

Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics



Proceedings of the Twenty-fourth Conference

On-line with local hubs in Australia (Brisbane Qld, Armidale NSW, Melbourne Vic,
Adelaide, SA and Perth WA) and New Zealand (Dunedin)

2 – 4 November 2021

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ISSN Number: 1328-3227

ISBN Number:

Produced by:

Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the organising committee, I extend a very warm welcome to the 24th Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics. The format of this conference is necessarily different from earlier conferences, in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. Delegates are participating from hubs in a number of locations, but also on-line.

The theme of the 24th Conference is 'Widening the range of technologies used in animal breeding and genetics' with an emphasis on the many new tools that are now available to improve animal breeding programs. These tools range from novel methods for developing additional phenotypes to innovative molecular approaches to increase the accuracy of genetic selection.

Despite the changed conditions that many delegates have found themselves working under during the last 18 months, I am delighted to note that this has not slowed down the contribution of papers to AAABG. Overall, we have well over 140 papers for presentation at the 24th conference. These include:

- 28 full-article papers published in a special edition of the journal *Animal Production Science*
- Over 115 short communication papers published in the AAABG conference proceedings that will appear on the AAABG Home page.

All delegates registered for the 24th AAABG conference will have full digital access to all papers, with the full text of special edition articles available via a password. The short communication papers, will also be available at a later date from the AAABG Home Page. In addition, all recordings of presentations of talks will be available, once initially presented, to all registered delegates, for a period of up to 3 months after the conference.

The central day of this year's conference, is a Breeder day. The organising committee decided to put it in the middle of the 3-day conference, to highlight the importance of addressing one of the main objectives of AAABG, which is '*to promote communication among all those interested in the application of genetics to animal production, particularly breeders and their organisations, consultants, extension workers, educators and geneticists.*' All organising committees grapple with how to effectively meet this objective. Our attempt, taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic, although not as large as originally planned for at the Adelaide Convention Centre, should provide some learnings for future conferences to consider.

The organising committee is grateful for the ongoing support of sponsors, especially for staying with us following a change to the conference format. We are also indebted to the Adelaide Convention Centre and the Adelaide Wine Centre, who returned all funds paid following cancellation of our venue bookings. Our thanks also to organisers of hubs, who have taken on responsibility for making arrangements at a local level so that delegates have the option to meet together close to their home location to participate in the conference.

Finally, I thank members of the conference organising committee and Dr Sue Hatcher, our AAABG Editor, for all their hard work in making the 24th AAABG Conference possible. I am honoured to have had the privilege of being President of AAABG and leading the organising committee for the 24th Conference.

Forbes Brien
President

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ANIMAL BREEDING AND GENETICS

2021

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CITATION OF PAPERS

Papers in this publication should be cited as appearing in the Proceedings of the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics.

(Abbreviation: Proc. Assoc. Advmt. Anim. Breed. Genet.)

Example citation:

Bowley F.E., Amer P.R. and Meier S. (2013) New approaches to genetic analysis of fertility traits in New Zealand dairy cattle. *Proc. Assoc. Advmt. Anim. Breed. Genet.* 20: 37-40.

REVIEWERS

All papers, invited and contributed, were subject to peer review, by two referees. We acknowledge and thank those listed below for reviewing the AAABG papers contained in these proceedings.

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