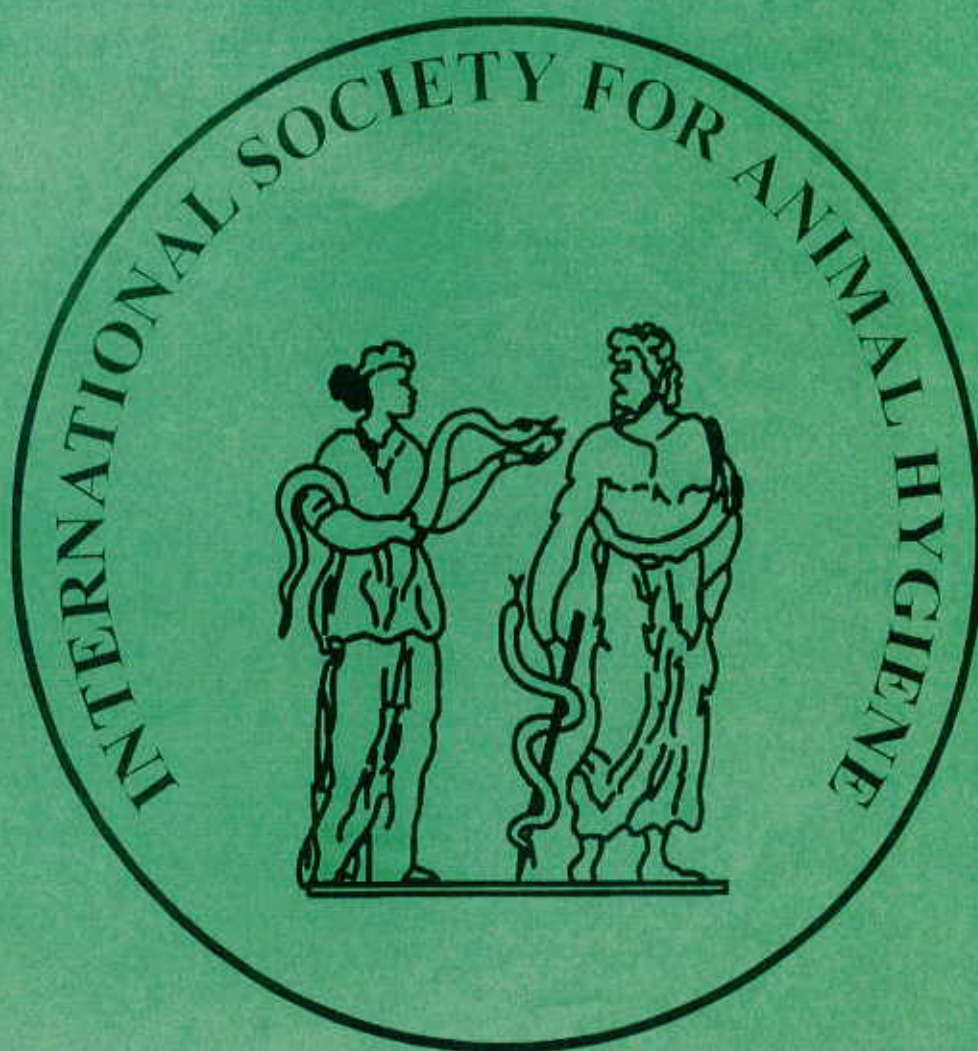


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## International Society for Animal Hygiene

**ISSUE 9**  
**December 2002**

***Newsletter n°9***

## Dear members of the International Society of Animal Hygiene

Year 2002 is definitively ending, we will very soon turn the page once again. Time is flying !

Our daily business makes most of us look like cyclists in the mountains resolutely competing in the "tour de France", the eyes exclusively rivetting the handlebar and the road just in front. We hardly have available time to look around! Should I say that we haven't it because we don't want it, at least sufficiently ? But this is another story !

Dear colleagues I hope year 2002 has been successful to all of you.

Probably like me, you could hear and read through the year how timely the topics we are deadling with are : animal welfare and animal health, veterinary public health, environmental protection. They are major causes for concern in several countries and daily reported by the media. Unfortunately I never heard about "animal hygiene". It does probably mean that the latter vocable is not really currently appropriate to cover the scientific disciplines we are embracing.

