ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ANIMAL BREEDING AND GENETICS

19th Conference

The University of Western Australia, Perth
19th to 21st July 2011
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Emergencies
Please contact the reception desk of the University Club in case of emergencies
(Phone numbers +61 8 6488 4843)

Venue
The conference will be held at the University Club of the University of Western Australia, M800, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, Western Australia 6009. All sessions will take place in the Auditorium, Banquet Hall, Room 1 and in Room 2 of the conference complex. Tea and lunches will be served in the Banquet Hall.

Phone  +61 8 64884820
Fax      +61 8 64881183

Registration
The registration desk is located in the foyer of the UWA Club, and messages can be left with registration.

Sponsors
Display areas for sponsors will be located in the Banquet Hall where delegates will congregate for morning & afternoon teas, lunches and the informal dinner on Tuesday night.

Internet
Wireless internet is available in the UWA main complex. If delegates have their own wireless connection, then they can use this at no additional charge. Delegates who want to use the complex wireless internet should contact the registration desk who will allocate usernames and passwords.

Poster presentations
The posters will be displayed and viewed in the Banquet Hall. Please display your posters as soon as possible on Tuesday morning after registration.
The official poster viewing will take place on Tuesday evening during the informal dinner from 6pm to 9pm. However, we encourage delegates to view the posters during breaks and lunch. The posters can stay on the boards until Thursday afternoon. However, there is a possibility that the Banquet Hall may be booked for another function on Wednesday evening. If so then posters need to be removed after 3:30pm on Wednesday afternoon. Delegates will be informed of any developments in this regard.

Oral presentations
Please hand in your presentation to the technician for your venue during the break before your talk AT THE LATEST. A speaker corner is available where delegates can view their presentations as needed.

Social program
Informal dinner
The informal dinner will be held on Tuesday evening from 6pm to 9pm in the Banquet Hall of the University Club. We will start with drinks from around 6pm during the poster viewing session. Food will be served from 7pm to 9pm, and delegates can view the posters at their leisure.

Conference dinner
The AAABG conference dinner will be held at the Oakover Estate in the Swan Valley on Wednesday evening. Buses will depart from the colleges and motel around 6:00pm. At the venue delegates will have the opportunity to taste the locally produced wines before dinner. The dinner will be a 3-course meal at which presentation of the new AAABG Fellows will occur. A bit of light entertainment will be provided by an after-dinner speaker and some light fun conjured up by Janine King and Bronwyn Clarke. Buses will return delegates to their accommodation after the dinner.

Breeders day
A breeders day will be held on Thursday, 21st July 2011. This will be part of the AAABG conference and it will start at 10:30am with conference papers up to lunch time. Industry papers will be presented after lunch to showcase the genetic changes that have taken place during the last 10 years in the different farm animal species. This day will conclude at 16:30.
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 19th JULY 2011

Welcome and opening of the 19th Conference Auditorium 8:30 – 8:45

Rob Delane (Director General – DAFWA)

Animal Breeding and Selection 8:45 – 10:15

Chair: Johan Greeff

Genetic architecture of complex traits 8:45 – 9:15
M.E. Goddard

Animal breeding objectives: balancing productivity and ecological impact 9:15 – 9:45
J.A.M. van Arendonk

Automated mate selection analyses 9:45 – 10:15
B.P. Kinghorn

Morning tea 10:15 – 10:45

Breeding Objectives 10:45 – 12:15

Chair: Mike Goddard

Experience in breeding objectives for beef cattle, sheep and pigs, new developments and future needs 10:45 – 11:15
S.A. Barwick, A.A. Swan, S. Hermesch, H.-U. Graser

Is breeding for profit still the answer? 11:15 – 11:30
P. R. Amer
Preference-based approaches to deriving breeding objectives: application to sheep and plant breeding
T.J. Byrne, P.F. Fennessy, K.F. Smith, P. Hansen, and P.R. Amer

Breeding objectives and breeding strategies for Philippine dairy buffaloes
E.B. Flores and J.H.J. van der Werf

The impacts on selection for economic merit of including residual feed intake traits in breeding objectives and of having records available
S.A. Barwick, M.G. Jeyaruban, D.J. Johnston, M.L. Wolcott, H.-U. Graser

Cattle I
Chair: Wayne Pitchford
Concurrent 10:45 – 12:15
Room 1

Associations between residual feed intake on ad libitum pasture and restricted feeding in Angus cows
R.M. Herd, P.F. Arthur and J.A. Archer

The effect of breed on the onset of puberty in heifers
R.E. Hickson, C.C. Balcomb, K.R. Fraser, N. Lopez-Villalobos, P.R. Kenyon and S.T. Morris

