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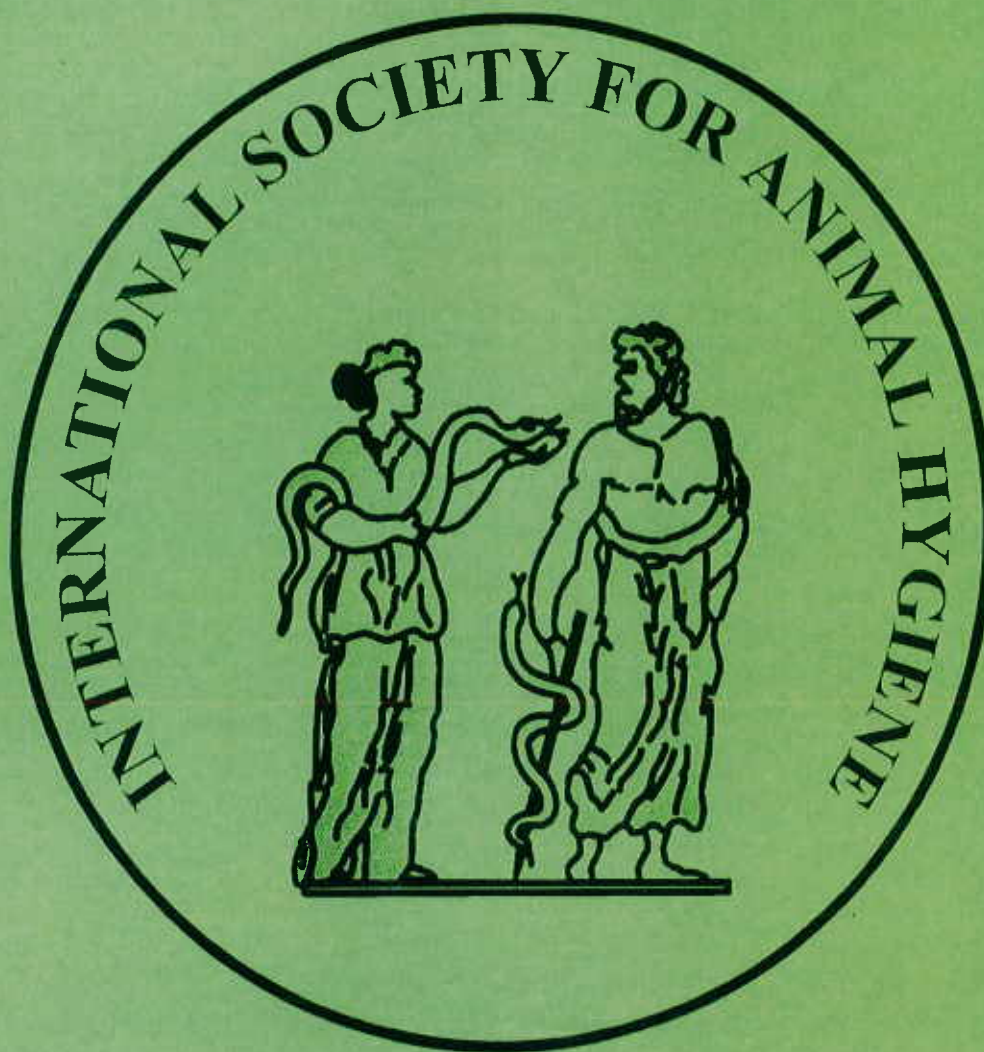
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International Society for Animal Hygiene

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EDITORIAL

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues, ISAH Members

I am working on the text of editorial a few days before Christmas Holiday but maybe, you may receive the next issue of Newsletter in the new year. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year 2005.

Christmas Holiday is a time of kindness and friendliness for all people we know. We are usually wishing them happiness, good health, a lot of money and success and at the same time we forget about ourselves! This is why I decided to wish myself that XIIth ISAH Congress became a successful event and all the changes in ISAH structure were completed fortunately.

It seems to me that the year 2004 was very intensive for our Society. We were preparing very actively to the XIIth ISAH Congress in Warsaw (Poland), which will take place on 4 – 8 September 2005.

More information about our Congress you can find on the next pages of the Newsletter.

Executive Board initiated stormy discussion, which is still continued, about the future structure, activities and tasks of ISAH. Discussion is carried out via internet as so called “forum discussion” coordinated very well by Thomas Blaha.

Members of ISAH Executive Board are staying in touch constantly and are cooperating actively in the process of taking organizational decisions. Despite of the forum there was a need of direct contact between EB members which was realized at the meeting in Ploufragan on 14 October 2004 just after the Congress in St. Malo. In my opinion Congress in St. Malo was a real scientific and organizational success thanks to a great commitment of Dr. Francois Madec.

In 2004 in my country I took part in several Conferences and at the same time I had a chance to make a lot of publicity for the XIIth ISAH Congress.

These were the main aspects of our activities in the last period.

For the next year we have already planned the meeting of EB for February 2005 here in Warsaw.

If we do not stop making efforts in ISAH activities our future should be optimistic.

With best regards,

Professor Dr. hab. Andrzej Krynski

President of ISAH

STATE OF THE ART of XIIth ISAH CONGRESS (4-8 September 2005, Warsaw, Poland)

The Organizing Committee of XIIth ISAH Congress has started the countdown to our D-Day, which is 4 September 2005 at 16:00 hours - the time of Congress Opening Ceremony!