It could also mean that despite undoubtedly we concentrate our effort on very important aspects of animal and veterinary sciences, we should move our eyes off the handlebar to look and communicate more around. The scientific community but also the authorities and even the general public must not ignore that there is an organisation taking care of those important points and federating the scientists involved in the related disciplines. All of you must realize the challenge which is ahead of us. The executive board (EB) of ISAH has started a deep reflexion on the issue. The subject came on the table at the EB meeting last September in Stuttgart (Germany). You will find a short report about the meeting in this newsletter. All the members of ISAH are invited to take part to the reflexion.

Next February will be held the main congress of ISAH in Mexico city. Our president J. Saltijeral is working hard with his staff to make this principal event of the life of the society a real success. Obviously all of you are expected to attend Mexico city. Don't hesitate to visit the website and to contact Prof. Saltijeral as far as needed.

On behalf of the president and the whole Executive Board I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Dr. François Madec**  
**Secretary**

## Meeting of the executive board of the ISAH in Stuttgart ; 15 - 16 September 2002

It is the rule to have a meeting of the Executive Board (EB) a few months before the main congress. The meeting was held at the university of Stuttgart-Hohenheim in Germany where Reinhard Böhm, vice president of the ISAH is professor. All the members of the EB were present except Bo Algers (treasurer) who was apologized. President Jorge Saltijeral prepared the agenda of the meeting and different points concerning our society were successively considered. It is out of question to exhaustively report here on all aspects.

The ISAH newsletter was on the agenda and it was again mentioned that contributions from the members on different topics related to animal hygiene are most welcome. Further on the EB went through the list of country representatives (Extended Executive Board, EEB). In this respect some confusion was noticed for certain countries. Members of the executive board were asked to look for clarification by contacting the different persons involved. It was also said when the members of the EEB were willing to stop, they should well in advance prepare their succession and inform the president.

The duties of the country representatives were reminded. To make it short, they should actively contribute to the life of the society in their own country and also outside, through the contribution to the newsletter and to specific events like the congress.

Obviously the preparation of Mexico congress was the core of our discussions. At the time of our meeting a rather low number of abstracts was received (around 100) and an effort was asked to all, trying to get additional contributions. However the structure of the congress was decided leaving space for flexibility in case of changes (for more details, see, Prof. Saltijeral's contribution in this newsletter). In 2005 our main congress is planned in Poland; Prof. Krynski gave us an updated situation about it. As most of you know, it was decided to avoid having our main congress the same year as the congress of ISVEE (International Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics), therefore 2005 was chosen instead of 2006.

A debate took place about the current structure of the ISAH in connexion to the low audience and recognition of the society in the scientific community as compared to other international societies. The EB already discussed the subject earlier and Prof. M. Tielen produced a document for the purpose. Some of the reasons which could explain the low impact of the ISAH were given. Among these, the vocable "animal hygiene" itself whereas obviously valuable in central Europe at the time of ISAH foundation (1970) is not currently used world-wide in so broad an acceptation. Currently most of the time hygiene is related to a much narrower field related to cleanliness. Our series of contributions about "teaching animal hygiene" in the previous issues of the newsletter has clearly shown that the field covered by our "animal hygienists" is rather broad. Therefore some changing in the name of our society to make it closer to the disciplines which are actually covered and also to facilitate its promotion could be a good option. Furthermore, in order to achieve a better recognition of the background of the ISAH by the scientific community and to some extent by the governmental and intergovernmental authorities a proposal was made to have a "standing president" for ISAH. The proposal was made on the practical experience of past presidents who said how difficult and time-consuming it was to organize a main congress. Although not exclusive, this task is actually a main target for the president as the EB is established, leaving narrow space for other support to the society. Therefore, having a standing president not directly involved in the organization of the main congress and whose task would be to take care and promote the society internationally could be an interesting changing in order to adapt the ISAH to the current world. It was clearly stated that the scientific items dealt with by the ISAH were extremely timely and of paramount importance for animal production, related activities and also for policy makers and Society in general.

Like other organisations, the ISAH is now at the crossroads. It is worthwhile to continue the reflexion.

Dr F. MADEC  
Secretary



# XI<sup>th</sup> International Congress in Animal Hygiene

23-27 February 2003, Mexico City



Dr. Jorge A. Saltijeral Oaxaca

## Dear Members of the ISAH

You are all invited to join Mexico-city next February. The congress will take place in the main building of the "Universidad autonoma Metropolitana". More details concerning all aspects of the event can be found on the website : <http://cueyatl.uam.mx/~oaxaca/isah/index.html>

I remind you here some points :

- The congress will start by the opening ceremony on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. After the opening ceremony a first plenary session is scheduled. The item is : "Animal hygiene for the sustainable production of wholesome food for all". On Tuesday and Wednesday morning, plenary sessions are also scheduled on animal welfare and environmental protection, respectively. It will be shown how animal hygiene can contribute to achieve the goals. In the afternoon, on the three days, depending on the number of oral contributed papers proposed and selected, parallel session will be organised. Up-to-now we have received more than 225 papers from 35 countries.
- Beside the scientific sessions, a social programme has been prepared for accompanying persons. Touristic

places in Mexico-city will be visited and space will be left for shopping.

