



OCTOBER 2001

Hi All

Who would be an animal producer? The year I left Australia people were receiving a rebate for destroying and burying sheep. Ten years on with Foot and Mouth and Mad Cow disease overseas and there are not enough to go around. So much so that 168 Aussie dollars a head was paid for some lambs in September. Some are buying back in at high prices and other ageing Australian farmers just will not take the huge risk. If the price continues, you could buy lambs in New Zealand and fly them over and still make a profit!

The competition in commodities can ultimately lead to a sole producer. Perhaps not for sheep, but it has for eggs. There is basically one producer of eggs with over a million chooks and since we do not all seem to eat an egg a day that is about enough for the whole of New Zealand. Think about that, what if Pete Hodgson had to turn the power off because Lake Tekapo ran dry? – a recent power failure caused the demise of tens of thousands of hens in one facility. Get inside the numbers though, if you work it out at say 1.2 million chooks with a productive lifespan of one year. Thanks to breeding and rearing technology you can bring 100 000 new hens in to lay every month to achieve a consistent output of eggs every day. The downside is that every month you have to do away with the equivalent number of hens, and the chicken meat market is so competitive that there are only two producers left in the race and I am sorry, but old laying hens are just not useful for anything. Who do you get to euthanase 100 000 hens and a further 100 000 male chicks every month? Where do you put them when the grisly job is done? Here is a neat idea - why don't we grind them up into meat meal and feed them back to the chickens? Then you might figure out that the eggs needed in Auckland are flown up from the South Island and heck once you have them on the plane you might as well fly them in from Australia (\$2.40 Australian a dozen is competitive with the \$3 New Zealand that those of you who do the shopping will be familiar with!) Will the humble New Zealand laying hen go the way of the Moa?

Apart from my soapbox, this newsletter hot on the heels of the last, is primarily to announce the call for abstracts for the **Annual Conference 26-28th June 2002**. The Palmerston North organising committee, have produced an excellent combination of presentations with Annette Litherland at the helm. You were warned about the deadlines last month, the list server would have told you the deadlines and now this Newsletter.

Also there are a number of announcements from the Committee seeking applications for Animal Science Awards. We are also seeking some nominations for the 2002 Sir Arthur Ward and McMeekan Awards and nominations for Honorary Life Membership. Details for all these awards can be found later in this newsletter and on the website.

The Management Committee looks forward to receiving your abstracts and award nominations.

Scobie

DATES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARY

16 Nov 2001	Closing date for 2002 Conference Abstracts
31 Jan 2002	Animal Science Award applications close

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

September 6th marked the death of Van Rensselaer Potter, a cancer researcher who coined the term “bioethics” - the inseparability of ethical values and biological facts. Though the term quickly became associated with medical ethics, and more recently with ethics and biological systems, Potter was an advocate of global bioethics, the acceptable long-term or sustainable survival of the human population. Agricultural and environmental ethics are at the very heart of global bioethics, set out in his works *Bioethics – Bridge to the Future* published in 1971, and *Global Bioethics – Building on the Leopold Legacy* published in 1988.

The modern concept of ethics and biology is generally considered to have begun with Aldo Leopold and his book entitled *A Sand County Almanac*. Leopold was employed to manage the forest, principally for recreational deer hunters, so he set about killing the deer’s main predator, the mountain lion. However, the deer population, no longer held in check by predators (including human hunters) exploded. This resulted in severe forest and land damage. Leopold concluded that the forest feared the deer more than the mountain lion, and his land ethic was based on the observation that we should “think like a mountain”.

Global bioethics encompasses a set of values that can lead to acceptable survival for the human species including a healthful environment (for people), individual health, species survival, and a healthy ecosystem. However there are conflicts. Within medicine the “quality of life” may conflict with the “sanctity of human life” and this is readily seen in the debates over the rights and wrongs of abortion and euthanasia. So too there are conflicts within ecological ethics, such as the “quality of the environment” which may conflict with the “sanctity of the dollar”. This latter conflict is also evident in the tension between farming being a business and a way of life. This tension is conspicuous in the romantic images of animals portrayed on food labels, images that may differ substantially from those of some animals in intensive systems of food production.