We have started preparations to the Congress from the very beginning that is from setting the dates of the Congress, frame of the sessions' programs, time and venue of all official programs like Opening Ceremony, General Assembly, Closing Ceremony and Professional Excursions. The result of our efforts is the main frame of the Congress, program of plenary sessions and preliminary subjects of parallel sessions as you can see below.

SCHEDULE

Sunday, 4 September 2005 - arrival and registration of participants

4 p.m. – Opening Ceremony,

6 p.m. Invitation Party

Monday, 5 September 2005

9 a.m. till 1 p.m. plenary sessions

1 – 2:30 p.m. lunch

2:30 till 6:30– sessions in sections

Tuesday, 6 September 2005

9 a.m. till 1 p.m. plenary sessions

1 – 2:30 p.m. lunch

2:30 till 5:30 p.m. General Assembly

Wednesday, 7 September 2005

9 a.m. till 1 p.m. plenary sessions

1 – 2:30 p.m. lunch

2:30 till 5:30– sessions in sections

7 p.m. Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party

Thursday, 8 September 2005

9 a.m. professional excursions

Subjects of plenary sessions:

Monday: Herd-health management as a tool for improving health and production of livestock.

Tuesday: Environmental protection and public health in respect to animal hygiene.

Wednesday: Animal welfare as an integral part of sustainable animal production.

Suggested subjects of parallel sessions:

- 1) Health and environment in cattle and small ruminant production
- 2) Health and environment in pig production
- 3) Health and environment in poultry production
- 4) Health and environment of companion and other animals
- 5) Pre-harvest food safety and veterinary public health
- 6) Welfare and behavior of animals.
- 7) Waste and by-product management
- 8) Free communications.

We would like the scientific program of the Congress to reach the highest possible level. At this moment we are working on the list of lecturers for plenary sessions. ISAH Executive Board will finally approve the list of lecturers at the meeting in Warsaw, Poland on 5-6 February 2005. I hope that EB will also have a chance to accept and approve at this meeting majority of the abstracts. I would like to remind you that the deadline for sending abstracts is end of January 2005 but we will wait a bit longer for those who are running late!

What is also very important in our preparations to the Congress is that we finally established the Organizing Committee and Scientific Committee. The most important is the Scientific one that consists of:

- Prof. dr hab. Bogdan Debski - Warsaw Agricultural University
- Prof. dr hab. Zbigniew Dobrzanski - Agricultural University in Wroclaw
- Prof. dr hab. Eugeniusz Herbut - National Research Institute of Animal Production in Balice
- Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Krynski - Warsaw Agricultural University
- Prof. dr hab. Zygmunt Pejsak – National Veterinary Research Institute, Pulawy
- Prof. dr hab. Eligiusz Rokicki - Warsaw Agricultural University

Step by step we are working on the list of congress honor members: rectors, ministers, presidents of local authorities and scientific organizations.

The Organizing Committee has already made reservations of lecture rooms and hotel rooms at the University. We had to do it now even though we do not know the exact number of participants. Just in case we have booked a little more rooms that we really expect we will need for the time of Congress. After receiving money from congress participants these reservations will be confirmed or cancelled. Organizing such a congress requires contacting with so many people and so many organizations. We had to hire security and audio-video operators and many other people like artistic groups and so on.

It is difficult to anticipate the number of Congress participants and people interested in the Congress at this moment. There are a lot of congresses and conferences planned for September 2005 in Poland and in the whole world. E.g. the Congress of IUGB (International Union of Game Biologists) in Hanover, Germany is taking place almost at the same time as ISAH Congress.

We have managed to distribute via email over 1500 letters with the text of second announcement about the Congress. We have distributed emails all around Poland and neighboring countries, to all ISAH country representatives. We sent some of email letters all around the world to Veterinary Universities, Agricultural Universities and other Institutes that could be interested in taking part in our Congress. We also sent about 200 booklets with the text of second announcement via regular mail. Till now we have received around 30 positive responses and many people are still asking us for detailed information.

According to what former president of ISAH professor M. Tielen told me some time ago Congress in Poland should be a low budget

event. We have to realize that Poland already joined European Union and some prices reached European level but not our salaries!

Nobody from Western countries was surprised by the amount of registration fee and hotel prices. In Poland these prices are considerably high and can become an obstacle for potential participants from Poland and especially for participants from Eastern European countries.

But we have to think like optimists. There is Professors' Tielen Foundation, other foundations as well as sponsors that can support congress participants.

By the way Organizing Committee is trying to attract sponsors to reduce the costs of organizing the Congress and to give them opportunity to advertise. Based on preliminary discussions with different international companies I can assume that we can count on the support of companies like Alltech, Bayer, Pfizer. We also had discussions with about 20 other Polish and foreign companies about financial support of our Congress.

At the very end I would like to remind you the most important dates:

31st of January 2005 - Deadline for registration of participants and submitting abstracts

30th of April 2005 - Deadline for papers and reduced registration fee.

Final announcement will be sent to all registered participants.

4-8 of September 2005 – Congress.

We are counting on your cooperation in making publicity for our Congress among your colleagues and coworkers.

Once again let me invite you to take part in the XIIth ISAH Congress in Warsaw, Poland.

Prof. Tielen Foundation supports young scientists to participate in the XII Congress on Animal Hygiene in Warsaw, Poland .

