

DEVENISH DIARY

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Dear Reader,

DEVENISH HOST BSAS

Welcome to the latest edition of the Devenish Diary. Thank you for your ideas and comments on previous issues, and we look forward to your feedback on this occasion. To this end I am particularly pleased to welcome two new members of our team, Amanda Keyes and Charlotte Stewart. Both join our Company to enhance the service and support we offer you, our customers and look forward to engaging with you in their respective roles of which more within.

I am also very pleased to see comment on BSAS which we helped to support being hosted in Belfast for the first time. Whilst providing in the main a forum for Scientific exchange, a conscious effort was made to consider the interaction of Science, Industry and Government through public debates. Whilst sharp differences of opinion were evident, the exchange was a useful one and should continue and a terrific forum was provided for a stimulating forward-looking event. We were pleased to be associated with it and would compliment all involved in BSAS and (X- its Southern equivalent) for making it so successful.

Owen Brennan



DEVENISH SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS IN BELFAST

Over 400 agricultural scientists from around the globe gathered at Queen's University, Belfast on April 12-14th for an international conference, aimed at ensuring world food supplies meet demand that is expected to double by 2050.

Driven by a projected 40% increase in population growth, coupled with changes in eating patterns reflected in increasing demand for beef and dairy products, there will be a growing need for livestock products at a time when land will be required to produce not only human food but energy and fibre.

Devenish were delighted to sponsor the first British Society of Animal Science Conference held in Northern Ireland. The conference was organised in association with the Agricultural Research Forum of Ireland, the World Poultry Association - UK branch, and the Association of Applied Biologists.

Over 350 research papers were presented addressing the conference title "Food, Feed, Energy & Fibre from Land - A vision for 2020. Animal, crop, soil scientists, geneticists and economists joined industry representatives and opinion formers from as far afield as New Zealand, the Far East and the Americas.

The main objective of the conference was to highlight the issue of the gap between science and application on the ground. At a working lunch during the conference Norman Fulton DARD policy, indicated that future research would have to be policy driven. By default, this means lack of continuity in research and lack of development in research personnel as policy continually changes. Dr David Heckman concentrated on the growing requirements of the world population and how science has been the main solution in the past and has to be for the future. This view of the role of science was supported by Prof Paddy Cunningham who did a quick review of the history of requirements of the western world and future requirements. Dr Frank O'Mara concluded by giving the return of science, both economically and in terms of meeting demand, for specific projects carried out locally.

Ultimately scientists must work in an integrated approach with policy and industry. What was very evident, was that in a tough economic climate research can be the first to suffer. However the long term economic consequences of lack of science in agriculture are large. Historically science has allowed unrivalled progress in agriculture in the 20th century, the lessons of history must be remembered if similar progress is to be made in the early 21st century.

Dr David Heckman (global marketing, Elanco), Owen Brennan (Devenish Nutrition), Dr Frank O'Mara (UCD), Dr Violet Beattie (Devenish Nutrition), Dr Sinclair Mayne (President BSAS), Norman Fulton (DARD policy division), Prof Paddy Cunningham (DAFF) speakers at the British Society of Animal Science organised in association with the Agriculture Research Forum, the World Poultry Science Association and the Association of Applied Biologists.



Part of the audience at BSAS held 12-14th April in Queen's University



Article by Violet Beattie

Devenish have recently completed research targeted at helping to improve the pet ownership experience. The project focused on the improvement of faeces quality in dogs on a range of diets.

Stool quality can be an important measure of feeds performance for the dog owner. Picking up loose sloppy stools is not a pleasant experience for the pet owner!

This project was carried under the Knowledge Partnership Programme with the partner's being Queens' University Belfast and Devenish Nutrition.

Devenish Nutrition have an record of developing and bringing to the market feeds and feed ingredients for poultry, pigs, cattle, horses and sheep. Some of the components of a product already used successfully in farm animal feeds to improve odour and faecal consistency appeared to have a role to play in companion animal nutrition. To understand if the technology transferred across species to dogs there was a need to conduct trials with dogs, not only to prove that the product was effective, but also to gauge owners' reactions.

With support from Invest NI under the Knowledge Transfer Partnership, Catherine Carmichael was appointed in 2008 to work within the research team of Devenish Nutrition with Queens University scientists for two years.

