

August 1998

Greetings. This is my first attempt at putting together a newsletter for NZSAP. You can blame Dorian Garrick and Denis Elvidge for beguiling me with the plea that 'little time or effort' was required for the task. The minutes of the AGM has me down as 'Newsletter manager', but I suspect that this title embodies other tasks which I will learn about in time. During the annual conference I was intrigued to find the Massey campus a hot bed of industrial action with events such as staff marching in protest against management decisions and other evidence of manager-worker disharmony. Also, I noticed some staff apparently unconcerned or disinterested in the whole restructuring process - presumably displaying either cynicism or acceptance. Nevertheless, there was little impact of any of this on the NZSAP Conference which this year seemed to be well attended and abounding in scientific presentations. Pre-publication of the Proceedings was inaugurated at this meeting and I found it helped me to gain more than I would have normally from a meeting with so many papers. So, full marks to the Society for getting on with the business of providing a forum for the livestock sciences. Read on for other news

Graham Barrell

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now that the annual conference has come and gone there is time to reflect and evaluate how things went and what improvements/changes should/could be introduced for 1999. The organising committee for the 58th meeting at Massey University deserve our thanks and congratulations for organising and running a successful meeting. The special industry sessions, with invited speakers outlining their perspectives of the research and development needs for their area at the start of each day provided an interesting backdrop to the contributed papers. To me, initiatives such as the change in time of the conference from February to June, the shorter paper delivery time and lack of concurrent sessions, and the prepublication of the Proceedings, seemed to be welcomed and appreciated. Do you agree with this? Evaluation of the success or otherwise of change needs to reflect the majority view. The comments I received tend to reflect the views of people who attended the conference. What are the views of members who, for one reason or another, did not attend? If you have any concerns or comments that you would like to make on any of the above initiatives, please ensure they are referred to a member of the Management Committee before the end of August so they can be considered in planning for the 1999 conference.

On behalf of NZSAP, I attended the 8th World Conference on Animal Production in Seoul, Korea and a meeting of the Management Committee of AAAP from June 28 to 4 July. The WCAP was interesting for the people met rather than the information gained. I had the distinct impression that many of the papers delivered would have been better presented by members of NZSAP as I was able to compare the standard of presentation and content with our conference the previous week. It seemed to me that many of our colleagues in other countries would learn and benefit from the concerns for standard of delivery of information shown by NZSAP presenters.

As you will know, the next AAAP conference is to be in Sydney in the year 2000, from 30 April to 5 May. The conference is scheduled to follow the Sydney Royal Easter Show. NZSAP has been asked to organise a contract on Deer Production for an afternoon session. Contributed papers on other aspects of animal science- production will be called for in early 1999.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to represent NZSAP at these meetings. One has to say the first perks of the job of President did not take long to arrive, i.e. elected Wednesday, away on trip Friday of the same week!!

Denis Elvidge

INDUSTRY SPEAKERS AT THE 1998 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Wed 23 June - Dairy industry

Terry Richardson - Dairy farmer and Director of Kiwi Dairy Company. *Effect of company size on milk processing, product mix and marketing.*

Greg Ghent - Dairy farmer and Chairman of Northland Co-op Dairy Company. *Effect of company size on milk processing, product mix and marketing.*

Robin Fenwick - NZ Dairy Board. *The dairy industry's Global Strategy for prioritising and funding research.*

Wed 24 June- Meat industry

Alan Kirton - AgResearch, Ruakura. *Is carcass classification useful or necessary?*

Neil Clarke - Meat New Zealand. *Meat industry strategies for prioritising and funding research.*

Eric Hill - Progressive Meats, Hastings. *Meat grading and payment for quality at Progressive Meats.*

Thu 25 June - Wool and pelt industries

Edwin Lowe - Research Officer Leather and Shoe Research Association, specialising in fellmongery processing. *The contribution and outlook for leather and pelts to the livestock industries.*

Bill Carter - Chairman Wool Industry Research Advisory Committee; member of Sheep Research Foundation; and retired Executive Manager, NZ Council of Wool Exporters. *The contribution and outlook for wool and the sheep industry.*

Lochie MacGillivray - Sheep farmer, Hawkes Bay; Director of NZ Wool Board and Chairman of WRONZ. *Wool industry strategies for prioritising and funding research.*

AWARD RECIPIENTS 1998

MCMEEKAN MEMORIAL AWARD:

Brian Wickham for his contribution to the dairy industry in providing the vision and leadership to establish the Livestock Improvement Corporation dairy industry database, review and refine the dairy cattle genetic evaluation system with the introduction of BLUP, develop a research programme using marker assisted selection in association with Liege University, Belgium, and Holland Genetics, with an international involvement as President of Interbull and Chairman of the Organising Committee for the International Congress of Animal Recording (ICAR) Conference held during January 1998 in Rotorua.