A world culture dominated by economics may be akin to “evolution’s fatal flaw”, the promotion of that which is immediately useful, even if it is detrimental in the long term. Thus, global bioethics must incorporate agricultural, environmental, medical and other professional ethics disciplines based on biology, with economics and politics. Convincing evidence for the need to base our cultural evolution on biology in a local context is detailed in Tim Flannery’s *The Future Eaters*. Conditions of miserable survival are described for some historical Australasian people living beyond a sustainable environmental ethic, whilst others survived for long periods by virtue of their ability to live in keeping with their environment.

Potter’s legacy is the “search for the wisdom that utilizes biological knowledge for the social good.” Agricultural science has a pivotal role in balancing economic and social objectives thorough the manipulation of biological systems and we need to be mindful of the wisdom we call on in doing so.

Mark Fisher

2002 VOLVO ENVIRONMENT PRIZE

Invitation to nominate

The Volvo Environment Prize is awarded for outstanding innovations or discoveries - scientific, socio-economic or technological - which have a direct or indirect significance in the environmental field and are of global or regional importance. It is intended to recognise individual achievement and, in selecting Laureates, priority will be given to an individual or group of individuals. The annual prize sum has amounted to SRK 1.5 million.

Nominations are encouraged from younger scientists, women and men, those who work in great institutions with all modern equipment and those who have limited facilities, and candidates from all over the world.

The deadline for nominations is **1 December 2001**.

For more information, please email Kikki Hugestrand (kikki.hugestrand@volvo.com).

NZSAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2002

The 62nd conference of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North from Monday 24th June to Wednesday 26th June 2002. The NZ Institute of Agriculture Science will be holding its conference in the same venue from Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th June. Everyone is welcome to submit an abstract under the broadly compassing umbrella of "Animal Production". I ask the membership to encourage non-members to submit abstracts for consideration. You don't have to be a member to give a paper at the APS conference. We are organising contract sessions that showcase the research capabilities of Palmerston North including contributions from Massey University, Dairy Research Institute, Leather and Shoe Research Association and AgResearch. We are planning to deliver such topics as "Dairy farm to market chain", "Johnes Disease", "Animal Welfare", "High Energy forages and total mixed rationing for high animal performance", "Environmental issues in the sustainability of New Zealand Agriculture", "Co-products and pharmaceuticals". Other contributions in the areas of animal health, forages, wool, lamb, beef, deer, goats and dairying are invited. We are also hoping to have a session that will involve 7th formers from the local region.

A decision on paper durations, concurrent sessions/posters will await the numbers of contributed papers received. Abstracts are now being sought from contributors, with a **deadline** for submission of **16 November 2001**.

The Programme Committee will meet in early December to consider the abstracts and in mid-December successful authors will be invited to submit full papers by 8th February 2002. The full papers will be peer reviewed, revised (the deadline for the receipt of the revised paper will be 13 April 2002) and published prior to the annual conference. If the Management Committee accepts an abstract the author is committed to presenting the paper to the Conference and submitting the written paper for publication in the Conference Proceedings by 8 February 2002. In the case of unavoidable withdrawal of a paper, the author must advise the Secretary in writing at the earliest possible date.

The Local Organising Committee can be contacted through annette.litherland@agresearch.co.nz

Annette Litherland
Conference Convenor

REMEMBER	16 NOVEMBER 2001	CLOSING DATE FOR ABSTRACTS
	Mid December 2001	ACCEPTANCE CONFIRMED
	8 FEBRUARY 2002	NON-CONTRACT (SUBMITTED) PAPERS DUE
	29 MARCH 2002	CONTRACT (INVITED) PAPERS (REVIEWED AND CORRECTED) DUE
	12 APRIL 2002	REVISED PAPERS DUE

The Society is grateful for the sponsorship provided by



GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are the basis on which the Management Committee accepts or rejects your offer of a paper(s) for presentation at the Conference. You will increase your chance of acceptance by complying with these guidelines. The abstract should be self contained, readable and easily understood by people not intimately involved in the field. You should emphasise not just the science of your work but also the value of it to the science and/or farming communities you are serving. The abstract should contain clear objectives, appropriate data (with statistical parameters such as standard error of means of probability estimates) and conclusions as appropriate. Unnecessary jargon and abbreviations, and information not relevant to the objectives and conclusions should be avoided.