- Hotels located within 5 kilometers from the congress venue are available. Advice will be given about how to get to the congress venue from the hotels.
- On Thursday 27, technical excursions will be organised for all participants. In the evening a farewell party will take place.
- Don't forget to register. A registration form is available at the website. A form is also available for accommodation reservation. Email : [isah2003@email.com](mailto:isah2003@email.com)
- ISAH membership : the membership fees gives the society the opportunity to organise its activities. The memberships fees for a 3 year period are 30 US \$. The best option is probably to pay the fees during registration at the congress (at the registration desk at the congress venue). More informations can be obtained from Prof. Bo Algers, treasurer : [bo.algers@hmh.slu.se](mailto:bo.algers@hmh.slu.se).

I hope to meet you in February in Mexico-city. In the mean time I wish you all the best for the coming new year.

**J. Saltijeral**  
**President of ISAH**

# The joint ASAP/ISAH Conference: Finding the balance - Profitability with responsibility Adelaide - South Australia 7-11<sup>th</sup> of July, 2002

*Thomas Banhazi*

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## GENERAL CONFERENCE THEME

The joint ASAP/ISAH Conference organised by the Australian Society of Animal Production in association with the International Society for Animal Hygiene was held in Adelaide, (South Australia) between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of July, 2002. The Conference was a multi-disciplinary event and facilitated communication between agricultural engineers, animal scientists and veterinarians. Approximately 220 delegates attended mainly from Australia, although a significant number of international delegates were also present from Brazil, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Indonesia, New Zealand, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States. The Conference was held at the Adelaide Festival Centre, with breathtaking views of the city and parklands. Its close proximity to the City Centre and hotels made it an ideal location.

The organising committee of the conference developed a conference program around the challenges of meeting the so-called 'triple bottom line' that takes into account economic, ecological and social issues associated with production systems. In addressing this theme, presenters covered a wide range of issues that stimulated vigorous discussion about the scientific principles that underlie the management of animal production systems. The plenary sessions covered topics such as the ecological implications of particular production systems, consumer interests, social trends, and economical aspects, both within an Australian and in the global context. The organising committee have invited a number of eminent researchers from within and outside of Australia to address the audience. The four-day Conference arrangement was an ideal timeframe for the scientific program and the actual program content was highly praised for its ability to address the broader theme, then narrow it down to more specific topics, and then pull them together again for the bigger picture. This arrangement provided interesting topics for everyone and ensured that the important topics were evenly spaced out, rather than concentrated at the beginning or end of the conference.

The conference addressed issues beyond the scope of the traditional interests of ISAH, but at the same time the overall theme provided a fitting framework for the two-day dedicated ISAH component of the Conference. ASAP and the University of Adelaide have to be praised for their effort in providing most of the

logistical and certainly all of the financial backup and without their generous support the two-day ISAH Conference component would have not been possible.

Unfortunately, the actual number of international delegates in attendance on behalf of the ISAH was below expected, despite the fact that many more ISAH members had initially submitted papers for presentation, and much effort was made to edit those papers. Approximately 1,800 brochures were distributed individually and to country representatives, and a number of group emails were also sent out promoting the conference. Numerous attempts have been also made to secure the attendance of high profile ISAH delegates, however each of these attempts have failed for various reasons. It was concluded that the events associated with September 11<sup>th</sup> attack might acted as a deterrent for many travellers.

## TWO - DAY ISAH COMPONENT

Essentially, two whole days were dedicated to ISAH related issues and high quality international speakers, representing topics relevant for the interest of ISAH, were secured for these two days, including Professors Irene Naas, Ernie Barber, Christopher Wathes, Richard Gates and Dr Theo Demmers. The ISAH plenary speakers were all well received by the delegates attending their sessions. The focus of the ISAH component of the conference was the **QUALITY OF HOUSING ENVIRONMENT FOR LIVESTOCK**, including thermal environment, which was skilfully addressed by Prof. Naas, an internationally recognised expert on thermal environment issues from Brazil. She was asked to address the problems related to excessive heat loading inside livestock buildings in semi tropical and Mediterranean environment, which was obviously a topical issue for Australia.