The Xth Congress on Animal Hygiene in Maastricht in the year 2000 was a great success in a scientific and a social way. The congress was organised under the Presidency of Prof. Dr. Ir. Martin Tielen from the Netherlands. One of the special activities was that for the first time young scientists in developing countries to attend the congress could get a grant for financial support to attend the congress. The organising committee of Maastricht founded the "Prof. Tielen Foundation" (PTF) to this purpose and was very successful. Due to the good financial management of the congress and the continuing effort of the PTF to collect new money we could create the opportunity to give again young scientists some financial support to participate in the XI congress of the ISAH in Mexico. And still the sources of the PTF are sufficient to give again young scientists this opportunity for the XII congress on Animal Hygiene from 4-9 September 2005 in Warsaw in Poland.

We will use the same design for the application for this financial support as used for the Maastricht meeting. So for the XII congress in Poland young scientist in the East European Countries can apply for a support of a maximum of 400 EU for the congress fee and part of the lodging costs. The young scientists from developing countries "over seas" can apply for an additional contribution in the travel costs with a maximum of 500 EU. The conditions are as follows:

- Only young scientists of developing countries (South America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe) can opt for financial support.
- The applicant has to be no more then 35 years of age.
- The young scientist has to present a paper with sufficient scientific quality.
- The young scientists has no opportunity to find financial support by other sources
- All applications are pre-selected by the country representative of the ISAH in the country of origin. There may be more then one application submitted, however in principle only one will be selected per country for the grant by the Board of the PTF.
- There will be only one young scientist awarded per country
- Country representatives can ask for application forms by e-mail to the Prof. Tielen Foundation (e-mail: martiel@tref.nl or fax: * 31 411 672852)
- Completed Application Forms from the young scientist should be send by e-mail together with a copy of the submitted abstract for the congress to Prof. Tielen (e-mail: martiel@tref.nl) or faxed to the PTF-secretariat:
PTF-Secretariat
Att. Dr. P. van Gulick
Elsendorpseweg 44
5424 TB Elsendorp, The Netherlands
Fax: * 31 492 351484
- Selection of the applications will be carried out by the Board of the PTF in the Netherlands.
- Payment of the promised financial support will take place at the venue of the congress in Warsaw after handing in the registration confirmation and the travel tickets.

The PTF expect that it will be able to support about 15 young scientists for participation in the congress under the mentioned conditions. Applications will be handled in order of reception. In cases of equal capability the order of reception will determine the final decision.

We hope that we can stimulate the attendance of young scientists and realise in that way a contribution to the development of this young scientist in Animal Hygiene and enhance the exchange of scientific knowledge between scientists within our Society of Animal Hygiene.

Prof. Martin Tielen
Member at Large of the Executive Board of the ISAH
Chairman of the PTF

Dr. P. van Gulick
Practitioner
Secretary PTF

The "Prof. Tielen fund" Foundation

*secretariat: Dr. P. van Gulick, Elsendorpseweg 40,
5424 TB Elsendorp, the Netherlands
telephone/fax: * 31 492 351484*

Only young scientists who will present a paper can apply for financial support. Preliminary abstracts should be send to the scientific committee ISAH 2005 in Warsaw (e-mail: isah2005@alpha.sggw.waw.pl or fax: * 48 22 853 09 42. Abstract maximum a half page A4 including 30mm margin.

Further information of the congress can be found on internet: <http://www.sggw.waw.pl/~isah2005>

This completed application form together with a copy of the abstract should be send to:
Prof. M. Tielen(e-mail: martiel@tref.nl or fax: * 31 411 677398).

Young Scientist Financial Support Application Form

First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Street: _____ Postal Code: _____

City: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Date of Birth : _____ Profession : _____ Academic degree: _____

Organisation/Institute: _____

Two most relevant publications (author(s), title,journal):

1) _____

2) _____

Recommendation by the country representative of ISAH in your country:

Name: _____ E-mail or fax: _____

Function: _____

_____ Signature: _____

Title of the submitted abstract: _____

Date: _____ Signature of the applicant: _____



A short report about the email discussion on the future of the ISAH

The meeting of the Executive Board of the ISAH was held in France (at Ploufragan) on Oct. 14 2004 just following the “in-between” congress of St-Malo. This was an occasion for Prof. T. Blaha to sum up the main points that came out of the forum. Following his synopsis of the multiple contributions to the discussion on ISAH’s future, the EB worked on proposals for further thoughts and steps eventually to be taken.

- T. Blaha outlined the absence of unanimity on changing the word “Hygiene” in the ISAH’s acronym to “Health”. On the other hand he mentioned an overall agreement on the main goals of our society.
- Therefore he proposed at this stage to keep the name and the logo and to add a “tag line” or “sub-title” indicating in concise words our main scientific field, the scope and vision of our society. This proposal was unanimously approved by the EB and J. Hartung. The tag line is not yet definitely established. It could start with: “bringing together the sciences for ...”. We are all asked to work on it and next February at our EB meeting the point should be cleared up.
- The matter dealt with/activities of ISAH. It was stated, that making Congresses and Symposia is not enough to improve the efficiency and the public recognition of the society. Many political decisions in the EU concerning hygienic questions are made without being supported by scientific results. The society can improve its appearance only if standards and recommendations are set by ISAH according to the state of science and technique. This requires effective working groups determining what the state of art and technique is and communicate this worldwide in relevant ways of publication.
- The structure. The necessity to have a standing president was unanimously agreed upon. Then different scenarios were considered. The final structure that was designed and agreed upon was the following:
 - 1- Standing president (proposed term duration: 6 years, no re-election)
 - 2- Vice-presidents
 - 1st Vice-president: in charge of an expert board that represents by its members the many disciplines ISAH is covering.

