peter Elworthy (1978 McMeekan Award), Eric Gibson (1979 McMeekan Award) and Prof Donald Ross are printed in the 2004 Proceedings.
- Dr George Davis was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in November.
- Awards
  - 2003 Young Member Award – Nicola Shreurs
  - 2003 Innovation Award (Science and Technology) – A. Meikle and P.R. Amer for their paper entitled “What’s a better ram worth?”.
  - 2004 Jubilee University Awards - Rebecca Gale (Massey) and Brendon Richards (Lincoln)
  - 2004 Landcorp Lecture was presented by Professor John MacRae, Deputy Director, The Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland.
- Due to the judicious management of the Society’s investments, the Society was able to approve applications for six Animal Science Awards totalling \$13,100 to assist members travelling to overseas conferences during 2003/2004. The Animal Science Awards were undersubscribed this year.
- Livestock Improvement Corporation decided to discontinue sponsorship of the LIC Lecture. The Society is extremely grateful for the support they have provided with the LIC Lecture being a keynote address for the last eight conferences. A letter of thanks was sent to LIC to thank them for their support.
- The Management Committee wanted to continue with a keynote address, and sought a new sponsor. Landcorp Farming Limited kindly agreed to sponsor the keynote address, which will now be called the Landcorp Lecture. The Society is grateful for Landcorp’s continuing support.
- A new award fund has been established. The award is to be known as the AgResearch Animal Genomics International Travel Award. It is intended to support conference travel and/or the acquisition of new technical skills by technicians and research associates in the wider field of animal genomics. The awards will be funded from the interest on a capital sum of \$150,000 with the first call to be made in January 2005. A report will be required.
- The Society has incorporated all issues of the Proceedings into the SciQuest epublishing system (1941 to 2004). SciQuest has a powerful search facility, and makes the full archive available over the internet.
- The position for Editor of the Proceedings was modified this year. Expenses for secretarial support were funded and an honorarium of \$1,500 paid to the Editor.
- The Society has had difficulty filling the position of Publications Manager over the last year. In part, this is because the job description for the position is in a state of change. The new Publications Manager will oversee the merging and updating of Occasional Publications 7 (Supplementary Feeding) and 10 (Livestock Feeding on Pasture). They will also have the new task of promoting the NZSAP SciQuest Archive.
- Thanks to the Organising Committee for the current Conference under the chairmanship of Eric Kolver. The conference was extremely well organised and run. The services of a professional Conference Organiser were again used to ease the workload for the local Organising Committee.
- Thanks to members of the Management Committee and the Executive Secretary. In particular, thanks to Denis Elvidge (Editor) and Eric Kolver who finish on the Committee this year.
- The 2005 conference will be held in the Christchurch area.

That the President's report be received.

Moved Jopson/ G. Nicoll. Carried.

## 5. TREASURERS REPORT

Tabulated statements of financial performance, movements in equity, and financial position were presented.

That the annual financial report as circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record of the Society's accounts.

Moved Morrow/ Macmillan. Carried.

That subscription for 2005 remain at current level - \$65 (incl. GST) for Full members, \$32.50 (incl. GST) for Student and Retired members, and US\$65 for Overseas members (outside NZ and Australia).

Moved Morrow/ Sumner. Carried.

That members at the AGM give leave to the Management Committee to appoint an auditor for the Society's accounts in 2005.

Moved Morrow/ Scobie. Carried.

A budget for 2004 was presented showing an expected deficit of \$11,097. The AGM was advised of the proposed fusing of Occasional Publications 7 (Supplementary Feeding) and 10 (Livestock Feeding On Pasture), which would cost \$54,180 spread over two years.

## 6. EDITOR'S REPORT

Key points.

- Editing has become easier with submission of better-formatted papers.
- 53 non-contracted papers and 16 contract presentations (not all with papers).
- Tremendous cooperation from the 110 referee's required.
- Editor noted that too many authors are appearing on papers.
- General content emphasises 'science' rather than 'production'.
- A biennial conference linking with the Australian Society of Animal Production may need to be considered in the future if the current trends continue.

That the Editor's report be received.

Moved. Elvidge/ Morris. Carried.

