



BRITISH GRASSLAND SOCIETY MEMBERS NEWSLETTER March 2010

BGS President's Trip to Ireland - April 25th-27th



BGS President, Dave Roberts has arranged a trip to the Teagasc Moorepark Dairy Research Centre and two Irish dairy farms, plus an evening with Francis Kearney to discuss 'what type of cow suits a grassland-based system'.

With a maximum of 16 places, this small group event, only for BGS fully paid up members, will ensure a quality discussion and opportunity to share knowledge, with the BGS President as your group leader.

Those able to secure a place on this trip will need to arrive in Cork afternoon/evening on Sunday 25th April, for an informal evening with Andrew Crombie, President of the Irish Grassland Association. Monday morning will be spent at Teagasc, Moorepark, meeting members of the excellent grassland and dairy research team, to see and discuss recent and ongoing projects. The afternoon will include a visit to a commercial dairy farm nearby, before dinner with Dr Francis Kearney of the Irish Cattle Breeders Federation. Tuesday morning will include a farm visit near Cork, returning to the airport by 1pm for flights home from 2.30pm.

Places will be filled on a first come, first served basis and delegates will be responsible for booking and paying their own flights, hotel accommodation and breakfasts, plus travel insurance. Full details on the hotel and flights will be given when your place is confirmed by the BGS office on receipt of payment of £70 a person to cover transport on Monday and Tuesday, Monday lunch and dinner and admin. Contact the BGS office for information and to book on 02476 696600 or office@britishgrassland.com

What's new at www.britishgrassland.com

- Do you know who your BGS Council members are? We have now added photos to the list www.britishgrassland.com/page/bgs-council
- BGS Nutrient Wise Demos now has its own section under 'Activities' and you can see its new logo and check when you can arrange to visit www.britishgrassland.com/page/bgs-nutrient-wise-demos
- A new webform for entrants to regional (except Wales) and national rounds of our Grassland Management Competition has been developed www.britishgrassland.com/page/bgs-national-grassland-management-competition-2010
- News items are regularly added - recent news has included: EGF offering young scientists master classes at its 2010 August meeting; IBERS announcements on redundancies; and a report from a recent farm meeting to see woodchip pads. We also report product launches and include many farm related events on our calendar.

Keep up to date at
www.britishgrassland.com

BGS Managing Grazing for Horses - May 6th, Norfolk

Organised by BGS member, horse owner and grazing enthusiast Shirley Macmillan, this year's horse event will stretch the thinking of all paddock managers.

A high quality technical programme is on offer with support from the World Horse Welfare team in Norfolk. The event will be based at WHW's Hall Farm, Snetterton.

Sessions on the day will include: How, why and when does grass grow? And how to manage it; The range of species and herbs suitable for horses and why a mix is best; Why horses need fibre in their fields; Managing at grass to lose weight; Paddock management; Creating turf for exercise paddocks and Weed control.

The programme and application form are available from the BGS office or at www.britishgrassland.com

BGS is grateful to the event sponsors:

Oliver Seeds  **Dow AgroSciences**



The Hurley and North Wyke Story: 60 years of Grassland Research 1949-2009

BGS was pleased to support this book recording scientific achievements, as well as impressions and insights into life in these research stations. For a free copy phone North Wyke on 01837 883500.

Continued overleaf.....

Events not to miss this spring

Milking Grass for Profit farm walks - organised by BGS, RABDF and DairyCo



Tuesday March 30th Mat Boley, Lympham, Somerset

Topics for the day will include: Nine years without any concentrate feed and the importance of grazing management; Crossbreeding - the right type of cow for our system; Why profit/hour is the most important benchmark and Once-a-day milking benefits.

Thursday April 8th David and Rachel Lee, Shewsbury, Shropshire

Topics for the day will include: Investing in the farm for the next generation (see the new rotary parlour); Managing fertility on a low cost, low labour system; The benefits of measuring grass quantity and quality and Crossbreeding.

Find out more about both the farms on page 4 of the recent Grass and Forage Farmer.

If you wish to attend please phone RABDF on 0845 458 2711 to register and receive full details.

Reseeding Day and Recommended Grass and Clover List 2010 launch

Thursday April 22nd, NIAB plots, Newport, Shropshire

See the back cover of the recent Grass and Forage Farmer for more information or see www.britishgrassland.com If you plan to attend, please phone EBLEX to register on 0870 609 1840 or e-mail events@eblex.org.uk



And more... Diary Dates

April 25th - 27th	BGS President's Trip to Ireland (see overleaf)
April 27th-29th	AAB and BES conference: Agri-environment schemes
May 6th	BGS Managing Grazing for Horses (see overleaf)
May 11th	Scotgrass, SAC, Dumfries (www.scotgrass2010.co.uk)
June-July	BGS Nutrient Wise Demos visits (contact the BGS office)
July 4th-7th	BGS & East Scotland Grassland Society Summer Meeting
Aug 29-Sept 2nd	EGF General Meeting, Germany (see www.egf2010.de)
Sept 7th-8th	The Dairy Event and Livestock Show at NEC, Birmingham

BGS Jan Crichton Travel-Bursary Awards

Planning a trip to investigate grassland outside the UK or attend an international conference? Each year BGS awards 3-4 people bursaries of £250-500 to support travel or education, which is deemed to further the objectives of the society, with recipients producing a short report for the website and/or magazine on their return. To find out more ask for a copy of the application form from the BGS office.

BGS Members Subscriptions

Direct Debits - members with a DD mandate set up will have this year's subscription collected on or after March 18th.

Thanks to all those who have paid their sub this year so far, if you have an invoice to pay please make payment promptly to save us the expense of sending reminders, allowing us to spend time and money on our charity objectives for your benefit.

BGS is grateful to its corporate members for their support



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