Please ensure that:

1. The title and names of all authors are provided.
2. The name, address, phone, fax number and email address of the corresponding author are given to facilitate contact regarding your submission.
3. The abstract is set (excluding title and authors) in 12 point Times Roman. A maximum of **350 words** is allowed. **Do not include tables, equations or references.**
4. If possible please submit the abstract electronically to the Executive Secretary. The abstract form can be downloaded from the website or requested from the Secretary. E-mail the abstract in Microsoft WORD format to **nzsap.animal@xtra.co.nz**. The abstract may be mailed to the Executive Secretary if you do not have access to email.
5. Abstracts must be received **by 16 November 2001**.

THE YOUNG MEMBER'S AWARD

The purpose of the award is to encourage excellence in research planning and execution and communication of results by young members to the Society's annual Conference. The applicants have to have submitted a paper for the annual conference, which has been accepted.

Eligibility for the Award is restricted to the following:

- full or student member of the Society; and
- under the age of 35 at 31 March 2002 and less than 2 years since completion of PhD (if PhD is held); and
- members who are the first senior author of the paper concerned, having made a substantial contribution to the planning, execution, analysis and preparation of the information; and
- to the first or second technical presentation by the member at the Society's Annual Conference.

A member is eligible to enter for the Award twice, provided that the Award was not received on the first occasion. Applicants must indicate on the abstract form the intention to compete and **a letter from the Supervisor/Head of Department confirming eligibility** conditions must be forwarded to the Secretary at the time of abstract submission. Failure to supply this information cancelled the chances of otherwise competitive abstracts at the 2001 conference.

Please check the full rules on the website: <http://nzsap.rsnz.govt.nz/about/sap145.html>

Book

Principles of Cattle Production

C J C Phillips, Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge, UK. January 2001 288 pages paperback ISBN 0 85199 438 5 22.50.

Readership: University and college students in agriculture, animal science and veterinary science.

MEMBERSHIP

The New Zealand Society of Animal Production warmly welcomes one new member since our recent newsletter:

Reuben Edkins, Lincoln

**New Zealand Society of Animal Production
Abstract Submitted for 2002 Annual Conference**

Title _____
Authors _____
Corresponding Author _____
Address _____ **Email** _____
_____ **Fax** _____
_____ **Phone** _____

Do you wish to be considered for the Young Member's Award? Yes/No
Please ensure you fulfill the eligibility criteria outlined on the NZSAP website and in this newsletter.

Abstract *(Maximum 350 words. Do not include tables, equations, or references)*

Indicate your preference for presentation method and duration of talking time. The management committee will take your preference into consideration but reserves the right to modify talk durations to optimise conference design.

Poster 5 minutes 7 minutes 10 minutes

Abstracts will be selected for the conference on the basis of relevance and scientific merit. Judgement can only be made from what is presented in the abstract. Where appropriate, conclusions must be accompanied by data and appropriate statistical evaluation. Acceptance of an abstract by the Management Committee invokes a binding commitment upon the author, and the institute where the work was undertaken, to provide a written manuscript for publication in the Society's Proceedings. NZSAP will own copyright of material published in the Proceedings.

This form can be downloaded from the NZSAP website <http://nzsap.rsnz.govt.nz/con01/ab frm01.rtf> in rich text format (compatible with a range of word processors) or email nzsap.animal@xtra.co.nz for a copy.

McMEEKAN AND SIR ARTHUR WARD AWARDS, LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The **McMeekan Memorial Award** recognises an outstanding individual contribution made to New Zealand animal production and/or the Society, during the previous five years. Nominations must be signed by two financial members of the Society and must contain documented evidence of the way or ways in which the nominee's efforts have made an outstanding contribution to New Zealand animal production and/or the Society during the five years before the nomination. A potential recipient need not be a current member of the Society. The Award is in honour of Dr C P McMeekan a foundation member, past president, life member and distinguished leader in animal production, research and administration in New Zealand and the world.