Bull traits measured early in life as indicators of herd fertility

Effect of previous reproductive status of dam on the preadjustment of weaning weight for genetic evaluation in tropical beef breeds
M.G. Jeyaruban, M.L. Wolcott, D.J. Johnston and H-U. Graser

The effect of imprinted genes on carcass traits in Australian Angus and Hereford cattle
B. Tier and K. Meyer

Genetic parameters of post-partum reproductive status in beef cattle from northern Australia
Y. Zhang, B. Tier and R. Hawken
Statistical Genetics
Chair: Ken Dodds
Room 2
Multivariate estimation of genetic parameters – quo vadis?
K. Meyer
10:45 – 11:15
Effects of ascertainment bias when testing for polled in Australian beef cattle
J.M. Henshall, E. Piper and C.A. McDonald
11:15 – 11:30
Performance of cross-validation and likelihood based strategies to select tuning factors for penalized estimation
K. Meyer, M. Kirkpatrick and D. Gianola
11:30 – 11:45
Penalized maximum likelihood estimates of genetic covariance matrices with shrinkage towards phenotypic dispersion
K. Meyer
11:45 – 12:00
Partitioning genetic variance in composite sheep
S.F. Walkom, A.P. Verbyla, F.D. Brien, M.L. Hebart and W.S. Pitchford
12:00 – 12:15

Lunch
Banquet Hall
12:30 – 13:30

Genetic Parameters I
Chair: Andrew Swan
Auditorium
Genetic variation in growth patterns is associated with sow lifetime performance
K.L. Bunter and C.R.G. Lewis
13:30 – 13:45
Survival analysis for the productive life of commercial sows
C.R.G Lewis and K.L. Bunter
13:45 – 14:00
Genetic parameters associated with adult ewe liveweight and body condition
G.H. Shackell, N.G. Cullen and G.J. Greer
14:00 – 14:15
Heritability estimates for retail colour stability of lamb meat
14:15 – 14:30
Genetic relationships between objectively measured and subjectively assessed traits in the South African Dorper sheep breed
O.T. Zishiri, S.W.P. Cloete, J.J. Olivier and K. Dzama
14:30 – 14:45
Piglet traits at birth are associated with their survival until weaning

*P. Tabuaciri, K.L. Bunter and H-U. Graser*

**Cattle II**

*Chair: Bruce Tier*

**Concurrent** 13:30 – 15:00

Room 1

Comparision of genetic parameters for calving difficulty in Angus, Charolais, Hereford and Limousin.

*M.G. Jeyaruban, D.J. Johnston and H.–U. Graser*

Observed trends in estimated breeding values in response to selection using visual muscle score in beef cattle

*B.J. Walmsley and W.A. McKiernan*

Milk and weight EBVs are associated with cow and calf gain during lactation but carcass EBVs are not

*S.J. Lee, K. Donoghue, M.L. Hebart and W.S. Pitchford*

The effective management of deleterious genetic conditions in cattle

*C.F. Teseling and P.F. Parnell*

Information empowers – Arthrogryposis multiplex in Angus Australia

*J.M. Allen and C.F. Teseling*

Managing deleterious genetic conditions at the herd level

*J.M. Allen, P.F. Parnell and C.F. Teseling*

**Sheep I**

*Chair: John Karlsson*

**Concurrent** 13:30 – 15:00

Room 2

Genetic frontiers in the development of ‘clean, green and ethical’ management systems for the extensive sheep industry

*G.B. Martin and J.C. Greeff*

Selection strategies for the genetic improvement of reproductive performance in sheep

*F.D. Brien, G.N. Hinch, J.H.J. van der Werf, D.J. Brown and A.A. Swan*

Factors affecting variability in feed intake of sheep with *ad libitum* access to feed and the relationship with daily methane production

Genetic and phenotypic parameters for temperament in weaned lambs


Afternoon tea

Banquet Hall 15:00 – 15:30

Genetic Parameters II

Concurrent

Chair: Hugh Blair

Auditorium

Genetic (co)variances for yearling traits and reproduction in the South African Dohne Merino breed

J.J. Olivier and S.W.P. Cloete

Different methods detected different loci involved in resistance to facial eczema disease of sheep

S. H. Phua and K. G. Dodds

Genetic parameters for breech strike indicator traits and yearling production traits in Merinos

A.J. Scholtz, S.W.P. Cloete, J.J.E. Cloete, A.C.M. Kruger, J.B. van Wyk and T.C. de K. van der Linde

Is there a relationship between temperament and internal parasite resistance in Merinos?