SIR ARTHUR WARD AWARD:

Landcorp Farming Limited for excellence in the application of scientific principles applied to animal production. The company, which is New Zealand's largest farming operation is a State Owned Enterprise currently farming 101 sheep and beef, and 25 dairy units with a total of 1.52m stock units. In managing their large and complex mix of enterprises, the company have effectively incorporated scientific principles in a range of areas, particularly performance recording and genetic improvement. These in combination with good practical judgement, have resulted in a progressive improvement in the overall productivity and profitability of their core business - livestock farming.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

Dudley Cameron Lane for services to the New Zealand Dairy Industry.

Kenneth Eric Jury for services to research and development within New Zealand livestock industries.

YOUNG MEMBER'S AWARD :

This year the judges found it impossible to separate the two leading contenders for the Young Member's Award. Consequently two awards were made.

The winners were:

Justine McGrath - Her paper was "*Using nitrogen fertiliser to increase dairy farm profitability*" by J M McGrath, J W Penno, K A Macdonald and W A Carter from the Dairying Research Corporation at Hamilton. Justine has a B Ag Sc (Hons) from Massey University and has worked as a LIC Advisory Consulting Officer on the West Coast of the South Island and in Hawkes Bay. She is currently employed as a Scientist by the Dairying Research Corporation.

Fiona Miller - Her paper was "*The role of cysteine in the increased parasite susceptibility of Romney sheep selected for hogget fleece-weight*" by F M Miller, H T Blair, G W Reynolds and D K Revell from the College of Sciences at Massey University. Fiona hails from Cambridge and has completed B Sc and B Appl Sc (Hons) degrees at Massey University.

JUBILEE UNIVERSITY AWARD:

Jubilee University awards to the leading third year undergraduate students in Animal Science during 1997 at the two Agricultural Universities were awarded to:-

Claire Cooper Massey University

Nancy-Jane Urquhart Lincoln University

NZSAP SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD:

This new award was inaugurated at the Annual Conference this year. It seeks to acknowledge the best conference paper, judged in terms of progress made. Judging was a relatively simple process in that each paper was examined for evidence of progress relative to the knowledge base before the work was done. While this has an element of subjectivity, there was good agreement between the judges as to the top five papers and these were appraised from the presentations and with a bit of digging behind the scenes.

In the judges' opinion, the best paper was - "*A candidate gene marker for bloat susceptibility in cattle?*" by Tom Wheeler, Brendan Haigh, Dick Wilkins, Judy McCracken and Chris Morris which was presented by Tom Wheeler of Dairy Science Group, AgResearch Ruakura. The authors will now have to sort out how to share the cheque for \$250. Congratulations to the winners.

LETTER TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR _____

Dear Sir,

Beef industry mis-represented

In their paper *New Zealand beef Industry structure and opportunities to improve income* presented to the 1998 Annual Conference of the Society (Proceedings - 58: 228-230), Paul Charteris and co-authors Garrick and Morris have gathered together some very useful data on the relative contributions of the beef and dairy industries to NZ beef production. However I believe they have grossly under-estimated the contribution of the beef industry by suggesting the dairy herd contributes 52% of the annual saleable beef produced in NZ. They credit the entire harvest of beef from Friesian bulls to the dairy industry. These animals and most of the beef x dairy steers and heifers certainly 'originate' in the dairy industry, but as the authors themselves concede, they are retained in the beef industry. Were it not for the beef industry, the saleable meat harvested from this large pool of animals would be their bobby calf carcass weight.

To represent fairly the contribution of the beef and dairy industries to anything other than numbers, requires crediting the beef harvested to the industry which produced it. Thanks to Paul's clear documentation of the assumptions he made, this is an easy exercise, i.e. - credit the bobby calf equivalent carcass weight of all Friesian bulls (less say 5000 per annum, as genuine adult cull bulls from the dairy industry) and dairy x beef steer and heifers/cows to the dairy industry, and their carcass gain from birth to slaughter to the beef industry.

