

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
ANIMAL BREEDING AND GENETICS**



Proceedings of the Nineteenth Conference

Breeding Objectives: A New Paradigm

**University of Western Australia, Perth, W.A. Australia
19th – 21st July 2009**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 19th Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics.

The theme for this conference is Breeding Objectives: a new paradigm. It has been chosen because we are living in a new, exciting era. Climate change and consumer attitudes have changed dramatically during the past 10 years. It is therefore essential that we take stock of where we are at with animal production systems and look at where we want to go. Geneticists and animal breeders have a special responsibility to develop technologies to identify genetically superior animals and to assist the animal industries to breed from these animals. However, these technologies need to produce animals that are more productive and able to thrive under a variety of production systems, as well as being robust and resistant to diseases while catering for the emerging public interest in animal ethics and 'clean and green' production. Genetics can make a considerable contribution to developing sustainable animal production systems. A significant number of excellent papers have been submitted that will address this topic.

Huge advances have been made in developing genetic technologies for breeding purposes. SNP chips are becoming part of our suite of technologies and offer great promise as selection tools, especially for those traits that are difficult to measure and are only expressed in one sex or later in life. Australia is very fortunate to be in the forefront of these exciting developments, some of which will be presented at this conference. This is a particularly important topic for this conference as huge expectations have been raised amongst breeders about the potential of these new technologies.

One of the key roles of AAABG is to inform industry of the latest advances in animal breeding. Extensive performance recording schemes exist for dairy cattle, beef cattle, pigs and sheep and significant changes have occurred during the past 10 years. To inform both you and local breeders of these changes, and of the latest developments in industry structures, an Industry Day for breeders of the major livestock species will be held on Thursday, 21st July 2011. This will run concurrent with the rest of the conference program.

We hope that you will enjoy your stay in our beautiful city Perth, and that the conference program will satisfy your expectations. Make full use of this opportunity to strengthen ties with old friends and colleagues and leave Perth with a few extra friends and very fond memories.

Johan Greeff
President

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
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Papers in this publication should be cited as appearing in the *Proceeding of the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics* (abbreviation: Proc. Assoc. Advmt. Anim. Breed. Genet.).

For example:

Teseling C.F. and Parnell P.F. (2011) The effective management of deleterious genetic conditions in cattle. *Proc. Assoc. Advmt. Anim. Breed. Genet.* **19**:131-134.

REVIEWERS

All papers, invited and contributed, were subject to peer review by two referees who are listed below. The allocation of papers to oral or poster presentation was based on the facilities available, the conference program and themes.

The following people are acknowledged and thanked for their efforts in reviewing papers:

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