Dr Theo Demmers invited presentation addressed the importance of optimal air quality in animal buildings and the topic was specifically chosen to satisfy the interest of ISAH delegates. He argued that developments in the management of livestock and the design of housing systems will have to include improvements in the aerial environment to improve animal welfare standards and reduce aerial pollutant emissions from livestock production systems.

**Prof. Wathes** presented a paper, which addressed the concept of using improved on-line information acquisition and management of production data to improve the precision of management control. He revealed that in the UK, integrated management systems are being developed to control simultaneously all interrelated processes involved in livestock production. Currently, there is a push in South Australia to establish a national Centre of Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) to advance research in this area. Of course, this area is also intimately related to the aims of ISAH, as the implementation of PLF principles promise to improve the environmental control of livestock buildings, therefore further harmonise the relationship between the "animal and its environment", as referred to the Constitutional aim of the ISAH. Implementation of PLF principles on farms will also enhance the welfare of animals as the livestock will be more intensively monitored throughout their life and issues such as emerging diseases, inadequate feed or water intake can be dealt with earlier than usual.

**Dr Cargill** (The current ISAH country representative for Australia) presented an excellent review paper on the air quality research conducted by the South Australian Pig & Poultry Production Research Group over the past ten years. His presentation highlighted that fact that the standard of air and surface hygiene in intensive animal houses has a significant effect on animal health and production efficiency. This was a fitting end to his 35-year plus career in the South Australian Research and Development Institute, as he retired shortly before the Conference commenced.

In **Prof Barber's** paper, the environmental sustainability of animal agriculture was examined from a systems engineering perspective. He argued that current attempts to regulate animal production systems based on prescribing allowable technologies and management practices are failing. According to professor Barber precise monitoring of leakage (emission) has the greatest potential to ensure the long-term environmental sustainability and social responsibility of animal production.

**Dr Seedorf** presented an interesting paper on a preliminary study investigating the efficiency of a combined air-scrubber/biofilter unit to remove bioaerosols from the exhaust air of livestock buildings. The results proved that the biofilter system is capable of significantly reducing the amount of airborne particulates in the exhaust air.

**Prof. Gates** presentation focused on controlled environment systems (CES), which could include such diverse applications as buildings for indoor

aquaculture, intensive livestock and laboratory animals. He argued that useful technologies such as economical optimisation softwares and 'fuzzy logic' control tools could be easily incorporated and utilised in CES buildings. Indeed he made the point that these and other technologies need to be incorporated into future CES systems, if livestock industries aim to remain economically viable, socially responsible and ecologically sustainable.

Thomas Banhazi presented a series of papers on the results of his latest Australian Pork Limited (APL) funded research project, which aimed at improving the quality of shed environments by reducing the levels of airborne pollutants and improving pen hygiene. His papers on factors influencing dunging pattern in pigpens and an innovative dust reduction technique in horse stables were especially well received.

Immediately after the Conference (on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July) a related workshop/symposia was held aimed at bringing a body of experts together to examine the opportunities and barriers of implementing "Precision Livestock Farming" principles into the Australian pig industry.

The proceedings of all presented papers (oral and posters) were published on CD-ROM showing full reference details. Copies of the proceedings can be obtained by e-mailing either Ms Michelle Coe ([michelle.coe@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:michelle.coe@adelaide.edu.au)) or Thomas Banhazi ([banhazi.thomas@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:banhazi.thomas@saugov.sa.gov.au)).

This workshop concluded what was a very successful conference. Feedback from participants indicated their interest and enthusiasm in the topics presented and all generally enjoyed both the social and scientific aspects of the conference. The conference provided insights and indications of future trends related to the sustainability of animal production systems.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Conference would not been possible without the generous support of many individuals and organisations. I wish to particularly acknowledge the support and assistance of the following colleagues and organisations:

- Dr Dean Revell, Prof. Phil Hynd, Dr David Taplin, Ms Michelle Coe, Livestock System Alliance, University of Adelaide, Department of Animal Science
- Dr Colin Cargill, Livestock System Alliance, Pig and Poultry Production Institute - South Australian Research and Development Institute
- Ms Georgina Robertson, EventsOz



# 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting of the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP), Cairo 01-04 Sept. 2002

The Egyptian Society for Animal production is a member of EAAP since many years and Cairo was chosen to host the annual congress for the first time outside Europe. About 700 people attended the congress.

As it is usual at EAAP we had several parallel sessions and key-items were developed in main sessions.