This re-analysis shows that although 67% of the animals harvested each year may have originated from the dairy industry, the beef industry produced 86% of the beef.

Alastair Nicol, Lincoln University
31 July 1998

Note from Editor - Paul Charteris did not exercise his right of reply to this letter.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

**** MEMBERSHIP FEES ****

Members: The 1998 annual subscription is now due! For full members from N.Z. and Australia the fee is NZ\$50 (reduced to NZ\$25 for student and retired members). Members residing overseas (except Australia) pay US\$50. All members received an account (yellow sheet) for their fees with the last newsletter.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID PLEASE DO SO !!

The 1998 Proceedings have been sent to those who have paid their 1998 subscriptions. If you want a copy - pay your subscription!

**** CREDIT CARD PAYMENT ****

NZSAP now has the facilities to accept payment via credit cards.

VISA and MASTERCARD only.

This can be done by submission of the card **Name**; card **Number**; card **Type** and card **Expiry Date** by either mail, fax, or Email to the NZSAP Executive Secretary detailing what and who the payment is for and including contact postal addresses and phone/fax numbers etc.

CARD SWIPE facilities for these two cards will be available at future meetings.

Payment by Electronic transfer is also available to some clients but these are only accepted under strict conditions. Contact Lynne Smith for further details.

Non-members: An invitation is extended to those involved in the field of Animal Production to apply for membership in the New Zealand Society of Animal Production. The Society is concerned with all aspects of Animal Production and in particular:

- promoting communication and collaboration between those involved in animal production;
- promoting the application of sound practices in animal production;
- promoting the scientific study of animal production;
- holding a regular conference as a forum for presentation of technical and applied topics in animal production; and
- publishing conference proceedings and other occasional publications relevant to animal production.

New members: The New Zealand Society of Animal Production warmly welcomes the following 4 new members:

Peter Bodecker	LIC, Hamilton	Claire Cooper	Palmerston North
Girish Upreti	AgResearch, Hamilton	Jo Wrigley	Palmerston North

Resignations were accepted from the following 5 members:

Bruce Kyle, Judi McCracken, David Nation, Roberto Sainz, Stephen Woolly

NEW NZSAP Occasional Publication #12

'Reproductive Management of Grazing Ruminants in New Zealand'

Edited by E. D. Fielden and J. F. Smith

Substantial knowledge from New Zealand based research on managing reproductive performance within the herd or flock is a key element to the improved efficiency of New Zealand farming systems.

This knowledge is drawn together within this publication .

A multi-author approach has been used and all authors are experts in their particular field.

This publication of 220 pages contains chapters on:-

Hormonal Control of the Reproductive Processes; Comparative Reproductive Performance; Seasonal Factors Influencing Reproductive Management; Modifying Reproductive Processes; Reproductive Management of Dairy Cattle; Sheep; Beef Cattle; Deer; Goats; Camelids; Monitoring Reproductive Performance as an Aid to Management; Future Developments in Reproductive Technology for Livestock Species; and has been aimed at all those with a serious interest in the efficient reproductive management of domestic ruminants in New Zealand.

Prices including postage and packaging are:-

New Zealand	NZ \$30.00 (inclusive of GST);
Australia	AUS \$30.00 ;
Other countries	US\$30.00 .

**** SPECIAL OFFER ****

The NZSAP is offering a special package deal of:-

Occ. Pub. # 11 "Meat Production and Processing"

plus

Occ. Pub. #12 "Reproductive Management of Grazing Ruminants in NZ"

plus

Occ. Pub. # 13 "Labcoats to Gumboots"

NZ\$50 (Australia, NZ and Pacific)

US\$50 (Rest of The World)

This is a saving of \$25

Orders to: New Zealand Society of Animal Production
C/- AgResearch,
Ruakura Research Centre,
Private Bag 3123,
Hamilton ,
New Zealand
Email: nzsap.animal@xtra.co.nz

