

Delivering sustainability within profitable farming systems - is it possible?

in conjunction with the British Society of Animal Science

Studley Castle, Warwickshire, UK
14-15 December 2006

(Please tick appropriate boxes)

Please send me further details and booking forms when they become available
I am not an AAB member – (Members will receive this information)

I am interested in having a commercial exhibit at the conference

I wish to offer an oral presentation paper as detailed below
I wish to offer a poster presentation paper as detailed below

I would like my presentation produced in *Aspects of Applied Biology*
I would like my presentation produced as an abstract

SURNAME: INITIALS:

TITLE (Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms or other):

MAILING ADDRESS:

.....

..... POST CODE:

Tel No: Fax No: E-mail:

TITLE OF PAPER:

.....

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS:

.....

Please return to:

Delivering Sustainability Conference

AAB Office, c/o Warwick HRI

Wellesbourne Warwick CV35 9EF, UK

Tel: + 44 (0)2476 575195 Fax: +44 (0)1789 470234:

E-mail: carol.aab@warwick.ac.uk

DEADLINE FOR CALL OF PAPERS IS 15 JULY 2006

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

President: B R Kerry BSc PhD

In conjunction with the British Society of Animal Science

A 2 day conference

at Studley Castle, Warwickshire, UK

on 14-15 December 2006

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND
CALL FOR PAPERS

Delivering sustainability
within profitable farming
systems - is it possible?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Association of Applied Biologists
c/o Warwick HRI
Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK

Registered Charity No. 275655

Telephone: +44(0)1789 472020

Facsimile: +44(0)1789 470234

E-mail: carol.aab@warwick.ac.uk

http://www.aab.org.uk



Photograph reproduced by kind permission of SCRI

Delivering sustainability within profitable farming systems - is it possible?

in conjunction with the British Society of Animal Science

Studley Castle, Studley, Warwickshire, UK

14-15 December 2006

Ethos and Scope

From the 1960s until recently, the main aim for much of the agricultural industry, supported in recent decades by EU subsidies, was to maximise production. To achieve this, inter alia, traditional plant varieties were replaced by potentially more productive cultivars and to realise their potential, mineral nutrient fertilisers and pesticides, herbicides and fungicides were used extensively. Use of agrochemicals has contributed to several recent major environmental problems including eutrophication of freshwaters and hence estuaries and coastal water, emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and a decrease in biodiversity within and outside agricultural systems. Many countries have responded to these problems and international agreements require the UK to reduce the level of diffuse pollutants and promote biodiversity. Alongside this, the EU has sought to reduce its spend on agriculture by reducing subsidies, and to divert funding to agri-environment and other rural support. The pressure both from within and outside the EU to farm at what will soon be world market prices will engender significant change to UK agriculture and the agricultural landscape and raises a number of questions, such as:

What will happen to land use in future in response to increased environmental and political pressure for reform?; How will management of land and crops change?; What will be the impacts of that change over time?; How can agricultural, plant and animal sciences help prepare for that change?; Can the function of providing a sustainable farming income balance with the provision of environmental public goods?; Can we afford to farm at world market price and deliver environmental goods? Overall we need to assess if sustainability can be delivered within profitable farming systems

**The keynote speaker (sponsored by the Rank Prize Fund) will be
Dr Bruce McKenzie Lincoln University, New Zealand.**

The AAB Invited Speaker will be John McClintock (DG Agriculture Brussels)

Topic areas include:

1. Agriculture and the environment –policies: an overview

- Drivers and impacts of agricultural change
- Impacts of CAP reform and WTA agreements, Impacts of NVZ legislation, the Water Framework Directive and other environmental policy measures on land use and financial profitability. How have land managers responded or how are they likely to respond? – will all be able to or want to adapt to change? Who will be the winners and losers? Is realisation of greater efficiency possible? As a result, what will the future agricultural landscape look like?, and what can be done to predict the scale or impacts of such changes

2. Crop breeding and targets

- Role in disease resistance strategies
- Breeding for new markets
- Future paths in crop breeding - required traits to deal with changing needs of agriculture
- Breeding for improved water use and drought resistance

3. Cropping systems - managing inputs and resources

- Managing crop nutrition and crop protection inputs
- Protecting resources – coping with NVZ restrictions and the Water Framework Directive
- Maintaining soil quality/nutrient status, optimising cultivation strategies, rotations
- Conserving energy, waste disposal and waste directive
- Catchment farming systems
- Systems modelling
- Novel cropping – likely impacts on land use and the environment

4. Cropping systems and below ground biodiversity

- The impact of agricultural intensification on soil biodiversity
- The importance of legumes and mycorrhizal fungi in sustainable farming systems
- Microorganisms and crop nutrition in low input agricultural systems
- The involvement of soil microbial populations in the suppression of soil pathogens

5. Sustainable livestock systems

- Low input livestock production systems
- Productive efficiency of animal grazing
- Quality traits in forage crops;
- Profitable livestock systems;
- Research priorities in ruminant nutrition

6 The economics of different farm management/cropping systems

- Financial implications of CAP reform
- The economic signals of CAP reform
- The economic impact of NVZ and Water Framework directive restrictions
- The economic viability of low input cropping systems
- The role of stakeholder theory in the financial strategy of UK agriculture

Offers of platform and poster presentations can be made either by e-mail, fax, or post to the AAB office (address details over). Alternatively you can register your offer via the AAB web site at:

<http://www.aab.org.uk>

For these offers, click on ABSTRACTS in the left hand column of the home page, then select the conference title. After clicking on REGISTER and once you have entered your name and e-mail you will sent a password. You can then upload your offer title , together with author details and a short description of your paper as a WORD document.

Papers will be published in the AAB *Aspects of Applied Biology* series. However, selected papers will be considered for publication in *Annals of Applied Biology*.

DEADLINE FOR CALL FOR PAPERS - 15 JULY 2006