The **Sir Arthur Ward Award** recognises the successful application of scientific research or farmer experimentation through a series of trials or effective extension when applied to an aspect of animal production in New Zealand. The nominee may be an individual, a company or an organisation, and need not be a member of the Society. Nominations must be signed by two financial members of the Society and must contain documented evidence of how the nominee's efforts have made a substantial contribution towards the adoption of a practice(s) that has facilitated more efficient animal production in terms of output per animal, per labour unit or per farm. The phrase "adoption of a practice" is to be broadly interpreted and may relate to the development of a technique, a piece of equipment, or a husbandry practice; the effective encouragement of sound principles of animal production; or the development of a new aspect of animal production.

The Management Committee is also seeking recommendations for **Honorary Life Members**. The Committee shall consider nominations from members and announce them at the 2002 Annual General Meeting. **Honorary Life Members** shall be persons who have rendered significant service to the cause of animal production. In the past five years Life Membership has been conferred to the late Alan Kirton, the late Dudley Lane, Ken Jury and Mac Hanna

Nominations for these awards should be sent to the Executive Secretary, Lynne Smith by **November 15th**.

FASS FACTS

The Federation of Animal Science Societies have made a public release of information on the feeding of Biotech Crops to animals and the impact that it has on meat, milk and eggs. They claim that animal feed performance studies have shown that meat, milk and eggs from animals fed biotech feeds are safe for human consumption. Therefore, biotech feeds have been found safe for livestock and do not change the nutrients in meat, milk and eggs. These research results are published in "FASS Facts on Biotech Crops – Impact on Meat, Milk and Eggs." A brochure developed by the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) Committee on Food safety, Animal Drugs and Animal Health. The brochure was created to share science-based information with those interested in food animal and crop production. The brochure can be viewed on the FASS website at www.fass.org, or for a hard copy send your request to fass@aasochq.org. For you skeptics that will not believe the brochure or press release there is also a large number of references on the website which they claim support these conclusions!

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD 2001

The winner of the NZSAP Innovation Award (Science and Technology) for 2001 was the paper titled "Cryopreservation of shellfish sperm, eggs and embryos" by J.F. Smith, P.A. Pugh, H.R. Tervit, A.R. Janke, H.F. Kaspar and S.L. Adams. The innovative development of a "fertilization assay" impressed the committee the most, so check it out in your copy of the proceedings; volume 61 pages 31 to 34.

NZSAP AWARD APPLICATIONS

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 should be sent to the Executive Secretary by **31 January 2002** for consideration by the Management Committee. The application format is available from the Executive Secretary and on the NZSAP website.

ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD REPORTS

Jennifer Burke, doctorate student at AgResearch and Massey University, attended the joint American dairy, animal, meat and poultry science (ADSA/ASAS/AMSA/PSA) meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana during July 2001. She presented a paper titled "Using *in sacco* and *in vitro* incubations to determine the digestion and fermentation kinetics of fresh forages" which described techniques and results obtained from forage incubations carried out during her doctoral research. This work focussed on methods for evaluating the diverse range of forages available to New Zealand cattle. Fresh minced, rather than freeze-dried and ground, material was incubated *in vitro* and *in sacco* to give predictions of feed quality appropriate to grazing animals. Although grazing forms a minor part of North American dairying systems, it is becoming increasingly significant because of the lower costs relative to concentrate feeding, consequently the paper was well received at the "Forages and Pastures: Grazing" session.

The theme of the conference was the issues and challenges facing food animal agriculture. Jennifer says the conference gave her insight into research being conducted on aspects of ruminal fermentation, ruminant nutrition, particularly energy, fibre and protein nutrition, and the transition cow. There were many papers presented on conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) research and the symposium addressing issues of biotechnology in animal products and the food industry was of particular interest.