WOOL TECHNOLOGY AND SHEEP BREEDING

This journal, previously published by the University of New South Wales, is now published by the Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand (WRONZ). Members of the New Zealand sheep and wool industries, from farmers to scientists, are invited to subscribe and/or contribute, with original articles dealing with on-farm production, handling, transport, early-stage processing and marketing of wool, and all aspects of sheep breeding and husbandry in Australia and New Zealand. For further details, contact the Editor, Dr David Cottle, WRONZ, Private Bag 4749, Christchurch, New Zealand. Phone 03 325 2421; Fax 03 325 2717; Email: Cottle@wronz.org.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS

Quality Food and Fibre, 24-26 August 1998

"Dimensions of quality in food and fibre production" is the theme of the NZ Institute of Agricultural Science/NZ Society for Horticultural Science/NZ Agronomy Society National Science Convention in Hawke's Bay. For further details contact Susan Fitzgerald, Hawke's Bay Research Centre, HortResearch, Private Bag 1401, Havelock North. Phone 06 877 8196; Fax: 06 877 4761; Email: natsci.convention@hort.cri.nz

Meat Science and Technology, 30 August - 4 September 1998

The 44th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology with the theme of "Meat consumption and culture" is to be held in Barcelona, Spain. Contact the Congress Secretariat, AOPC - ICoMST '98, Edif Colon, Av. Drassanes 6-8, E-08001 Barcelona, Spain. Phone (34) 93 302 7541; Fax (34) 93 302 1255; Email: aopc@ncsa.es

Farm Animal Endocrinology, 7-10 December 1998

The Third International Conference is to be held in Gembloux, Belgium, and includes a special topic on the somatotrophic axis. Further details can be obtained from University of Agronomy, Molecular Biology & Animal Physiology Dept, 13 Avenue Marechal Juin, 5030 Gembloux, Belgium. Phone 32(0)81-622418; Fax 32(0)81 613888; Email: gh.igf@fsagx.ac.be; Website: www.fsagx.ac.be/gh_igf

Nutrition of Herbivores, 11-16 April 1999

The 5th International Symposium on the Nutrition of Herbivores to be held in San Antonio Texas, is dedicated to an ecological approach to the nutrition of herbivores and will focus on mechanistic concepts of the biological process that comprise nutritional ecology. Further details can be obtained via the web site home page (<http://cnrit.tamu.edu/conf/isnh>) or by contacting W.C. Ellis, Department of Animal Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, USA; Phone USA 409-845 5063; Email: w-ellis@tamu.edu For registration details contact Ms Caroline Adkins, Secretary, 5th International Herbivore Symposium, Department of Animal Science, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas, USA 77843-2471; Phone USA 409 845 5214, Fax USA 409 845 5292; Email: caroline-adkins@ansc.tamu.edu

Satellite Symposia:

- A. Emerging techniques for studying the nutrition of free-ranging herbivores** (April 10-11) Contact: Dr H Dove, CSIRO Plant Industry, GPO Box 1600, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia; Phone 61 2 6246 5078; Fax 61 2 6246 5166; Email: h.dove@pi.csiro.au or Dr S W Coleman, USDA-ARS Grazing Lands Research Lab, P O Box 1199, El Reno, Oklahoma 73036, USA; Phone USA 405 262 5291; Fax USA 405 262 0133; Email: scoleman@ag.gov
- B. Feeding wild, captive and farmed deer** (April 16-17) Contact Dr James Kroll, Institute for White-Tailed Deer Management & Research, College of Forestry, Stephen F Austin University, P O Box 6109, Nacagdoches, Texas 75962, USA; Email: jkroll@sfasu.edu or Dr Gordon Dryden, School of Veterinary Science & Animal Production, The University of Queensland, Gatton, Queensland 4345, Australia; Email: GMD@warigal.uq.edu.au

Animal Science and Production, 30 April - 5 May 2000

The 9th Animal Science Congress of the Asian Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies is to be held in Sydney in conjunction with the 23rd Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of Animal Production. For more information contact Dr Peter Wynn, Department of Animal Science, University of Sydney, PMB3, Camden NSW 2570, Australia; Phone; 61 46 55 0232; Fax; 61 46 55 2374; Email: peterw@camden.usyd.edu.au For Scientific Programme details contact Dr Geoff Robards, Department of Wool and Animal Science, University of NSW, Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia; Phone 61 2 9385 4494; Fax 61 2 9385 5953; Email: g.robards@unsw.edu.au For Registration and Accommodation details contact AAAP/ASAP 2000 Secretariat, c/- Tour Hosts Conference & Exhibition Organiser, GPO Box 128, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia; Phone 61 2 9262 2277; Fax 61 2 9262 2323; Email: aaap/asap2000@tourhosts.co.au

NZSAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1999

Venue Otago, date and location yet to be finalised.

