Profitable and Sustainable Grazing Systems- The best of both worlds!

World food demand is predicted to double from present levels by 2050, driven by a projected 40% increase in population growth and changes in eating patterns. This will undoubtedly lead to greater demand for livestock products. This conference will focus on the potential of grazing to deliver profitable and sustainable livestock systems, whilst maintaining/improving the environment and producing healthy food products. This is a jointly run conference between BGS and BSAS and aims to bring together researchers, advisers and farmers to discuss current best practice in grazing systems for dairy, beef and sheep, future priorities for grazing research and development and opportunities to enhance knowledge exchange. The future of agriculture will require farmers, advisers, and researchers to come together to find increasingly more sustainable ways to farm. The speakers at this conference will aim to bring attention to the subject of sustainable grazing systems and what direction we need to go in for the future.
Tuesday 26\textsuperscript{th} February 2013

Session 1: Global and Local Challenges for Grazing Systems

- The Food Security and Sustainability Challenge \textbf{Prof Charles Godfray (Oxford University)}
- The Role of Grazing Livestock in Global and National Food Production \textbf{Dr Pat Dillon (Teagasc)}
- Welfare Benefits/Disbenefits of Grazing vs Indoor Systems \textbf{Dr Laura Boyle (Teagasc) and Dr Mark Rutter (Harper Adams)}

Offered papers from

- \textbf{Liz Genever (EBLEX)} How to encourage sheep producers to start using feed budgets
- \textbf{Mike Wilkinson (University of Nottingham)} Trends and targets for milk production from forage.
- \textbf{Andrew Dale (AFBI)} The relationship between grassland performance and profitability on ten Northern Ireland dairy farms.
- \textbf{Poppy Frater (EBLEX)} Can breeding ewes be wintered on grazed grass alone?

Session 2: Environmental and product quality benefits of grassland based livestock

- Maximising Nutrient Efficiency in Grazing Systems \textbf{Professor Dave Chadwick (Bangor University)}
- Biodiversity Impacts of Grazing Systems \textbf{Dr Mariecia Fraser (IBERS) and Jerry Tallowin (Rothamsted NW)}
- Nutritional and Health Properties of Grassland-Based Livestock Products \textbf{Professor Ian Givens (Reading University)}

Session 3: Key Challenges and Opportunities in Grassland Management – A Farmers Perspective

- Leading dairy, beef and sheep farmers will outline their perspectives of the important features of successful grazing systems. \textbf{Dave Sanders (Sheep farmer in Cornwall)}

The evening will host a reception of two minute presentation sessions for offered papers, followed by a poster session for offered posters.

Day 1 will finish with a conference dinner.
Wednesday 27th February 2013

Session 4: What Can Science Provide to Grassland Farmers

- Soil Science/Nutrient Management - Fit for Purpose? Dr George Fisher and Lois Philipps (BGS)
- Grass Breeding Dr Alan Lovatt (IBERS)
- Animal Breeding for Grazing Systems Dr Donagh Berry (Teagasc), Dr Mike Coffey (SRUC) and Dr Alistair Carson (AFBI).

Offered papers from
- Elizabeth Sagoo (ADAS) Manner NPK: Organic Manure Nutrient Management Software
- Marion Beecher (Teagasc) Seasonal variation in the proportion and chemical composition of the morphological components in perennial ryegrass cultivars.
- Gareth Burns (NIAB) Synopsis of perennial ryegrass recommended list trials in the UK.
- Paul Hargreaves (SRUC) Grassland soil compaction: Effects on yield and nitrous oxide emissions.

Session 5: Knowledge Transfer: Bridging the Gap between Research and Farm Practice – Interactive Discussion Session

This session will have Short presentations from advisers highlighting their approach to knowledge exchange and workshop session on bridging the gap between research and farm practice facilitated by the AHDB

Session 6: Future Research and Development Priorities for Grassland-Based Livestock Systems – Interactive Discussion Session

- Grazing Decision Support Systems Dr Jean Louis Peyraud and Dr Luc Delaby (INRA)
- Precision grazing management Toby Mottram
- Grass for non-ruminants Ruth Clements (FAI)

Registration

Registration is open at www.britishgrassland.com. Members of BGS and/or BSAS, and students benefit from reduced registration (see website for details). We aim to close registration after Tuesday 12th February 2013. Number of delegates is limited to 150, so register early.