2nd Vice-president: in charge of external relationships including the country representatives

3rd Vice-president: organizer of the next ISAH congress.

Term duration: (2 or 3 years, depending on the decision about the interval between 2 subsequent congresses)

- 3- The question of having a treasurer and a secretary nominated and recognized as such could not be answered. There might be official obligations in this respect.
 - 4- Formation of working groups (WG’s), the WG-leaders are forming the expert board. The Executive Board is asked to define possible WG’s
 - 5- Keeping the country representatives in an active communication network to disseminate recommendations of the working groups and decisions of the EB
- The number of people of the Expert Board is not yet defined. We are asked to think of the main domains that could be covered. Each of them will have a leader.
 - The constitution. In order to prepare the new constitution, two working groups are created:
 - a) A mission statements: group leader: T. Blaha
Other members: B. Algers, R. Böhm, P. Rafai, F. Madec
 - b) The constitution (statutes): group leader: A. Aland
Other members: J. Hartung, T. Blaha, F. Madec
 - The membership fees. They are currently very low (30 US\$/3 years). Higher membership fees could be asked. The idea is that a yearly fee of every member, paid to the society should be high enough to pay a part-time Director Executive or a secretary to run the daily business of ISAH such as newsletters, mailing lists etc . This should be discussed in detail in Warsaw.
- Obviously, you are all invited to continue to bring in your comments using the e mail. It is of high importance to get your opinion before Warsaw

Thomas Blaha



As we have announced before, the Slovenian Society for Animal and Environmental Hygiene was founded on 22nd of June 2004 at the general Assembly in Ljubljana.

The society is registered at court of justice with the seat in Grosuplje near Ljubljana. The society was established according to own statute of the society with the required organs i.e. president, vice president, secretary and three members of the administration council.

At the first session of the general assembly, dr. Štefan Pintarič was elected as the president of the society. Dr. Pintarič is working as scientific investigator on the field of animal and environmental hygiene on the Veterinary faculty in Ljubljana. At the general assembly the statute and programme of the society as well as other regulations were accepted. The society is an organisation which works on principles of civil society and has till now about 60 members from Slovenia and Croatia. Included are donators too.

The intention and reason for establishing the society:

Entering the European Union this Year, Slovenia has shown a rapid adaptation to the new European society. So we are entering in a new era, where many new things happened, and the veterinary profession has to fulfil many actions which are proposed in European regulations and directives.

Meanwhile the importance of the environmental protection has risen and in this context veterinary profession has to fulfil many new tasks. Beside these problems on relations between animals, animal welfare, herd health and the environment especially in the field of men-animal relation have been altered. So in the future, we expect new organisation of our work, which will evidence the content of our action from animal hygiene to environmental hygiene, what could be seen from our programme.

Our society has interest to cooperate with ISAH and other similar organisations in the future.

So we have appointed to the executive board a new member, who is at the same time president of the Slovenian Society for Animal and Environmental Hygiene, who will attend the XIIth ISAH Congress in Warsaw next year. In our views we have revived and evidenced our doctrine of animal and environmental hygiene, which is adapted to new development of the profession in last years.

In relation to the dramatic changes in farm animal keeping we try to adapt the content of animal hygiene tasks. As an example, organic farming is developing very fast where veterinarians and others are involved.

The gas emissions as well as the whole environmental protection got a big field of action for the hygienic branch. We try to revise our point of view and thinking about mass animal production using antibiotics, hormones, biocides and toxic materials. We have to think about gene manipulated products which all influence the quality of food, quality of life, and animal health as well as welfare of animals too. In our society in November we discussed of unifying the problems of animal welfare, technologies, environmental problems and economy of animal production, which are to be treated all together.

Activity of the society:

In august 2004 our society established a Committee of experts with the fields of action: disinfection, disinsection and deratisation, animal welfare, hygiene of wastes and biogas, hygiene of milk production, air hygiene, emissions, animal hygiene, new technologies, environmental hygiene, organic farming, homeopathic products with alternative veterinary medicine and legislation. We will try to modernise the curriculum of technology in our schools with new topics: as ethology and animal welfare, environmental hygiene, homeopathy and alternatives to drugs.



SLOVENSKO DRUŠTVO ZA HIGIENO ŽIVALI IN OKOLJA
SLOVENIAN SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

Peščenik 2a; 1294 Višnja Gora, SLOVENIJA
Tel.: 041 811 391

E-mail: info@sdhzo-drustvo.si

Our next plan is to organise teaching on environmental hygiene and animal hygiene in schools and in different societies such as: Society of organic farms, E-forum and Chamber of veterinarians. Our society is very interested on cooperation with different societies such as ISAH, ALB, DLG, RAMIRAN as well as institutes for environmental and animal hygiene etc. Now we are preparing a symposium in the Year 2005 in Ljubljana. During this meeting we will organise a round table discussion with foreign speakers as participants from Europe.