NZSAP AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please nominate appropriate persons for the Society's Awards. The **McMeekan Memorial Award** recognizes a substantial recent (within the last five years) individual contribution to animal production in New Zealand. Nominations must contain documented evidence in support of the nominee and must be signed by two financial members of the Society. The nominee need not be a member of the Society. The **Sir Arthur Ward Award** recognizes the successful application of research or experience 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, signed by two currently financial members of the Society, must document how the nominee has contributed towards the adoption of a practise(s) that has facilitated more efficient animal production. The phrase 'adoption of a practise' is interpreted widely in order to accommodate contributions through extension, product development etc. Nominations for both awards must be submitted to the Executive Secretary by 1 February 1999 and remain active for consideration for three years.

1998/99 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The current Management Committee is:


		Phone	Fax	Email	Location
PRESIDENT	Denis Elvidge	03 325 3803	03 325 3851	elvidged@lincoln.ac.nz	Lincoln University
VICE-PRESIDENT	Andy Bray	03 3256900	03 325 2946	braya@agresearch.cri.nz	AgResearch Lincoln
PAST-PRESIDENT	Dorian Garrick	06 350 5103	06 350 5699	d.garrick@massey.ac.nz	Massey University
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EXEC. SEC	Lynne Smith	07 856 9150	07 856 9150	nzsap.animal@xtra.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura

WWW SITE ACCESS

In the weeks prior to the annual conference, some of you may have noticed some subtle changes to the Society's website. A new 'members only' part of the site has been developed, which is to be used to hold downloadable copies of all the individual papers from the annual proceedings. Currently papers from the 1998 conference are available, and papers for the 1995-1997 conferences are to follow shortly. Ultimately, the aim is to get all back issues of the proceedings available for downloading so that members will be able to search all years of the proceedings for any papers on a given topic. The papers are in Adobe portable document format (PDF) which is fast becoming an internet standard. PDF is an exact copy of the paper as it occurs in the proceedings and can be read regardless of whether you have a MAC or PC or have text searching capability. The files can be either read on screen or printed off for those who (like me) like to slouch in a comfortable chair when reading papers. The printed PDF is better quality than a photocopy out of the proceedings, and saves damaging the spine of the book when a reprint or copy is required. To view PDF you need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not already have it, it is freeware and can be downloaded from Adobe's website (<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>). Make sure you select the version for your operating system (Win 3.1, Win95/NT, MAC, Unix etc.) and then follow the installation instructions.

So how does one access the members only area and download papers? All members have received a label attached to this newsletter showing their username and password to access this part of the site however, only current financial members have had their passwords activated. Non-financial members will have their access activated following payment of outstanding fees.

Do not throw away this label as we currently do not have the ability to let you set your own password. If you lose your password you will have to contact me (jopsonn@agresearch.cri.nz) to be issued a new password. **Both the username and the password are 'case sensitive' so the username must be all lowercase and the password with lower and uppercase as seen on the label.** When prompted by your browser, you must supply these details to access the restricted part of the site. If you enter the wrong username or password, you will remain in the public access part of the site. You will only be prompted for a password to the restricted part of the site once for a given session.

Downloading a given paper is as simple as clicking this PDF button  beside the paper's title when searching the Proceedings (titles by year and topic). The contents page for the 1998 papers can be found at "<http://nzsap.rsnz.govt.nz/proc/sapt98.html>". Depending on your browser you can save the paper to disk or open it without saving to disk, view the paper directly, search the text for key words (within Acrobat Reader) and print a copy if required.

An electronic version of this newsletter is available at: <http://nzsap.rsnz.govt.nz/> Any contributions should be forwarded to: Graham Barrell, Animal & Food Sciences Division, P.O. Box 84, Lincoln University, Canterbury. Email: barrell@lincoln.ac.nz

If undelivered return to:
Executive Secretary,
New Zealand Society of Animal Production
C/- AgResearch,
Ruakura Research Centre,
Private Bag 3123, Hamilton ,
New Zealand