## 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations received for positions of:-

President	Roland Sumner
Vice President	David Scobie
Past President	Neville Jopson
Secretary	Chris Burke
Treasurer	Catherine Morrow
Proceedings Editor	Graham Barrell
Newsletter	Aaron Meikle
Web Site Manager	Julie Everett-Hincks
Publications Manager	Patricia Johnson
Conference Convenor	Andrew Sykes

There being one nomination for each position, the nominated persons were declared elected.

Moved. Jopson/ A. Nicol. Carried.

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Student discounts to attend conferences.

Patricia Johnson thanked Management Committee for revising the timing of eligibility requirements for entrants of the Young Member Award, but questioned why there was no student discount provision at the 2004 Conference. In the recent past, student registration has ranged from 'free' to 'discounted' to 'no concession'. A consistent policy that provides discount to students is desired from universities because a maximum budget for students to attend conferences is typically \$400-500. Discussion generally supported students being able to attend conferences at a discounted rate. Options raised included obtaining funds for student discount by increasing subscription or conference registration for non-student members, or utilising Animal Science Award funds. It was noted that the Conference Organisers operate a separate account from the Society, and that discount registrations to students were at the discretion of the sub-committee when finances allowed.

That students have free registration to attend conferences and Management Committee to establish the means for providing this concession.

Moved. Shackell/ Morris. Carried.

- Free on-line access for DeerResearch to selected NZSAP publications

Alistair Nicol requested that relevant NZSAP Proceedings papers be made available for free on-line access to DeerResearch. A similar request has been made by another industry association highlighting that a principle of NZSAP Copyright is at stake. Free provision of NZSAP material to DeerResearch would set a precedent that other associations could take advantage of in obtaining free access to NZSAP publications. This would undermine current initiatives to control on-line access of NZSAP material through SciQuest.

That Management Committee reconsiders decision not to provide DeerResearch with ability to have free on-line access to relevant NZSAP material, and seek a mutually agreeable solution.

Moved. A. Nicol/ Sykes. Carried.

- Formal acknowledgement of LIC or Landcorp Lectures

That presenters of the former LIC Lecture, and the new Landcorp Lecture, are acknowledged in the Conference Proceedings.

Moved. Macmillan/ Morrow. Carried.

Macmillan also suggested that the name of the publisher should be cited in the Proceedings for auditing purposes.

- 2005 Conference venue

Andrew Sykes sought opinion of AGM as to whether the 2005 Conference venue should be a university hostel-type setting or a more upmarket venue such as Akaroa. Members indicated by a show of hands that the university hostel-type setting would be preferred.

Meeting closed 10:20 am.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2005-2006**

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Nominations for committee members are requested by April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder (Print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Secunder: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOMINATION OF MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

Under the rules of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production (NZSAP) intending members are required to have their nomination for membership moved and seconded by members of the Society. In cases where intending members have no contact with, or do not know existing members, members of the NZSAP Management Committee have traditionally supported their nomination. However, many of these people are not personally known to the Management Committee.

The New Zealand veterinary profession is widespread throughout New Zealand with many practitioners working from advertised businesses. This makes the veterinary profession highly visible to the public at large. Their position in the community also gives them wide contact with people in the area of animal production issues.

With a widening of our membership and an increasing involvement and interaction with the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) the NZSAP Management Committee seek your feedback that applications for membership to NZSAP may be supported by members of either the NZSAP or members of the NZVA.

This will entail a change in our constitution that will need to be approved at a general meeting of the NZSAP.

Accordingly notice is hereby given that the following motion will be tabled at the 2005 New Zealand Society of Animal Production AGM to be held during the 2005 Conference at Lincoln University in June 2005.

*That the words in Section 3(b) Admission of Ordinary Members: which reads "Candidates for membership shall be proposed and seconded by members." be changed to read "Candidates for membership shall be proposed and seconded by members of either the New Zealand Society of Animal Production or the New Zealand Veterinary Association."*

Moved Roland Sumner, seconded Patricia Johnson.

## SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY \_\_\_\_\_

- 31<sup>st</sup> July – Animal Science Award Applications to Executive Secretary
- 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> July for consideration by the management

committee in August/September. The application form is available from the Executive Secretary, or on the website <http://nzsap.org.nz>

## **ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD APPLICATIONS HIT DOUBLE FIGURES!** \_\_\_\_\_

Ten eligible Animal Science Award applications were considered in the January 2005 round. The results of marketing this 'under-subscribed' award last year exceeded our expectations and made it very contestable. All applications were of high quality but only half could be granted given the funds available. Congratulations Jeremy **Bryant**, Mark **Fisher**, Paul **Kenyon**, Mario **Lopez-Benavides** and Mairi **Stewart** who each received an award. Applications for the next round of Animal Science Awards must be with the Executive Secretary by **31 July 2005**.