The contents of the symposium:

1. Wastes and EU directives
2. Hygiene of biogas production and composting
3. Testing of disinfectants
4. Other themes of Pest control
5. New European directives and their application (1774, Good practice of Ammoniac emissions, organic farming etc.)

All this will be presented in the form of papers, posters, exhibitions.

Till now our society has passed through a directive about DDD in connection with our Code of veterinary practice at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

During our general assembly the society made two nominations:

- ☞ Prof. dr.dr.h.c. Dieter Strauch was nominated honorary member of the Slovenian Society for Animal and Environmental Hygiene
- ☞ Prof. dr. sci. Marko Amon for honorary president of the society

Our society opened a web site, and will begin to start corresponding with different societies in Europe. The Slovenian Society for Animal and Environmental Hygiene is inviting the members of ISAH and others to take part on our meeting in 2005 in Ljubljana. The first announcement will be sent in December 2004 by post or on the web site.

Our adress:

Slovensko društvo za higieno živali in okolja
Slovenian Society for Animal and Environmental Hygiene
Peščenik 2a
1294 Višnja Gora
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**Executive board member and
National representative for Slovenia**
prof. dr. Marko Amon, dr.vet.med.

FOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY IN MEXICO

Dra. Maria Salud Rubio Lozano

Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Introduction

Food health and safety is a global challenge in today's world. The growing crisis springs from the scandals that have taken place over the last decade. The most common meat products and microbes involved in these scandals are *Salmonella* in chicken, antibiotics in pork, *E. coli* and growth enhancers in beef and last but not least, the BSE crisis. In the U.S. alone millions of people develop meat-consumption related illnesses, furthermore, thousands die each year. Europeans are more worried about food safety than they are about medication.

Due to consumer and media pressure, governments have been forced to change the way they control food safety. In the U.K. for example, the government has withdrawn the power to control food safety from the Department of Agriculture in a move to protect producers rather than consumers. As a result, independent agencies concerned with food safety have been set up. All these changes intend to improve the flow of independent and trustworthy communication to the consumer. Americans are tending towards an automatic identification of animals (Engler, 1996) and towards the privatization of food inspection (Cook, 1996). These modifications prove there's an interest in protecting the consumer over the producer.

Food and safety control in Mexico

In Mexico food and safety control is complex, fragmented and disperse (Flores and Morales, 2000). The State Departments of Health, Commerce and Agriculture are all involved. At state level, including Mexico City, the authorities concerned are the public health services and the state delegates of the Department of Agriculture. At

municipal level it is the municipal presidencies that intervene.

These days there's a program for modernizing slaughterhouses in place. Nevertheless the existing problems arise from the location of these slaughterhouses which have not been properly distributed. Furthermore they have been operating in precarious conditions, sacrificing animals in improvised installations and largely oblivious to correct sanitary procedures, thus endangering public health (Flores and Morales, 2000).

In the Mexican Republic there is a legal framework anchored in the Constitution which states, in article 4, that every person has the right to health protection. The 'General Health Law' which rules the right to health protection, operates on a different level. The health and safety code for products and services is also in place, and this code in article 6 says anyone can report an occurrence that constitutes health risks or health damage.

Due to the fact there must be a joint effort made by the Departments of Health, Agriculture, Commerce and even the Department of Natural Resources, a National Committee for the Modernization of Meat Products Supply was set up. The aim of this committee was to disseminate the modernization amongst state governments. This was done by replicating the committees at state level and having the State Office of Economic Development primarily coordinating and being responsible for the process. Nonetheless, the project required that state governments get involved in order to have them rule on the closure of slaughterhouses when necessary. As a result, the implementation of the project has been slowed down.

The Model of Inspection and Surveillance of Slaughterhouses (Perez, 2000), carried out throughout the country by the Health and Safety Control Office of the DGCSBS (General Office of Sanitary Standards of Services and Possessions)

has been used to evaluate installations, resources, staff, etc. and recommend improvements.

Within the goals of the SENASICA (National Service of Health and Safety and Food Industry Quality) is to ensure that the production of confined beef cattle is safe for the consumer. In view of this, a voluntary program to implement 'Good practice in the fattening of beef cattle in confinement' has been designed. This program is aimed at breeders with the intention of enabling them to produce meat that poses no risks to public health. The SENASICA, through the DGIAAP (General Office of Food Industry, Aquatic health and Fishing Health and Safety) has written the "Good practice in the fattening of beef cattle in confinement" handbook. Aimed at the livestock sector, particularly the beef cattle breeder, this handbook lays down the points to be implemented in the production facility in order to ensure the quality of the products and the cost-effectiveness of the company.

The second edition of this handbook includes recommendations on the main aspects of feeding, handling and care of confined beef cattle, as well as the training, hygiene and health care of staff. It also highlights important current issues such as the illegal use of Clenbuterol, Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis and the effective use of logs and records within the production facilities. The objective of the handbook is to ensure meat production quality and the possibility of offering Mexican consumers a safe and trustworthy product with no added cost, either for the producer or the consumer.

Doubtless, whoever meets these requirements will get a Recognition or Certificate of Good Practice in Primary Livestock Meat Production.

Break-outs of food-transmitted diseases

In Mexico, from 1995 to 1998 there have been 292 food-transmitted disease break-outs which have affected 8320 people and killed 74. The break-outs during the 1995 to 2000 period, related to red meat (beef, sausage, ground beef, tacos, burgers, etc) were 20, resulting in 694 people ill and 1 death. In most cases the agent was not identified, where it was it was coli form (SIRVE-ETA, 2001).

