

PRESS RELEASE

BRITISH MASTITIS CONFERENCE

The 2011 British Mastitis Conference is taking place on Wednesday 1st November, writes Ian Ohnstad, Chairperson of the organising and scientific committee.

“Following positive feedback from the 2010 conference, we are again holding this year’s event at Sixways Stadium, the home of Worcester rugby club. This is the 23rd British Mastitis Conference and, as previously, is targeted at researchers, consultants, dairy farmers and all those associated with the dairying industry.

We feel that those attending will appreciate that this year’s conference program has something for everyone balancing the latest R&D with practical papers with a strong take home message,” he says.

The conference will be opened by Morten Dam Rasmussen from Denmark who pioneered much of the initial work on milk let down responses and ACR adjustment and how these influence udder health. His paper will consider the complex relationship between teat preparation, milk quality, udder health and milking performance.

“As is usual at the British Mastitis Conference the program includes a series of research updates. The first gives an evidence based perspective on the PCR versus bacteriology debate by Anja Rothkamp, Head of Microbiology at Vaxxinova GmbH, Germany,” This is followed by a paper from Jon Reader, a veterinary surgeon at Synergy Farm Health which will consider the role of vaccines in mastitis control. The third update is from John Cook, Genus ABS examining the influence of genetics on mastitis. The final paper prior to lunch will be given by Chris Hudson from the University on the relationship between fertility and mastitis,” advises Ian.

The afternoon session sees Jenny O’Connor from MSD give an overview of antimicrobials from the past, present and what the future may hold. “In the light of potential changes in legislation and innovative products, this is an area which the whole industry should have a great interest,” states Ian Ohnstad.

“The final two papers look at udder health in large herds, both from the view of a practice veterinary surgeon and his farmer client. Mark Burnell, also from Synergy Farm Health, has worked closely with Nick Cobb providing on-going veterinary consultancy with twice weekly planned visits. Nick takes responsibility for the management and planning of the 800 cow herd, with high expectations for the production of high quality of milk and where the cows’ welfare is paramount,” states Ian.

“We have every expectation that this year’s Conference will again be a valuable day for all those involved in mastitis control and at every level. For more information see the website at www.britishmastitisconference.org.uk.”

“We will again be holding a short course on the afternoon preceding the main conference. This is very much an interactive training session, starting at 1pm on Tuesday 1st November and will look at “The role of the milking machine in mastitis control” says Ian Ohnstad. “This short course will be co -presented by Morten Dam Rasmussen, Aarhus University, Denmark, Edmond Harty, Dairymaster, Republic of Ireland *and* Torbjörn Petterson, DeLaval, Sweden,” concludes Ian Ohnstad.

For further information go to www.britishmastitisconference.org.uk or contact Karen Hobbs at *The Dairy Group*, Taunton on 01823 444488.