J.E. Newton, S. Dominik, J.M. Henshall and J.H.J. van der Werf

Genetic variation and heritability of ostrich weight traits

A. Engelbrecht, S.W.P. Cloete, K.L. Bunter and J.B. van Wyk

Cattle III

Concurrent

Chair: Steve Barwick

Room 1

Breeding Angus cattle that naturally emit less methane


The effect of duration and frequency of milk yield recording on lactation curve modelling

P.C. Thomson, E. Jonas, M. Abdelsayed, and H.W. Raadsma

Breeding for extended lactation in Australian dairy cows: a

14:45 – 15:00

15:00 – 15:30

15:30 – 17:00

15:30 – 15:45

15:45 – 16:00

16:00 – 16:15

16:15 – 16:30

16:30 – 16:45

15:30 – 16:30

15:30 – 15:45

15:45 – 16:00

16:00 – 16:15
review

M. Abdelsayed, H.W. Raadsma and P.C. Thomson

Age at first calving and its relationship with other dairy traits in Holstein cattle in Australian herds
M. Haile-Mariam and J.E. Pryce

Gene Expression
Chair: Kylie Munyard

Concurrent
Room 2

Characterisation in the New Zealand dairy industry of a polymorphism modulating the transcription rate of a chromosome domain encompassing PLAG1
R.J. Spelman, T. Druet, W. Coppieters and M. Georges

Expression of candidate genes for residual feed intake in beef cattle

Recent ancestry for the 821del11 double muscling allele
Brendon A. O’Rourke, P.L. Greenwood, P.F. Arthur and M.E. Goddard

Mapping of congenital contractural arachnodactyly in cattle

GDF8 c.1232 G>A mutation effect consistent in an industry collected resource
P.L. Johnson, T.C. Van Stijn, H. Henry and N.J. McLean

Gdf8 c.1232 G>A frequency in commercially slaughtered lambs
P.L. Johnson, T.C. Van Stijn, H. Henry, N.J. McLean and K.G. Dodds

Drinks and Poster viewing
Banquet Hall
18:00 – 21:00

Informal dinner
Banquet Hall
19:00 – 21:00
WEDNESDAY 20th JULY 2011

Sheep II

Chair: Forbes Brien

Concurrent Auditorium 8:30 – 9:45

Genetic correlation estimates for lamb carcass composition

8:30 – 8:45

Pedigree Matchmaker: can it tell us more than just pedigree?
D.J. Brown, A.A. Swan and M.L. Mortimer

8:45 – 9:00

Will Merino sheep with smooth bare breeches grow soft, white, photostable wool?
S. Hatcher, K.J. Thornberry and S. Gabb

9:00 – 9:15

How do sheep breeders benefit from new technologies?
J.A. Sise, E.M. Linscott and P.R. Amer

9:15 – 9:30

Results of an exploratory study of the application of agent-based modelling of sheep genetic progress using network theory
A. Reverter, S. Dominik, S. Field and R. Banks

9:30 – 9:45

Biotechnology I

Chair: Sonja Dominik

Concurrent Room 1 8:30 – 10:00

The effect of telomere length variation on lifetime productivity traits in sheep
G.S. Nattrass, R.G. Banks and W.S. Pitchford

8:30 – 8:45

Quantitative real-time PCR revealed differentially expressed genes between high and low residual feed intake Angus cattle
Y. Chen, K. Quinn, R.M. Herd, P.F. Parnell and P.F. Arthur

8:45 – 9:00

Use of snp chip technology for improved utilisation of livestock genetic resources in developing countries
K. Marshall

9:00 – 9:15

Using the GeSNP algorithm to quality control and prioritize differentially expressed genes from comparative genomics
Y. Li, N. Andronicos, A. Ingham, P. Hunt, R. Windon, W. Barris and A. Reverter

9:15 – 9:30

Accuracy of SNP imputation using a multi-tiered genotyping approach in dairy cattle
M.S. Khatkar, G. Moser, B. Hayes and H.W. Raadsma

9:30 – 9:45
Principal component analysis in a population of Brahman bulls genotyped with 50k SNP chip revealed a genetic structure


**Morning tea**

**The John Vercoe Memorial Lecture**
Chair: Heather Burrow

**Plenary**
Auditorium

**Beef translational genomics: lessons from the literature**

A.L. Van Eenennaam

**Genomics**
Chair: Heather Burrow
Auditorium

**Beef cattle genetic evaluation in the genomics era**

D.J. Johnston, B.Tier and H.–U. Graser

**Effect of relationship and age structure between training and validation set on the accuracy of genomic breeding value prediction using genomic BLUP**