I cannot here exhaustively report on the contributions and the present document will first focus on the programme supported by the «Management and Health» study commission.

1- **The commission programme in Cairo was oriented at least for part towards main concerns that livestock production has to face in harsh environments.** The programme was established in cooperation with the Egyptian organizers. The commission was involved in a first joint session chaired by Annick Gibon and dealing with livestock farming systems. The members of the commission interacted with the chairperson during the preparation phase. Session 2 was a single session devoted to "animal welfare aspects during transportation". The session was chaired by Prof. J. Hartung from the vet. School of Hannover (Germany). In total we had 10 oral presentations most of them dealing with cattle. The complex issue of welfare measurement has been addressed by Prof. E. Von Borell. An approach based on HACCP concept was proposed. A paper outlined the specific difficulties encountered when sheep are transported over very long distances especially from NZ or Australia to Mediterranean countries. The physiological response of cattle during loading, transportation and unloading was also shown. Diverse studies were presented in order to try to improve these conditions. It was said that

provided the animals are adequately handled, fed and transported the consequences in terms of stress and meat quality should be minimized. New technologies are under study trying to improve the conditions of comfort during transportation. Obviously these conclusions only apply to livestock familiar with human beings. For free range livestock the problem remains critical. For these animals, in addition to fear from humans and uneasy feeling in confinement conditions, they might not make even use of the feed and water when provided because of unfamiliarity. Most of the papers presented at the session were related to an EU research project, coordinated by Girma Gebresenbet from Sweden.

Session 3, entitled "animal factors in pollution control" was chaired by prof. J. Metz from the Netherlands. An outstanding group of papers was presented. The aspects of air and soil pollution were considered through experimental and field studies. The nutrient surplus is obvious in certain parts of Europe and attempts were shown trying to cope with the new regulations. Nitrogen, phosphorus but also metals were targeted in the papers. A special issue of Livestock Production Science is expected on the basis of presentations prepared for the session. The free communication session (session 4) chaired by J.T. Sorensen (DK) dealt with a variety of subjects among which lameness in cattle. The delicate subject of welfare of fattening rabbits kept in cages was also studied through the enrichment of their environment.

Session 5 was chaired by Dr. J. Domenech from the CIRAD (Fr) and by Prof. Edrize from Cairo university. The latter gave us as introduction the Egyptian experience of livestock health maintenance and his talk was followed by several presentations all oriented towards practical aspects.

Annie Rodolakis (Fr) spoke about the infectious abortions in small ruminants in the Maghreb. She paid a special attention to the rickets. The molecular characterisation of different strains of chlamydothyla was detailed as well as the perspectives in term of vaccination. Another talk focussed on rabies which remains an important public health concern in several countries of southern Mediterranean area.

The domestic dog is considered as main responsible of rabies and the experience of parenteral vaccination was reported. A paper about the Bluetongue in sheep drew our attention on the slight spread of the disease from South to North. Cases have recently been described in Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy and Central Europe. The disease is becoming a new threat for sheep production in Southern Europe and Dr. Domenech, the chairman outlined the need for cooperation between the countries not only for this disease but also for other vectorial diseases. Climate changings and more intense movements of any kind are probably involved in disease spreading. The case of West-Nile disease was also mentioned in the discussion.

Session 6 was a joint session (with Nutrition and Pig Commissions). It was chaired by Dr P. Sanders (Fr), and the subject was topical : "the use of drugs and alternatives". There is no doubt that the official health authorities, the scientists but also the general public would like to know more about the way our food animals are raised. In respect to antibiotics, they would like to know why, when and how these drugs are used. A main paper was given by C. Wenk (CH, president of Pig Commission). He gave an overview of growth promoters and the variety of alternatives. Prebiotics, probiotics, herbs...were given definitions and the current knowledge regarding their impact and mode of action was reported. Regarding their efficacy, the author also reminded the paramount role of the environment the animals are offered.

He said as general statement that the use of drugs trying to compensate failures in farm management and husbandry will not be any more accepted by the public. P. Sanders (Fr) talked about the pharmacology of antimicrobials and drug resistance. He told how the optimal treatment dose is calculated and what are the conditions that should reduce the onset of drug resistance. He also gave a presentation on "the Danish experience," a paper prepared by F. Aarestrup (DK). The paper dealt with drug resistance and the means put in place for surveillance. The other papers were focussed on practical use of the alternatives to antibiotics.