## **AGR RESEARCH ANIMAL GENOMICS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUND FEBRUARY 2005** \_\_\_\_\_

### **NZSAP proudly announces the first recipients of the new AgResearch Animal Genomics Award**

Congratulations to Sharon **Hickey**, Jason **Peters** and Jamie **Award** in being the first successful applicants for an AgResearch Animal Genomics Award administered by NZSAP. The purpose of the award is to increase the skills and knowledge base within New Zealand animal genomics; and is especially targeted to technical staff travelling internationally to acquire new skills in this field.

The Meeting of Selection Panel to consider applications for the AgResearch Animal Genomics International Travel Fund (AAGITF) was held for the first time on 16th February 2005.

We are pleased to announce that 3 recipients have received funding; Sharon Hickey (AgResearch Ruakura) Jason Peters (AgResearch Grasslands) and Jamie Ward (AgResearch Invermay). A total of \$5500 was awarded with a similar amount likely to be available in 6 months. Supporting international travel for conference attendance and lab visits by technicians and research associates is exactly what the award was created for. The panel hopes the recipients enjoy their chosen conferences and lab visits.

After some discussion the selection panel formed the view that in future they would give preference to persons presenting material as a senior author at the conference they wished to attend, over persons wishing to attend conferences in an observer capacity.

## **ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION SOCIETIES CONGRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

I recently had the privilege, as your President, of representing the New Zealand Society of Animal Production at the 11th Animal Science Congress of the Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies (AAAP). The Congress was held in Kuala Lumpur from 5 to 9 September. Older members will remember that New Zealand hosted the 4th Animal Science Congress of AAAP in 1987 in Hamilton.

A biennial congress and publication of the Asian-Australasian Journal of Animal Science are the principal activities of the AAAP, an association with representatives from associations and societies related to animal production in 17 countries throughout Asia and Australasia. These include Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. With all these different nationalities the official language is English.



The theme of the 11th Congress was "New dimensions and challenges for sustainable livestock farming". While much of the region is still "subsistence" farming there appears to be an increased awareness of issues of sustainability as governments attempt to increase food production from farming livestock. The Congress consisted of a series of keynote and plenary papers (33), contributed papers (146) and posters (222) with approximately 450 attendees. Presentations covered recent advances in animal biotechnology, genetics, breeding, reproduction, nutrition, rumen ecosystem, physiology, animal welfare, wildlife management, production systems and environmental interactions, and animal food products, as they relate to production in a tropical environment. As such information relating to a wide variety of species was presented including beef cattle, buffalo, dairy cows, deer, fish, goats, kangaroos, marmosets, mice, pigs, poultry, rats and sheep. When one comes to terms with the ranges of diets the various species are fed and the associated environment, the underlying physiology and animal management issues are essentially similar throughout the world. With nutritious green grass being in short supply in the tropics it is of interest to hear of the varieties of feed used to sustain ruminants from mulberry leaves to ensiled cassava pulp and ensiled potato pulp! Some of our Arab colleagues have even attempted to induce ovulation in Awassi ewes by feeding them royal jelly - unfortunately without success, unless the ewes are also injected with hormones at the same time!

Attending the Congress was a unique experience to see and hear about the problems of animal production in tropical environments, so different from our own.

Publication of the Asian-Australasian Journal of Animal Science is a significant business venture administered by the Korean Society of Animal Sciences and Technology. The journal was first published in March 1988. Since then a total of 114 issues in 17 volumes containing 2,536 papers have been published. We have two members on the Editorial Board, Roger Purchas in the area of animal production and applied science and Errol Thom in the area of forage and grassland. Visit the journal website at [www.ajas.info/](http://www.ajas.info/) for more information.