M. Erbe, F. Seefried and H. Simianer

**The relative importance of information on unrelated individuals on the prediction of genomic breeding values**

S.A. Clark, J.M. Hickey and J.H.J. van der Werf

**A kernel method for genome-wide selection using haplotypes**

G. Moser, M.S. Khatkar and H.W. Raadsma

**Maternal Efficiency (Sheep)**
Chair: Andrew Thompson

Room 1

**Merino ewes with higher breeding values for fatness and muscling have improved maternal efficiency**

M.B. Ferguson, B.L. Paganoni, K.L. Kennedy and A.N. Thompson

**Selection for superior growth advances the onset of puberty in Merino ewes**


The potential value of genetic differences in liveweight loss
during summer and autumn in Merinos ewes differs with production environment

J.M. Young, M.B. Ferguson and A.N. Thompson

Adult Merino ewes can be bred for live weight change to be more tolerant to climate change

G. Rose, A. Kause, J.H.J. van der Werf, A.N. Thompson, M.B. Ferguson and J.A.M. van Arendonk

Lunch

Banquet Hall 12:30 – 13:30

Genomics – Sheep

Concurrent 13:30 – 14:45

Chair: Daniel Brown

Auditorium

Optimizing sheep breeding programs with genomic selection

J.H.J. van der Werf, B.J. Horton and R.G. Banks

The value of genomic selection for stud and commercial merino rams

S. Dominik, J.H.J. van der Werf and R.G. Banks

The importance of population structure on the accuracy of genomic prediction in a multi-breed sheep population

H.D. Daetwyler, K.E. Kemper, J.H.J. van der Werf and B.J. Hayes

Use of genomic information to estimate breeding values for carcass traits in sheep

A.A. Swan, D.J. Brown, B. Tier, and J.H.J. van der Werf

Sheep III

Concurrent 13:30 – 15:00

Chair: Bronwyn Clarke

Room 1

Effects on lifetime reproductive performance of phenotypic selection for fleece weight, fibre diameter, body weight and related selection indexes. II. Selection group x environment interaction.

L.R. Piper, A.A. Swan, and H.G. Brewer

Different mature ewe sizes require different stocking rates and lamb slaughter weights to maximise whole-farm profit

A.J. Kennedy, M.B. Ferguson, G.B. Martin, A.N. Thompson and D.J. Pannell

The mobilisation of fat in response to adrenaline is greater in Merino ewes with higher breeding values for coefficient of
variation of fibre diameter
  M.B. Ferguson, J.R. Briegel, A.N. Thompson and G.E. Gardner

Use of automatic feeder data for activity studies in sheep
  E. Jonas, E. Webster, P.C. Thomson and H.W. Raadsma

Does the lamb birth weight response to mid pregnancy shearing
differ in two breeds of disparate size?
  P.R. Kenyon, H.T. Blair and C.M.C. Jenkinson

The necessary paradigm change in quantitative genetics
  R.G. Beilharz

Helen Newton Turner Oration
  15:30 – 16:00
  Auditorium

Ordinary General Meeting
  16:00 – 17:00
  Room 1

Buses depart from Colleges to Conference dinner at the
Oakover Estate in the Swan Valley
  18:00

THURSDAY 21st JULY 2011

Genomics - Dairy Cattle
  9:00 – 10:00
  Auditorium

Choice of parameters for removal of inflation in genomic
  breeding values for dairy cattle
  B.L. Harris, D.L. Johnson and R.J. Spelman

Implementation of genomics in Australian dairy cattle

Accuracy of genomic selection for residual feed intake and 250-
day liveweight in dairy heifers using high density (630k) SNP
  J.E. Pryce, J. Arias, P.J. Bowman, K.A. Macdonald,
  G.C.Waghorn, Y.J. Williams, W.J. Wales, R.J. Spelman
  and B.J. Hayes

Optimising multistage dairy cattle breeding programs with regard
to genomic selection
  V. Börner and N. Reinsch
Towards a comprehensive recombination map of hotspots in sheep
  C. Massault, J. Henshall, C. Gondro and J.H.J. van der Werf
Imputation of single nucleotide polymorphism genotypes in a crossbred dairy cattle population using a reference panel
  D.L. Johnson, R.J. Spelman, M.K. Hayr and M.D. Keehan
Single nucleotide polymorphisms in the bovine leptin gene and their association with carcass and efficiency traits, and endocrine profiles, in female Angus cows
Association between SNP intensity data and growth and meat yield traits in sheep
  G.M. Payne, M.E. Goddard, J.C. McEwan, M.A. Black and K. G. Dodds

