



# BRITISH GRASSLAND SOCIETY

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

### March 2009

## BGS R&D PRIORITIES 2009-2012

One of the objectives of the BGS Research and Development Committee is to try to focus funders on the key issues for grassland farming. Recently it launched its R&D Priorities 2009-2012 document to research funders and the industry, with the aim of influencing strategy and assisting grassland researchers within our membership who are seeking funding.

Many key people from research funding organisations have been in touch to tell us how they appreciate the focus this gives, how they plan to use the document in forthcoming strategy meetings and to tell us they think its worthy of passing on to colleagues. We have been very pleased with the response so far and hope any members who get the chance to use this document will do so in the coming months.

It includes five major categories of R&D Priorities, which are: Competitiveness, Food, Environment, Climate Change and Knowledge. Copies are available in pdf form on our website [www.britishgrassland.com](http://www.britishgrassland.com) or call the BGS office for a print out. A summary will also appear in our next magazine on May 1st.

Our thanks go to the R&D committee, particularly the chair Prof David Leaver and secretary Dr George Fisher, for the time and effort that has gone into this document.

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

We have now collated the proceedings for these eight Research Conferences on one CD. This has the advantage of being 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.

### Catering for Horses Today

Please see the programme and application form with this newsletter.

This event is open to members and non-members, so please tell any friends and colleagues with an interest in horses about this event to help us make it a success.

More forms can be requested from Rachael in the BGS office on 01285 885166 or by e-mailing [rachael@britishgrassland.com](mailto:rachael@britishgrassland.com)

## “MILKING GRASS FOR PROFIT” FARMWALKS

Following successful spring farm walks in 2007 and 2008, BGS, RABDF and DairyCo have once again joined forces to hold three events in 2009. Each event starts with tea and coffee at 10:30am and includes lunch. The events are free, however, it is vital you register to enable us to cater sufficiently, so please phone RABDF on 0845 4582711 or e-mail [lauradickinson@rabdf.co.uk](mailto:lauradickinson@rabdf.co.uk)

**Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> - Rupert and James Major, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire**

**Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup> – Robert Craig, Carlisle, Cumbria**

**Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> – David Homer, Marlborough, Wilts**

More details including the discussion topics for each day are available on [www.britishgrassland.com](http://www.britishgrassland.com)



### Members Subscription Payments

**Direct Debits** — Members with a Direct Debit set up will have their subs collected in late March.

**Invoices** — If you have received an invoice for your subs and not yet paid it please do so as soon as possible, preferably by renewing online with a credit or debit card, to save us the expense of sending out reminders. Thanks to all those who have paid already.

*Continued overleaf.....*

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

Our team from the Ulster Grassland Society and Co Fermanagh Grassland Club in Northern Ireland are well advanced in their plans for the Summer Meeting. Application forms and full details will be mailed in three to four weeks, with the full delegate fee from Sunday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon costing less than £300/person.

**Flights:** If you want to get ahead and 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.

If you do choose the city airport (coded BHD) it is a long and expensive taxi ride to Greenmount Campus where we will be based and you will need an extra 1.5 hours to travel back there through Belfast city on Wednesday evening, so cannot fly back before at least 9pm, these transfers will be at your own expense.

### 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 of legacy, and our name, address and charity no. as below.

### Grassland UK, May 7th, Somerset -

#### BGS and DairyCo seminar programme

BGS and DairyCo have joined forces to offer a programme of 20 minute seminars at Grassland UK, which is organised by the Bath and West Society.

Topics arranged so far include: coping with increases in fertiliser prices without reducing grass yields; establishing red and white clover successfully; practical manure management; latest NVZ advice; slurry storage options and improving dairy cow grazing management.

The full programme will appear in the May 1st issue of BGS's Grass and Forage Farmer and on [www.britishgrassland.com](http://www.britishgrassland.com) shortly.

Advance, reduced price, tickets will soon be available on [www.bathandwest.com](http://www.bathandwest.com)

### BGS Innovation Award 2009

Nominations are being sought for this award which seeks to recognise an individual who is currently making an outstanding contribution to development, understanding or application of grassland and forage crop husbandry and technology.

It is open to a wide cross-section of the industry for making an impact at a technical, communication or practical level.

Nominations are being sought for this award which seeks to recognise an individual who is currently making an outstanding contribution to development, understanding or application of grassland and forage crop husbandry and technology.

The closing date for nominations is March 31st. Nomination forms are available by e-mailing [office@britishgrassland.com](mailto:office@britishgrassland.com)

## BGS DIARY DATES 2009

**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 31st and April 7th: BGS, RABDF, DairyCo Spring farm walks**

**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: Mair Morgan's Jan Crichton Travel-Bursary award report; full list of the NIAB Recommended Lists for England and Wales levy paying merchants; and the MGA Conference Programme.

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