Roland Sumner, President

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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- ❑ South Island Agricultural Field days. 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> April. Lincoln. [www.siafd.co.nz](http://www.siafd.co.nz)
- ❑ Meat and Wool New Zealand Northern North Island Sheep Council "Survival of the Fittest". Seminar on Lamb survival and the future of the sheep industry. 8<sup>th</sup> April, Lincoln University. [gary.walton@meatandwoolnz.com](mailto:gary.walton@meatandwoolnz.com)
- ❑ 16<sup>th</sup> Global Warming International Conference and Expo. 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April, New York City. <http://globalwarming.net>
- ❑ 2005 World DNA and Genome Day. 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April. Dalian, China. [www.dnaday.com](http://www.dnaday.com)
- ❑ 13<sup>th</sup> Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference. 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> May, Wellington. [www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/conferences/vertebratepest](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/conferences/vertebratepest)
- ❑ Advancing Sheep and Beef Society "Sheep and Beef Business Conference". Christchurch Convention Centre, 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May. 0800272002
- ❑ New Zealand Institute of Agricultural Science Convention. Lincoln University. 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June.
- ❑ South Island Dairy Event. "The Next Step Forward". Lincoln University, June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. [www.dexcel.co.nz](http://www.dexcel.co.nz)
- ❑ 2005 American Dairy Science Association and American Society of Animal Science Joint Annual Meeting. Cinergy Centre, Cincinnati, Ohio. July 24-28, 2005. [www.fass.org](http://www.fass.org)
- ❑ Royal Society of New Zealand Annual Conference. Wellington 17 November 2005. Theme: Security and Biosecurity. [www.rsnz.org](http://www.rsnz.org)

#### **ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD REPORT - 15<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ANIMAL REPRODUCTION**

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I attended the 15<sup>th</sup> international Congress of Animal Reproduction (ICAR) meeting in Porto Seguro, Brazil.

As a NZ representative on the ICAR standing committee I attended the committee meetings held at the congress which amongst other things decided that the next ICAR will be held in Budapest, Hungary in 2008.

NZ is able to have three members on the standing committee and presently only two positions are filled. I recommend that the third position be filled by a nomination from NZSAP. This will increase the NZ influence on the programme for 2008 as apart from attending the meetings the role of the standing committee members is to lobby for topics and speakers to be included in the programme.

The meeting was attended by 1050 delegates from 57 countries and was very well run. The plenary and symposium papers were of high standard and gave an up-to-date review of a wide range of reproductive topics that was excellent for updating oneself in these areas of reproductive research.

I presented a poster on "Mathematical modelling of follicle development during anoestrus in dairy cows" which attracted considerable interest (possibly because it was the only poster on modelling) and a number of delegates expressed an interest in the use of the model as a teaching aid.

The meeting was an excellent opportunity to renew old contacts and to make new ones and to promote NZ research efforts in this area. I wish to thank the NZSAP for granting the Animal Science Award that helped fund my attendance.

John Smith

## **MEMBERSHIP**

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

SEAMUS SULLIVAN GORE	JENNIE-LYNN BURKE AGRESEARCH HAMILTON
GRANT MCNAUGHTON OAMARU	SARAH WESTON BAYER NZ LTD AUCKLAND
JOHN PICKERING WANGANUI	ELLY NAVAJAS SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, SCOTLAND
ANNA PATON OAMARU	SIMON WOODWARD WOODWARD RESEARCH LTD HAMILTON
JANE MURRAY MASTERTON	MARK YOUNG SHEEP IMPROVEMENT LTD CHRISTCHURCH
XAVIER CHARDON DEXCEL HAMILTON	TONY CRAVEN AGRESEARCH HAMILTON
RICHARD GAVIGANPAHIATUA	JOSE ROSSI DEXCEL LIMITED HAMILTON
GINA DE NICOLO PALMERSTON NORTH	JOHANNES VLAMING AGRESEARCH PALMERSTON NORTH
MARK LUDEMANN CHRISTCHURCH	DAVID BARBER DEPT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES, AUSTRALIA

Resignations were received from 2 members, one member passed away, and we signed up 18 new members, for a Current Membership Total of 535.

## **MAC HANNA**

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Members will be saddened to hear of the recent passing in Australia of one of our Honorary Life Members, Mac Hanna. Mac who was elected in 2001 has been described as scientist who earned his living as a farmer on a property near Tokoroa. He made significant practical contributions in the application of science to farming in areas associated with measuring pasture growth rate, identifying a high fertility gene in his sheep flock and the impact of oestrogenic fungi in spring pasture. A memorial service was held for Mac at the Waikato University Chapel on 13 March 2005. An Obituary will be published in the 2005 Proceedings.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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