Visits to Cornell University, Pennsylvania State University, the US Dairy Forage Research Centre in Madison, Wisconsin and Pioneer Hi-bred International Inc. in Des Moines, Iowa allowed Jennifer to make contacts with scientists researching digestion kinetics of feeds and form links with those involved in developing and using the Cornell ration-balancing model. The model enables farmers to formulate diets best able to meet cow nutrient requirements. Better interpretation of digestion kinetics and animal research methods used at these institutes may improve our analyses of feed quality.

At all research centres visited there was heavy emphasis on the recycling of nutrients in manure. The need to minimise environmental impacts of excreted nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, is a major challenge facing the US dairy industry at present.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events are listed on the Royal Society Events Calendar see

New Zealand Grassland Association Annual Conference, Hamilton, New Zealand, 30 Oct - 1 Nov 2001. For more information contact Darlene Powell, c/o AgResearch Ruakura, Private Bag 3123, Hamilton Phone: 07 838 5112. Fax: 07 838 5155. Mobile: 021 129 8839. E-mail loc@grassland.org.nz <http://www.grassland.org.nz>

The 12th International symposium on lameness in ruminants, Orlando, Florida, USA 9 - 13 Jan 2002. For more information contact TheNAVC@aol.com <http://ruminantlameness.com>

Australian Society of Animal Production, and **International Society for Animal Hygiene** and the **Dairy Research Foundation**, Adelaide, Australia, 7 - 11 July 2002. For more information contact Dean Revell Phone +61 8 8308 7823 asap@adelaide.edu.au, <http://www.asap.asn.au/conference>

World congress on genetics applied to livestock production, Montpellier, France, 19 - 23 Aug 2002. For more information contact secretariat@wcalp.toulouse.inra.fr, <http://www.wcalp.org>

The 9th world conference on animal production, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. 26 - 31 Oct 2003 For more information contact Jorge Lopez or Sergio Nicolaiewsky, Av. Betno Goncalves, 7712 - CP: 776 90.001.970 - Agronomia, Porto Alegre RS Brazil e-mail wcap.2003@ufrgs.br, <http://www.wcap2003.ufrgs.br>

The 6th International symposium on the nutrition of herbivores, Faculty of Veterinary medicine and Animal Production, University of Yucatan. Oct 2003 For more information contact Juan Carlos Ku Vera c/- Gabriela Sacramento gschan@tunku.uady.mx

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The current Management Committee is:

		Phone	Fax	Email	Location
PRESIDENT	Mark Fisher	06 874 8757	06 874 8703	mark.fisher@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Poukawa
VICE-PRESIDENT	Catherine Morrow	07 838 5183	07 838 5628	catherine.morrow@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura
PAST-PRESIDENT	Graham Barrell	03 325 3803	03 325 3851	barrell@lincoln.ac.nz	Lincoln University
SECRETARY	Roland Sumner	07 838 5272	07 838 5117	roland.sumner@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura
TREASURER	John Smith	07 838 5533	07 838 5658	john.smith@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura
EDITOR	Sam Peterson	06 356 9099	06 350 5674	s.peterson@massey.ac.nz	Massey University
NEWSLETTER	David Scobie	03 983 3921	03 325 3194	scobie@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Lincoln
PUBLICATIONS	Gwyneth Verkerk	07 838 5694	07 838 5670	gwyneth.verkerk@dexcel.co.nz	Dexcel Hamilton
WEB SITE	Neville Jopson	03 477 6375	03 477 6376	njopson@abacusbio.co.nz	Abacus Biotech Dunedin
CONFERENCE	Annette Litherland	06 351 8204	06 351 8032	annette.litherland@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Grasslands
EXEC. SEC.	Lynne Smith	07 856 9150	07 856 9150	nzsap.animal@xtra.co.nz	Hamilton

An electronic version of this newsletter and other information on the Society is available at:

<http://nzsap.rsnz.govt.nz/>

Any contributions to the Newsletter should be forwarded to: David Scobie, AgResearch, PO Box 60, Lincoln. Email: scobie@agresearch.co.nz

RETURN MAIL ADDRESS Executive Secretary
New Zealand Society of Animal Production
AgResearch, Ruakura
Private Bag 3123,
Hamilton, New Zealand