



# BRITISH GRASSLAND SOCIETY MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

April 2009

## Grassland UK, May 7th, Shepton Mallet, Somerset - BGS and DairyCo seminar programme

BGS and DairyCo have joined forces to offer a programme of 20 minute seminars at Grassland UK, taking place in the Seminar Marquee, where you will also find the BGS and DairyCo stands and free coffee.

These will cover some timely issues, including the latest advice on Nitrate Vulnerable Zones and options for slurry storage, plus ways to use less fertiliser without losing valuable forage yields. We hope to see many members there. For full details see our website or next magazine.

Programme:

10.30	<b>Profiting from grazing whatever the yield</b>	Adam Clay, DairyCo
11.00:	<b>NVZs: coping with the new rules</b>	Martin Yeates & David Pettit, Kingshay
11.30:	<b>Strategies for slurry storage</b>	Chris Coxon, DairyCo
12.00:	<b>Beating fertiliser price rises</b>	Chris Duller, IBERS GDC
1.00:	<b>Achieving good health and fertility at grass</b>	Paddy Gordon, Shepton Vet Group
1.30:	<b>Field to clamp: keeping the quality in forage</b>	Adam Clay, DairyCo
2.00:	<b>Exploiting the value in farm manures</b>	David Munday, Creedy Associates

For reduced price tickets for this Bath and West Society event see [www.bathandwest.com](http://www.bathandwest.com)

**DairyCo**



**BATH & WEST**  
GRASSLAND UK

### “Milking grass for profit” farm walks

Our third year of farm walks, run jointly by BGS, the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers and DairyCo, saw us attract almost 500 people to the three days. A few of farmers joined us for all three events this year, as well as some farmers from Dumfries coming to the Wiltshire event.

The three hosts all showed how grazed grass could be a vital part of cow diets whatever the yield level required, with range from 5600 to 10,000 litres/cow. They all measured grass with a platometer and rotationally grazed, giving fresh grass at each feed.

For reports and photos of the events see the news section of [www.britishgrassland.com](http://www.britishgrassland.com) or the May issue of our magazine.

### BGS to launch a new initiative

A scheme which will see farmers trained to mentor other farmers in their area improve grazing management has been developed and full details will be announced in the May issue of Grass and Forage Farmer.



The initiative, BGS Grazing Partners, was initiated by alternate regional Council rep Sara Gregson, and the working party has included Sarah Byford, Tony Evans and Jessica Buss.

A stakeholder meeting saw great interest from potential funders, with DairyCo, EBLEX, the National Trust and BGS already committing to fund training a total of nine mentors in 2009.

## Summer Meeting 2009, June 28th - July 1st, Northern Ireland

Flyers and application form for this event, hosted by the Ulster Grassland Society and Co Fermanagh Grassland Club in Northern Ireland, are included with this mailing.

**Flights:** If you want to take advantage of the low prices often available when you book flights early, please call Rachael or Jess in the BGS office for suitable flights and to reserve a room. Please note there are two airports at Belfast, but we are **only** able to collect delegates from **Belfast International** Airport (coded BFS) on Sunday from 11am-9pm and will only drop-off delegates there on Wednesday. Watch out with low-cost flight booking websites which will give flights to and from both airports even when you specify the international airport in the search box.

*Continued overleaf.....*

## Forage Legumes Special Interest Group meeting—June 9th

What, who, where, when, programme.

### **BGS AGM and Nominations for officers**

The BGS AGM will be held on the evening of Monday June 29th at Greenmount College, Belfast, Northern Ireland as part of the Summer Meeting.

The full agenda and 2008 accounts will be published on the BGS website at least 14 days prior to the AGM or are available by post on request.

Nominations at or before the meeting are required for the Council Trustee positions of President Elect; one National member; Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary (both annually appointed). Plus, non-trustee alternate reps for Scotland, Northern Ireland, North and South East regions.

### **BGS President receives Royal recognition**

BGS president Sarah Byford has been made an Associate of the Royal Agricultural Society, in recognition of her contribution to agriculture through the education and training of future farmers, managers and stockmen, and for her support of grassland societies and agricultural shows.

### **Legacies to the Travel-Bursary fund**

If you have enjoyed taking part in BGS activities, please consider helping us to boost the funds for bursary awards with a legacy.

This will allow us to support younger people in their search for grassland knowledge.

All you need to do is notify your solicitor or put a note in your will stating the amount and our name, address and charity no. as below.

### **1st - 8th Research Conferences on CD**

The proceedings for these eight Research Conferences can now be bought on one CD, which is keyword searchable, making it far more valuable as reference material.

So complete your set or reduce the weight on your bookshelves by buying a copy now.

Members price £40 or £60 for non-members and £100 for libraries and institutions. Please order in our online bookshop or send a cheque to the BGS office.

## **BGS DIARY DATES 2009**

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>: BGS Grassland Management for Horse Enterprises**

**May 7<sup>th</sup>: Grassland UK, BGS and DairyCo seminars, Somerset**

**June 9<sup>th</sup>: BGS Forage Legumes Group meeting – IBERS, Aberystwyth**

**June 28<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>: BGS Summer Meeting, Northern Ireland**

**Sept 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>: BGS 9<sup>th</sup> Research Conference, Harper Adams, Shropshire**

**Sept 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Dairy Event and Livestock Show**

**Keep up to date with BGS and industry news on our website [www.britishgrassland.com](http://www.britishgrassland.com)**

Recent news items include: Spring farm walk reports, DairyCo project to monitor grazing quality and growth, NVZ derogation agreed, Help with paper based fertiliser records.

**Look out for our NEW website in May**

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