The Center for disease prevention and control in the U.S. has reported, in 1999 alone, 855,000 people with food-related illnesses. It is estimated the real number of people affected are circa 76 million, including 325 thousand hospitalized and 5,200 deaths.

Up to now no cases of BSE have been detected in Mexico, although we can not afford to stop being vigilant, due to our proximity to the US, one of our main meat import partners, where some cases have been detected.

Conclusion

Mexico needs to resolve current health and safety issues by means of a joint effort involving industry (applying good health and safety practice), authorities (closing insalubrious slaughterhouses and markets) and professionals. There is a real need to train people effectively, starting at university level and all the way through to health inspectors. Nevertheless, this training must not only be carried out through information, professional development and good practice, but also on an ethical level, in view of the fact human well-being is largely under our control. Finally, it is necessary to educate and make consumers aware and demanding of the quality they pay for.



The « In-between Congress » of the ISAH

11-13 Oct. 2004
St-Malo - FRANCE



The congress was entitled: "Animal production in Europe: the way forward in a changing world". F. Madec was the main scientific organiser and he got the scientific and technical support of several French institutions. For the organisation of the congress he worked with the ISPAIA, a local association dealing with such events.

The congress was held in St-Malo on the northern coast of Brittany, a province of France highly specialized in livestock production. The scientific programme was split into three days and the participants were offered the possibility to register for only one day. 351 persons attended the congress at least one day. They came from 32 countries.

The first day was "Animal production and Society". In the morning we had a plenary session with 6 lectures. The first given by K. Schwabenbauer from Germany dealt with "Livestock sector in Europe: the political standpoint". She emphasized on environment and animal welfare aspects. The increasingly disapproving position of the population regarding intensive animal production systems was outlined and the urgent need to reconcile animal agriculture and society. Then we had two papers on EU regulations and the expected consequences on livestock production. The first given by H.W. Windhorst (Germany) was about laying hens. The author gave us scenarios depending on different options taken within the EU. The consequences could be tremendous. The second lecture was targeted on the environment (Claire Turner, UK). The treatment strategies for livestock agriculture were presented. Then we came to societal aspects with a paper on lay and expert risk perception and another on ethics in animal production. The latter point was said to be a new challenge. The last talk dealt with the example of an automatic on-line monitoring of animals in the herds. In the afternoon we had two parallel scientific sessions. One was related to animal welfare with focus on transport and slaughter/euthanasia. We had a series of eight oral presentations coming from 4 countries (and 3 posters). J. Hartung from Germany talked about cattle transportation on a

long distance. Other papers dealt with stress factors and the logistics able to improve animal welfare during transportation to the

slaughterhouse. Stunning techniques and on-farm euthanasia of animals were considered in the remaining papers of the session. The other parallel session was entitled "integration of animal farming systems in the environment". We had 10 oral presentations in the session and 7 posters. The papers covered different subjects including environmental management and those aspects of emissions from animal houses: gazes, effluents ... Pig production systems could be compared in relation to components of sustainability. It seems that systems, alternative to the conventional, can offer interesting perspectives but further work is still needed. Different ways aiming at reducing the amount of pollution were presented: phytase in the diet, housing systems and technologies. The question of maintaining performances in dairy cows while minimizing nitrogen excretion was raised by J.L. Peyraud (France). The author concluded that reducing Nitrogen fertilisation allows to limit the risks of N leaching while maintaining reasonable milk production per ha.

The second day was entitled: "animal health". At the plenary session we had three lectures. The first, given by J.L. Angot from OIE (the World Animal Health Organisation) displayed the role of this inter-governmental body in the maintenance of animal health around the world. Dr. Angot also told about the new area recently considered by OIE: animal welfare and food safety. The two items might have in the future a stronger weight in international trade. S. Gunnarson (Sweden), spoke about definitions about health and disease whereas M. Thibier (France) showed how new technologies like embryo transfer could help genetic material exchanges whilst minimizing the risks of disease transmission. In the second part of the morning we had three parallel session. One was devoted to the "tools and strategies for fighting diseases". Ten oral presentations (and 12 posters) were on the agenda. A couple of papers dealt with blood acute-phase proteins as indicators of health with promising future. Then diverse papers were focused on epidemiology and health

monitoring. The role of vaccines was also pointed out. Another session was scheduled about "genetic resistance to diseases". Seven papers were presented covering different sides of the problem. One was targeted on molecular approaches to disease resistance and several others were targeted on examples in different animal species including fish. A paper dealt with Salmonella carrier state in poultry. The third parallel session of the morning was entitled "air quality in animal houses". We had a lot of oral presentations in this session (n = 11). They provided the audience with the latest developments in this field. The papers mainly came from Germany and Australia. During the session the main current methods to evaluate air pollution were presented as well as the factors which can influence air quality. The subject is rather complex but substantial progress has been made during the last years.