## **2- The other sessions**

The nutritionists and geneticists had a main session on « nutrient regulation of gene expression ». During the session a special attention was paid to Nutrition-hormone receptor gene interactions in health and development. The Metabolic costs of the immune system were assessed in a another session driven by the nutrition commission. An important topic at the congress was « physiology of adaptation ». The general principles were explained and then diverse examples were given. The latter concerned reproduction but also growth and milk production. The item of « Transgenesis » was also on the agenda. A round table entitled : « globalisation : who benefits ? » was organized, as plenary session ; Diverging points of view were expressed on this occasion.

**3- A book of abstracts was prepared** (Y. Van der Honing, Editor-in-chief) Wageningen Academic Publishers, PO Box 220, NL - 6700 AE Wageningen - The Netherlands.

Réf. ISBN 9076998124  
ISSN 1382 - 6077  
NUGI 835

**Dr. F. MADEC  
AFSSA Ploufragan  
FRANCE**





## Vaccines for OIE list A and emerging animal diseases Sept. 16-18, 2002, Ames, IOWA, USA



The symposium was co-organized by OIE (Office International des Epizooties, World Animal Health Organization) and IAB<sub>s</sub> (International Association for Biologicals). 120 specialists attended the symposium. They mainly came from Europe, North and South-America. FAO was also represented. The role of OIE was explained by Dr Thiermann, president of Animal Health Code Commission at OIE. «The OIE is the international standard-setting organization for animal health and zoonoses. It addresses the control and prevention of important and emerging diseases primarily by collecting and disseminating relevant animal health information worldwide, and by adopting and publishing sanitary standards and recommendations for animals and animal products. The OIE's information system is aimed at promoting a transparent knowledge of the global animal disease situation, crucial for safe trade decision making». The infectious diseases affecting animals have been ranked into categories (lists) depending on their overall impact. List A diseases are the most threatening ones. During the symposium, examples of OIE's role in addressing list A disease vaccine issues were presented. Regulatory aspects were considered for emergency use of vaccines in the US and in the EU. Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) often came at the surface. From a regulatory perspective FMD vaccines represent a special case due to the number and antigenic diversity of strains that might be used alone or in combination within the context of an authorisation. In respect to FMD vaccine a new step seems to be reached according to research results (engineered vaccines). Matched to adequate serological

tests, infected animals could be distinguished from vaccinated ones. However some technical problems have still to be solved. Engineered particles that essentially mimic the virus, without containing any genetic material (no replication) are also under study for Bluetongue disease. New perspectives are also ahead with the development of new generation rinderpest vaccines. Heartwater (a tickborne disease of ruminants caused by the intracellular rickettsia *Ehrlichia*, formerly *Cowdria*) is also the current target of specific work about vaccines. In this case the way of DNA vaccines is investigated. It was said that the search for new contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia vaccines has become a major issue for African countries that are facing an increase of outbreaks of this disease. Obviously the state of the art regarding several other diseases was presented (eg. marker vaccines for Classical Swine Fever, vaccines for Avian Influenza...). Beside these scientific considerations, the strategies regarding the new threats (West-Nile, Influenza, FMD,...) were broadly discussed and interesting comments were made. The role of vaccination was of course pivotal in these strategies.

A book of abstracts was given to the participants.

For additional informations, contact the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics, IOWA State Univ., Coll. of Vet. Med., AMES, USA ; e.mail : [iicab@iastate.edu](mailto:iicab@iastate.edu).

**P. Vannier and F. Madec**  
AFSSA Ploufragan France

# The XXII World Buiatrics Congress in Hannover - an Epilogue -

*The XXII World Buiatrics Congress was held from 18-23 August 2002 in Hannover, Germany – and it became an outstanding event for everyone working with cattle.*

*More than 2,500 participants from 55 countries visited the congress, which served thereby as a platform for scientists from universities and scientific institutions, for practitioners, and members of national and supranational organizations dealing with ruminants. The program covered the whole range of topics relevant to cattle veterinarians from all over the world. Not only herd medicine, epidemiology and specific organ diseases were within the scope of the sessions, but also consumer protection, animal welfare and environmental issues.*

*The scientific program included 54 keynote lectures, 262 short communications, 420 posters, 9 special events and 12 workshops. Lectures were presented in four halls with simultaneous translation into French, Spanish, English and German. Extended summaries of the keynote lectures were edited as a book and were turned over to each participant; the volume is still available for interested colleagues.*

