

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



Proceedings of the Twentieth Conference

Translating Science into Action

Napier, New Zealand

20th October – 23rd October 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A very warm welcome to the 20th AAABG meeting in Napier, New Zealand. This is the third time New Zealand has hosted the Biennial meeting, and we trust it will be as enjoyable as the previous occasions.

The theme for the conference is “Translating Science into Action”. There have been similar themes for previous meetings. In 1997 we had “Breeding ... responding to client needs”, and in 1990 “Technology prospects and transfer”. This should be unsurprising given that the third of our Association Objectives 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”. The primary point of the plenary session devoted to the topic in this meeting is to recognise that in this age of information overload, we might need to pause and think about how we provide new information to end-users. The electronic media are revolutionising our ability to transmit information to potential users and we may think that is the scientist’s or extension officer’s job done – the information transfer box is ticked. However, we have limited information to tell us how to best present information to cause behavioural change in our target farmer / rural professional community. There is likely a fertile research patch to address this gap in knowledge through joint research with social scientists and educationalists.

Further to the translating science into action theme, a Sheep Breeders’ Day will take place on Thursday 24 October 2013 at the Hawke’s Bay A&P Showgrounds. This is the 150th Show and it has been granted “Royal Event” status to recognise the importance of the occasion. The A&P Association is making a major effort to ensure that a suitably grand event transpires and it will be fantastic to have the AAABG represented at the Show.

Hawkes Bay has a vibrant primary sector with sheep, beef cattle, dairy and deer all featuring prominently in the economy, and the region is home to a good number of ram and bull-breeding operations. Hawkes Bay is also well known for its horticultural industries with several top wineries, many orchards and a variety of food crops such as squash.

As any event organiser knows, sponsorship helps to oil the financial wheels. We have been fortunate in getting strong support from several sponsors for which we are very grateful. The sponsors are recognised on a following page in these proceedings.

We trust that you will have an enjoyable time improving your knowledge in Animal Breeding and Genetics, and that you will enjoy the camaraderie of other attendees as you learn something about Napier and Hawkes Bay.

Hugh Blair
President, AAABG

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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.)

For example:

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All papers, invited and contributed, were subject to peer review by two referees. The following people are acknowledged and thanked for their work in reviewing the papers.

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