During the project Dr Debbie Wells, an eminent animal behaviorist in Queen's School of Psychology, worked with the Devenish team examining pet owners' sensory perception of the effects of this product. Work was also carried on hounds with Dr Alastair Wylie at the NI Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, AFBI, on the assessment of digestibility, faecal consistency and breath odour analysis.

It is recognized that pet owner' perception is important in assessing efficacy and their views was assessed on a range of issues from their dog's coat condition to breath freshness to consistency of stool samples. The research results were very positive. In a series of trials using the Devenish product within the dog's daily diet was observed to give a consistent improvement in stool quality resulting in an improvement in the ease of stool pick up.

Other benefits measured were a reduction in stool odour and as well as an improvement in dog breath. Use of the product in the dog's diet also saw an improvement in coat quality as observed by the pet owners. The product works by developing the health of the gastro intestinal system including the microbial population. Some of the research was presented at the BSAS (British Society of Animal Science) conference held in Belfast in April. The product now also has patent applied status.

Devenish are looking forward to bringing this product to market and to helping make cleaning up after your pet easier!

SUMMARY OF EU BROILER DIRECTIVE 2007/43/EC

The Directive shall apply to chickens kept for meat production. However, it shall not apply to holdings with less than 500 chickens, holdings with only breeding stocks of chickens, hatcheries and extensive indoor and free range chickens and organically reared chickens. It includes :

Minimum Requirements for All Farms

Includes criteria on record keeping, feeders and drinkers, litter, noise, light, cleaning and inspection of birds.

Stocking Density Limits

3 bands:

1. Standard Stocking Density Band : < 33 kg of chickens present in a m2 of useable area
2. Higher Stocking Density Band: < 39 kg of chickens present in a m2 of useable area
3. Exceptional Stocking Density Band: < 42 kg of chickens present in a m2 of useable area

Extra requirements are given for the higher stocking density bands, such as, documentation outlining production systems, control of environmental parameters and low mortality rates.

Training Requirements

Keepers shall receive sufficient training in their tasks and need a certificate of completion of an approved course (CAFRE set standards) which should be available for inspection or have acquired experience equivalent to such training (Grand Father Rights).

DEVENISH LADIES LEG IT FOR CHARITY

On Friday 18th June a group of Devenish employees took part in the Moonlight Walk in Belfast and raised over £1,150 for the Action Cancer breast screening programme. The 10 mile walk started at 10PM and the 1,800 strong group of fundraisers walked from the grounds of Stormont estate to Belfast City Center and back again.

Those taking part were Linda Megahey, Yvonne Wedge, Emma Jackson, Amanda Keyes, Vera Govan, Arleeta Bishop, Briege Davey, Charlotte Stewart, Marian Scott, Mary Brennan and Bronagh Owens. Although they could not make the walk, Emma McDonald and Violet Beattie also helped with the fundraising. Devenish would like this opportunity to say well done to the girls for their great fundraising effort and judging by the photos, it was an evening enjoyed by all.



INTRODUCING.....NEW STAFF AT DEVENISH

CHARLOTTE STEWART

Charlotte our new research officer with the Pig team working on research and development. Charlotte graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Animal Health and Welfare from the University of Aberdeen, she then completed a MSc in Applied Animal

Behaviour and Animal Welfare with the University of Edinburgh.

Following this, Charlotte gained a Teagasc Walsh Fellowship in association with Queens University Belfast, where she completed a PhD working on increasing dietary fibre on the welfare of sows housed in dynamic and static groups. Prior to joining the Devenish Charlotte spent over 2 years lecturing Animal welfare and Veterinary Health at Moulton College in Northamptonshire where she also gained a PGCE.

AMANDA KEYS

Amanda has recently been appointed as Quality Manager at Devenish, where her responsibilities include Health and safety, Quality Control and Environmental issues. Amanda, who comes from Fivemiletown joins us having previously worked for ABN as Compliance Manager, and having a wealth of experience within the human food sector.

After completing a 3 year HND Food technology Course at Loughry College, Cookstown, Amanda studied for a further 18 months to complete an honours degree in food marketing and business studies at Harper Adams University, Shropshire. After this, Amanda, worked for a number of companies including The Sandwich Company, Hewitt Meats, and Finlay Foods.