*Two Special Events focused on animal welfare and found many interested participants, most of them on Wednesday when issues related to cattle housing and slaughtering were discussed. More than 200 participants visited the DVG-Event "Zoonoses", where eradication programs were presented especially for public veterinary officers. Also the Special Events "Animal Health Programs in Developing Countries", "The Waterbuffalo", „The Rumen: from Physiology to Pathophysiology“, „Sheep and Goats“, „BSE“ and „Alternative Medicine“ had a large, interested audience. This was also true for the symposia sponsored by the Official Partners and gold sponsors of the congress. Nearly all of the 12 workshops covering various practical issues of buiatricians work were fully booked, some of them had to be divided and were carried out twice. Moreover, the entire palette of products and services for veterinarians was offered in a major industrial exhibition.*

Beside the scientific program, the congress provided ample opportunity for the essential informal exchange of ideas and for relaxed socializing with friends and colleagues. The "Lower Saxony Evening" was celebrated on Monday by roughly 2,000 people in the garden of the congress venue and became a phantastic start of the congress week. The "Gala-Dinner" on Thursday was overbooked and sparkling with humour; about 150 unshakable dancers moved after midnight to the Clinic for Cattle and continued the party up till the morning. All day trips to touristic attractions were successful, favourites were the sightseeing tour in Hannover and the trip to Berlin.

The organizers wish to thank all those who visited the congress and created a cordial, pleasant atmosphere – even overlooking small shortcomings and, last but not least, all those who supported the congress by personal and financial engagement. We hope to meet again during the XXIII World Buiatrics Congress in Quebec/Canada in 2004 !

**Henner Scholz  
Wilfried Hofmann  
Martin Kaske  
Martin Höltershinken**

# HYGIENIC SAFETY IN ORGANIC WASTE PROCESSING

## 10th FAO RAMIRAN CONFERENCE



Hygienic safety in the processing of organic waste belongs to the problems receiving worldwide attention and it was the topic of the 10th international FAO RAMIRAN (FAO European Cooperative Research Network on Recycling of Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial Residues in Agriculture) conference. The conference took place on May 14–18, 2002 at Štrbské Pleso, High Tatras, Slovak Republic and was organized by the team of Jan Venglovsky, DVM, PhD, of the Research Institute of Veterinary Medicine (RIVM) of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Košice.

Since 1992 the RIVM has been member of the FAO RAMIRAN cooperative network which deals with research into environmental problems connected with the processing of agricultural, municipal and industrial wastes and their use in agriculture.

It was the aim of the conference to present a survey of the most important questions connected with the processing of different organic wastes and the impacts of the latter on agriculture, environment and the health of animals and humans.

The official opening of the conference was preceded by a working meeting of invited specialists with Ms. Maria Kadlecikova, Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic in charge of European Integration. Mr. Michal Demes, representative of the FAO REUR prepared a presentation of activities in the field of information technologies; RAMIRAN, FAO REUR and FAO were suggested to be linked via internet at [www.ramiran.net](http://www.ramiran.net).

The conference was attended by ninety-three scientists from 22 countries of Europe as well as the USA, Japan, Chile and Mexico. In six sessions 44 scientific contributions and 45 posters were presented which dealt with the following topics:

- Hygiene safety in organic waste management
- Strategies for organic waste management in agriculture
- Agronomic value of organic wastes
- Measurement, modelling and control of gaseous emissions
- Processing and handling of wastes
- Environmental impacts

The contributions have been summarized in the form of conclusions which will be included in the current revision of EU regulations concerning composting and the use of sludges in agriculture.

A great number of contributions dealt with the survival of important pathogens and indicator microorganisms in manure and in the environment.

Minimization of nitrogen losses during organic waste processing and minimization of greenhouse gas emissions were also largely discussed.

Several recommendations concerned changes in the regulations concerning risk material with view to TSE. Revisions shall also include regulations concerning composting and aerobic and anaerobic treatment of wastes. Revision will be suggested for the hygienic regulations concerning untreated poultry manure as well as the parameters of manure treatment.

In future, research should focus on the determination of survival and on the epidemiology of important viruses in biological and animal wastes and sludges since these agents frequently cause problems on farms. The pathogens of fish and plants as well as pathogen-inactivating technologies should receive more attention. Research will also include the development of methods of heat and chemical inactivation of TSE agents during the treatment of organic and animal wastes in order to make recycling of these materials safe.