During the first part of the afternoon we had again three parallel sessions. One was targeted on animal nutrition in its relation to health (8 oral communications and 13 posters). An important part was devoted to mycotoxins. A couple of papers dealt with the challenge of manipulating the gut microflora through nutrition, the latter option being taken following the new regulations concerning drug use in animal feed. The posters showed diverse experiences of use of alternatives to antibiotics in the feed. Another session was entitled: "biosecurity of effluents" (8 oral presentations, 9 posters). The main aspects of the subject were covered. The item is getting more and more crucial. The session made a bridge with RAMIRAN*, a scientific society in which members of the ISAH are also involved. The third parallel session was about a specific disease: Influenza. Both the animal health and the zoonotic sides of this burning topic were considered. We were happy to have with us scientists currently leading the research in this field in the world (7 oral + 3 posters); In the second part of the afternoon, a special plenary session was organized about "animal hygiene in a situation of crisis". Two speakers were scheduled. One of them could not attend and Prof. T. Blaha presented his talk on biosecurity aspects. The second talk was focused on the epidemic of FMD in the UK in 2001. The author (L.M. Mansley, UK) showed us, how challenging was its control.

The third day was entitled "Veterinary Public Health". At the plenary session we had three

lectures. The first (I.U. Leonhauser, Germany) addressed the question: "do we need meat?" She told us that meat is a good source of protein, of readily available iron, Calcium, Magnesium ... etc ... and a range of vitamins. She also told us that in order to reduce consumer uncertainty in the future, a new comprehensive concept for communication between producers, retailers and consumers is necessary. A. Aumaitre (France) spoke about safety and feeding value for farm animals and the food chain of genetically enhanced plants. According to him on the basis of the current scientific knowledge, the current GM plants do not show evidence of risk. T. Blaha (Germany) gave a lecture on "intensive animal production". He focused on animal health, welfare and safety of animal-derived food.

Then we had again three parallel sessions. One was about antibiotics and antibiotic resistance (8 oral + 7 posters). An important space was given to monitoring of antimicrobial resistance. The principles and examples were displayed in different animal species. A session was entitled "foodborne diseases" (8 oral + 3 posters). Salmonella was a major infectious agent concerned but others like campylobacter and cryptosporidium were also investigated. In the free communication session (7 oral + 7 posters) we had a broad spectrum of subjects as it could be expected.

In the afternoon we had three short sessions in parallel, all targeted on "quality": the pork chain, the dairy chain and the poultry chain (5-7 oral in each + posters). The presentations illustrated the considerable progress that has been made in respect to quality over the last decade.

A main point concerning this "in-between" congress of the ISAH is the good scientific level of the presentations. Some sessions will probably open on special issues of scientific journals. Lively debates often followed the presentations and, generally speaking, the meeting went on smoothly. It must be noticed the presence in the audience and/or as speakers of important persons from official organisations like EU, OIE, national governments. A bag with the proceedings and a CD were given to the participants. The proceedings (two volumes) + the CD are still available (please ask to: ispaia@zoopole.asso.fr ; General secretariat: Geneviève Clément, ISPAIA, BP7, 22440 Ploufragan, France).

* RAMIRAN : Recycling of Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial Residues in Agriculture

F. Madec



55th annual meeting of the EAAP

(European Association for Animal Production)

Bled, SLOVENIA, Sept. 2004

The European Association for Animal production is a non-profit scientific organisation. The headquarters are located in Rome (Italy). The EAAP has an annual congress where animal scientists of diverse disciplines can meet. At the moment EAAP has 39 national member organisations and it has relationships with sister organisations like ASAS (Am. Society for Animal Science). In turn EAAP is member of WAAP (World Asso. for Animal Production).

The 55th EAAP congress was held in Bled in the North-West of Slovenia. More than 1.200 delegates attended the congress and its satellite symposia. Most of the presentations were given during parallel sessions ($n = 4$ to 8). Obviously I cannot reasonably report here exhaustively and only some major points will be outlined. But before starting with the scientific matter may I give you a few words about Slovenia.

Slovenia, one of the 10 new member States that joined the EU in May 2004 is located South to Austria, neighbouring Italy and Croatia in the South. Slightly less than 43% of the national territory (20 273 km², 1 999 100 inhabitants) is characterized as agricultural land. Only one third of this land is really used for cultivation. An important part of the country is made of mountains (Alps) and/or covered by forests. Animal production (mainly cattle) plays the most important role in the Slovene agriculture accounting for more than two thirds of the total value of agricultural production.

During the congress a main debate was held about animal production systems, research in animal sciences and the wishes of the society. Different invited experts gave their point of view on those issues. Despite a consensus seemed to exist on the point that the researchers in animal sciences (genetics, nutrition ...) are indebted to the society, schematically a dual vision appeared. For some experts, technologies resulting from research must be developed and implemented. They play a key economic role.

The inevitable and hardly predictable problems that will occur will be solved in due time after their occurrence and the final result will remain favourable regarding our quality of life. On the other hand, others are convinced that this itinerary driven by economic power leads to exaggerations, excessive behaviours that can have serious, even dramatical consequences for all of us. In a word, this approach is not sustainable. Lively discussions followed the presentations. The reasonable ways are probably located somewhere in-between those two. A never-ending debate !