Morning tea
Banquet Hall

Increasing uptake of genetic technologies across the beef value chain
  H.M. Burrow and R.G. Banks
Progress in implementation of a beef information nucleus portfolio in the Australian beef industry
  R.G. Banks
Genetic progress in Australian young sire programs: a model for increasing the rate of genetic improvement
  A.J. Ball, R.B. Banks, D.J. Brown and S.R. Field
Ram breeding in New Zealand two decades after the introduction of exotic sheep breeds
  H.T. Blair
Lunch            Banquet Hall  12:30 – 13:30

**Breeders Day**        Auditorium  13:30 – 14:30

*Chair: Alex Ball*

Genetic changes in Australian dairy herds  13:30 – 13:50
  *Daniel Abernethy*

Genetic changes in Australian beef herds  13:50 – 14:10
  Angus  - *Carel Teseling*
  Limousin  - *Alex McDonald*  14:10 – 14:30

**Afternoon tea**  14:30 – 15:00

**Breeders Day**        Auditorium  15:00 – 16:15

*Chair: Phil Vercoe*

Limitations to uptake of breeding technologies in the Wool Industry  15:00 – 15:20
  *Geoff Lindon*  15:20 – 15:40

Genetic research and changes in South African sheep flocks  15:40 – 16:00
  *Schalk Cloete*

Genetic changes in Australian sheep flocks  16:00 – 16:15
  *Sam Gill*

Summary
  *Rob Banks*
Genetic, phenotypic and environmental correlations between footrot and fleece traits in sheep

* M. Abdelsayed, P.C. Thomson and H.W. Raadsma

Four week repeatability of daily and one hour methane production of mature merino wethers fed *ad libitum*


Genetic and environmental parameters of milk production and milk composition in South African Merinos

* S.W.P. Cloete, M.A. Snyman and A.J. Scholtz

Use of residual feed intake as an indirect selection trait for reduction of methane emissions in grazing beef cattle

* D.J. Cottle

QTL analyses of beef taste panel data

* N.G. Cullen, C.A. Morris and H.V. Henderson

The expression of genes encoding lipid storage proteins is correlated with intramuscular fat percentage in Brahman steers


Carcass quality of two year old steer progeny of Angus heifers divergently selected on rib fat estimated breeding values and subjected to two levels of nutrition pre-weaning

* M.P.B. Deland, K. Copping, J.F. Graham and W.S. Pitchford

The effect of subcutaneous fat, muscle and body weight during mating on fertility in Merino and Border Leicester x Merino lambs

* K.W. Hart and J.C. Greeff

Genetic diversity in Alpacas: can inbreeding explain the high prevalence of congenital defects?

* F.C. Jackling, J.L. Vaughan, M.E. Goddard and B.R. Appleton

Opportunities for genetic management of the retail colour stability of lamb meat


Fluctuation in ewe liveweight during periods of restricted nutrition is influenced by sire
S.E. John, M.B. Ferguson, G.E. Gardner and A.N. Thompson
Analysis of udder health in dairy ewes
E. Jonas, P.C. Thomson, H.W. Raadsma
Does dam age, ewe birth rank and sex of a co-twin affect a ewe’s lifetime performance?
P.R. Kenyon, L.M. Cave, H.T. Blair, N. Lopez-Villalobos and G.B. Nicoll
Functional genomics of estimated breeding value for eye muscle depth in sheep
Genetic variation in growth and the optimisation of SNP molecular markers for parentage assignment in pasture-based crossbred sheep
A.E.O. Malau-Aduli, A. Kashani, S. McCammon and A. Smolenski
Constraints associated with the improvement of animals through breeding as perceived by poor livestock keepers of west africa
K. Marshall and M. Ejlersten
Variation in merino wethers for growth and carcase traits
S.J. Martin, C.A. Wilson, M.J. Moses, R. van de Ven and D.L Hopkins
Reproduction traits in Holstein cows: Towards the development of a genetic evaluation system for cow fertility
C.J.C. Muller, J.P. Potgieter, O.T. Zishiri and S.W.P. Cloete
Exploring fertility traits other than calving interval for inclusion in a national genetic evaluation for South African Holstein cows
J.P. Potgieter, C.J.C. Muller, S.W.P. Cloete, O.T. Zishiri and K. Dzama
Genetic parameters for ostrich chick mortality to six months post hatch
M.D. Wang, S.W.P. Cloete and K. Dzama
### AAABG 19TH CONFERENCE PROGRAM - SESSIONS OUTLINE

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<td>16:15</td>
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