The next conference will take place in 2004 in Spain. New working groups will be established and will deal with the following problems:

- Hygienic aspects - Reinhard Bohm, Germany
- Gaseous emissions - Tom Misselbrook, UK
- Solid wastes - Harald Menzi, Switzerland
- Heavy metals - Roger Unwin, UK
- Other wastes produced on farms - Paolo Balsari, Italy
- Processing of organic wastes - Giorgio Provolò, Italy
- Composting and treatment of organic wastes - Maria-Pilar Bernal, Spain
- Information systems - Ján Venglovský, SR

The contributions have been published on CD and in the proceedings „RECYCLING OF AGRICULTURAL, MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL RESIDUES IN AGRICULTURE NETWORK (RAMIRAN)“. Detailed information on the conference can be found on [www.ramiran.net](http://www.ramiran.net).

On September 18-19, 2002 the scientific conference „Ecology and Veterinary Medicine“ was held in Kosice. It was devoted to the „Hygienic and ecological problems in relation to veterinary medicine“ and it was divided into three sections. Altogether 74 contributions were presented.

**Jan Venglovsky,  
DVM, PhD**

# Announcements



## **I- International Occasional Symposium of the European Grassland Federation.**

Pleven, BULGARIA 26-28 May 2003

Theme : Forage systems for animal production and the environment.

Informations : Dr. Atanas Kirilov

Email : [forage@el-soft.com](mailto:forage@el-soft.com)

Web : [www.IFC-pleven.el-soft.com/EGF-2003](http://www.IFC-pleven.el-soft.com/EGF-2003)

## **II- 4<sup>th</sup> International symposium on emerging and re-emerging pig diseases**

ROME 29 June - 2 July 2003

The purpose of the symposium is to provide the most current information on virus-induced pig diseases that have recently or relatively recently emerged as a major economic threat to the swine industry worldwide. Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Postweaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) and Swine influenza (SI) will be the targets. The format of the symposium will be such that room will be given to keynote lectures but also to contributed papers and for discussion and debate ; Workshops are scheduled for the purpose and they are expected to be the core of the symposium. Deadline for contributions : February 28<sup>th</sup> 2003.

e mail : [laura.risito@newteam.it](mailto:laura.risito@newteam.it)

Website : [www.newteam.it/PIG2003](http://www.newteam.it/PIG2003)

Organizing committee : Prof. P. Martelli : [martelli@unipr.it](mailto:martelli@unipr.it)

## **III- 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Food Science and Technology**

16-20 July 2003, Chicago, USA

Theme : Feeding the world : opportunities without boundaries

Web : [www.worldfoodscience.org/congress/overview.html](http://www.worldfoodscience.org/congress/overview.html)

## **IV- 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Veterinary Virology**

"Virus persistence and evolution"

24-27 August 2003. St-Malo, FRANCE

The Congress is organized by the European Society for Veterinary Virology (ESVV). The ESVV congress is held every 3 years. Deadline for full texts submission : April 2003

Email : [esvv2003@zoopole.com/ispaia/esvv2003/org\\_gene.cfm](mailto:esvv2003@zoopole.com/ispaia/esvv2003/org_gene.cfm)

## **V- 54<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP).**

Rome, ITALY - 31 August - 3 September 2003

The scientific programme will include all recent trends in animal science, and will be enriched by field trips to make the participants aware of livestock production in Italy. The scientific programme as usual at EAAP will have as key items : Genetics, Nutrition, physiology, Management and Health. Different sessions will run in parallel. Here are some provisional titles of sessions:

- Animal health and welfare in different livestock production systems
- Electronic identification in farm animals and traceability
- Metabolic disorders in high yielding dairy cows
- Locomotor disorders in Cattle, Pigs and Poultry
- Large-scale cattle units : health, welfare and economics

Email : [isz@flashnet.it](mailto:isz@flashnet.it)

Website : [www.eaap.org](http://www.eaap.org)

## **VI- XIIth ISAH main congress**

5-9 Sept. 2005, Warsaw, POLAND

leading topic : "Animal and Environment"

Web site : <http://www.sggw.waw.pl/~isah2005>

# IN MEMORIAM



- We learnt that Professor Tadeusz Majewski (Poland) MVDr, DrSci, born on 26 November 1935, died on 20 September 2002.

*He was head of Department of Animal and Environment Hygiene at the Agricultural University in Lublin. Professor Majewski was very active in the Section of Animal Hygiene of the Polish Society of Veterinary Sciences and he took part in many ISAH congresses. Sincere sympathy.*

- We learnt that Professor Bożena Chudoba-Drozdowska (Poland) Dr, Dr Sci, born on 25 of October 1939, died on 15 October 2002.

*She was a real scientist. She worked in the Department of Animal and Environmental Hygiene at the Agricultural University in Wrocław. She was very active in the Polish Society of Veterinary Sciences and she was also a member of ISAH. Sincere Sympathy.*