During the parallel scientific sessions, in connexion with the "Management and Health" commission, the geneticists had a session on "Genetic resistance to infectious diseases". The new powerful tools using molecular engineering and the current computer means open new perspectives in this field. The subject is obviously of major interest to the companies involved in breeding programmes. The attention was drawn on the fact that a limited number of traits are targeted and in addition a rather low number of animals are selected and finally used in the programmes. The increasing number of physical malformations in calves (dairy cattle) was mentioned. The risks related to the gap which sometimes exists between the selection process *per se* and the environment in which the animals are due to live could be illustrated. Dairy cows born to dams genetically "hyper-oriented" towards milk production and producing well in specific conditions (intensive system, zerograzing), were found to perform low in another well managed context. These cows introduced in the other environment through modern technologies like embryo transfer, poorly used their grass intake. Their life expectancy was also reduced. In the field of meat production, the geneticists are focusing on the possibility to manipulate muscular characteristics in order to meet the demand of the meat industry.

The nutritionists spoke about feed intake and the fermentation process in the rumen. Different ways are investigated (additives, encapsulation ...) the difficult question of protein supply was put forward as well in monogastrics as in ruminants. Diverse technological and often expensive treatments are often needed to a proper utilisation in the feed. The issue of feed evaluation in relation to livestock nutrition was addressed in a session.

Another one was devoted to animal health and welfare in dairy cattle. Different production systems more or less intensive were compared. It came out that in every case a careful monitoring and an appropriate husbandry are the key factors. In this area other topics were displayed during the sessions like those about feeding systems for dry sows, the relationships between pig housing and Salmonella, the epidemiology of BVD in dairy herds, locomotor disorders and mastitis. Among others, a session dealt with "ethics in animal production". The main results obtained by a working group set-up by EAAP council two years ago were presented on this occasion. Specialists in bioethics, animal scientists but also philosophers came in to present complementary papers. Several questions came from the audience. Obviously the subject is far from being entirely perceived in the same way. The "physiology commission" had a session on the mammary gland and its functioning. Peptides having multiple functions including an antimicrobial activity have been studied (like the β -defensin). The related encoding genes are also under study. On the nutrition side we had papers on mycotoxins in the feed, the Fumonisin in particular. The pig specialists met about the metabolic process sustaining growth. The reproductive function was studied in cattle and buffalo and the use of hormones for reproduction purpose in sheep and goats. Several specific sessions concerned the horses with of course an attention paid to the Lipiza breed (Lipiza is a small village in the south-West part of Slovenia). The scientific subjects about horses turned around growth and bone disorders and anti-nutritional factors. The subject of endangered horse breeds was also on the agenda.

A book of proceedings was given to the participants (more than 700 abstracts).

References of the book: Book of abstracts of the 55th annual meeting of the European Association for Animal Production. (2004) Bled Slovenia, 5-9 September 2004, Wageningen Acad. Publishers (e mail M. Jacobs: jacobs@WageningenAcademic.com)

The titles of the satellite symposia held in the same wonderful place of Bled before and just after the main congress are given here.

- 1- "12th Animal science days": animal production according to ecological, ethological and ethical norms: contact. Slavko Cepin (slavko.cepin@bfro.uni-lj.si)
- 2- FAO-DAGENE-EAAP Workshop: "Molecular genetic methods – AnGR. Contact: Imre Bodo (Bodo@hu.inter.net)
- 3- DAGENE Meeting: "Molecular genetic methods and research on the biodiversity of autochthonous domestic animal breeds". Contact: Imre Bodo (Dagene@omni.hu)
- 4- "Sustainable re-cultivation and land use on Karst and Mountainous regions by use of animals". Contact: eaap2004@bfro.uni-lj.si
- 5- "Farm management and extension needs in CEE under the restriction of the EU milk quota". Contact: Abele Kuipers (Abele.kuipers@wur.nl)
- 6- "Animal nutrition teaching". Contact: matteo Crovetto (matteo.crovetto@unimi.it)
- 7- Elsevier/EAAP workshop: "preparing and presenting scientific papers". Contact: Phil Garnsworthy (phil.garnworthy@nottingham.ac.uk)
- 8- EAAP/ASAS workshop: "biology of lactation in farm animals". Contact: Rupert Bruckmaier (Bruckmaier@wzw.tum.de)

I cannot end this short report without emphasizing the wonderful organization of the congress and satellite meetings. Particular thanks and congratulations to Franc Habe and to Marija Klopčič.

F. Madec

Announcements

21-23 April 2005: 87th Seminar of the European Association of Agricultural economists

Location: Vienna, Austria

Further informations: www.eaae.org/activities.indexa.htm

27-30 April 2005: World Pork Congress

Location: Washington, DC, USA

Informations : www.worldporkcongress.org

Congress headquarters: 4 800, Westown Parskway, West Des Moines, IA 50266, USA

25-27 May 2005: International workshop on "Green Pork Production"

Location: Paris, France

Information: Michel.Bonneau@rennes.inra.fr ; Mireille.bourgoin@rennes.inra.fr

5-8 June 2005: 56th annual meeting of the EAAP (European Association for Animal Production)

Location : Swedish University of Agricultural sciences, UPPSALA

Informations: www.conference.slu.se/EAAP2005

26 June - 1 July 2005. XXth International Grassland Congress

Location: Dublin

Informations: www.igc2005.com

2-7th July 2005: FEBS-IUBMB Congress (with main topics: proteins and peptides)

Location: Budapest, Hungary

Informations: <http://www.febs-iubmb-2005.com>

Chairman: Prof. P. Csermely

03-05 October 2005: New diagnostic technology: applications in animal health and biologics controls

Application in disease surveillance, molecular epidemiology and quality control tests of vaccines.

Location: St-Malo, France

Information: www.zoopole.com/ispaia/iabs2005