

VETERINARY IRELAND MEDIA RELEASE – 4TH JULY 2016

BREXIT MUST NOT UNDERMINE ANIMAL WELFARE & FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS

- Over 3,000 Cattle Health Veterinarians Attend Global Congress in Ireland -

Over 3,000 veterinary experts in cattle health from 78 countries are in Dublin to attend a global congress to promote the health and welfare of cattle from 3rd-8th July, 2016. The 29th World Buiatrics Congress hosted locally through Veterinary Ireland was officially opened by Minister Michael Creed T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine.

During his opening address Minister Michael Creed T.D., said it was fitting that the World Buiatrics Congress is taking place for the second time in Ireland, having previously taken place here in 1986. "The bringing together of in excess of 3,000 veterinarians and scientists – with their expertise in cattle health – from 78 countries across the world, to Ireland – a country where cattle based production is such a significant part of the socio-economic fabric of our country – is particularly appropriate," said the Minister.

"The congress offers a unique opportunity in knowledge sharing, with 32 keynote lectures planned, complimented by oral and poster presentations as well as workshops and symposia. "I am certain that the Congress discussions will enhance the ongoing debate at global societal level on the optimum ways of feeding a growing world population in the most sustainable manner possible", said Minister Creed. He offered a special word of congratulations to the local organising committee, led by vets Michael Sexton and Kevin O'Farrell, for their efforts in organising the congress.

BREXIT

"Brexit must not undermine animal welfare and food safety standards. These are at the heart of the success of the Irish agri food industry," said Mairead Wallace-Pigott, President of Veterinary Ireland.

"Ireland shares a land border with the UK. If Britain withdraws from these EU standards or applies different standards it could have potential ramifications for cross-border processing, animal identity, animal disease controls or food safety. The EU should make every endeavour during exit negotiations to secure a British commitment to maintaining current EU food safety & animal welfare standards."

"We have yet to fully understand the potential implications of Brexit for the veterinary profession and the agri food industry," said Mairead Wallace-Pigott. "The veterinary profession has a major cross-border interest in areas such as livestock transportation, disease surveillance or antimicrobial resistance to name a few."

"The 3,000 vets attending this congress from throughout the world are innovators - interested in using scientific progress and shared knowledge to complement their clinical veterinary expertise in the field of cattle veterinary care."

The Veterinary Ireland President urged cattle vets to continue to collaborate and share that specialist expertise to the benefit and wellbeing of the animals, but also to protect consumers by maintaining the best quality and food safety standards possible, as well as supporting the efficiency and sustainability of farms.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

Vet Michael Sexton, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee in Ireland, said that veterinary innovations have a real contribution to make to maintaining and improving the sustainability of the dairy and beef cattle sector. "Healthy cows are more efficient with a reduced carbon footprint," said Mr. Sexton. "Improved breeding and herd management innovations highlighted at this congress show that there can be further reductions."

VETERINARY & SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The global congress features 32 internationally regarded keynote speakers and 300 oral presentations including presentations by Irish vets reflecting the success of disease eradication programmes here. The sharing of latest scientific updates and clinical techniques extends to 700 poster presentations, workshops, symposia and round table discussions.

Content ranges from breeding for animal welfare or methane emission traits to national health programmes.

Subjects include mastitis, nutrition, fertility, genetics, national disease control programmes and emerging diseases.

Following is just an example of the subjects to be covered:

Monday 4th July, 2016

Martin Green - Predictive Biology: The Future for Mastitis Control (Keynote Address)

Professor Martin Green's research team from the University of Nottingham take a far reaching look at the future for mastitis control. He will consider the current context of mastitis control in dairy farms and discuss future possibilities where predictive biology may provide insights into the prediction and prevention of disease. The quantity of data and technology available on-farm will continue growing rapidly; opportunities will exist to harness these to make useful biological predictions. Professor Green will ask the question 'can we integrate information on cow susceptibility, pathogen behaviour and farm interventions to simulate different choices and offer real time decision support?'

George Caldow - Health Planning For The Beef Cow Herd (Keynote Address)

A presentation with a sustainability component and practical focus relevant to Ireland. George Caldow from Scotland has a beef herd focus in the context of herd health planning and will stress the powerful rationale to improve the efficiency of production in order to both increase the returns from a poorly profitable enterprise and to reduce the greenhouse gas emission per kg of calf sold. The beef herd is very significant part of Scotland's economy ranging from its Angus beef to hill pastures and tourism.

Tuesday 5th July, 2016

Dan Weary - Benchmarking Animal Welfare: Engaging Producers, Improving Practices and Expanding the Role of the Cattle Veterinarian (Keynote Address)

Dan Weary is from the University of Columbia, Canada.

Mark Crowe - Dairy Reproduction: The Future (Keynote Address) - 'blue sky' research ideas in terms of dairy cow fertility.

Jude Capper - Sustainable Agriculture (Keynote Address)

Dr Jude Capper, Livestock Sustainability Consultancy, UK will stress that implementation of management practices that improve productivity, reduce resource use and GHG emissions; improve economic viability and maintain the supply of affordable milk and meat to the consumer; must be implemented with due consideration for economics, market and cultural forces. This is a practical presentation given the importance of GHG emissions and that knowing the carbon footprint will be a key component of the farm of the future. Dr Capper is the keynote speaker ahead of an afternoon session on Sustainable Agriculture featuring five other speakers.

Dr Simon Carpenter, The Pirbright Institute

Simon Carpenter will deliver a keynote address ahead of an afternoon session on Emerging Diseases featuring five other speakers.

He has interesting insights into the impact of global warming and our 'insect vectors' moving in; to the blue tongue threat which is back on the agenda.

Given the current outbreak of blue tongue in France, The Irish Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine has asked Irish veterinarians to be vigilant.

Wednesday 6th July, 2016

Theo Lam - RESET The Mindset on Antibiotic Usage in Dairy Cows (Keynote Address)

Theo Lam, Netherlands (antimicrobial resistance) will deliver an important story given historical

and recent concerns in the context of human health. This is the keynote address ahead of a morning session on Anti-Microbial Resistance involving six other speakers.

Simon More & Luke O'Grady, University College Dublin School of Veterinary Medicine

Simon More will present the case for an epidemiological approach to herd problem-solving.

Professor David Anderson - Evolution of Bovine Surgery (Keynote Address)

David Anderson from the University of Tennessee will present on advances in abomasal surgery and pain management in cattle, in his Keynote Address as part of an afternoon session on surgery.

Hubert Karreman - Natural Treatments for Mastitis & Infertility

Hugh Karreman will deliver the Keynote Address in a session which will explore complementary medicine and unconventional treatments, ranging from acupuncture to homeopathy.

Thursday 7th July, 2016

Jennie Pryce - Genomic Selection for Animal Welfare and Environmental Impact Traits in Dairy Cattle (Keynote Address)

Animal welfare, sustainability, dairy and breeding - a significant story showing the shift in breeding just for production, to breeding for better health and welfare. Jennie Pryce from Australia will argue that genomic selection to traits related to welfare and environmental impact are abundant. For example feed efficiency, methane emissions and common health disorders such as mastitis resistance, lameness and ketosis have large enough accuracies to be used in selection decisions. This Keynote Address is part of an afternoon session on Genetics and Breeding.

David Graham - National Cattle Health Programme - An Irish Perspective

A very important story for Ireland, David Graham will discuss the Animal Health Ireland (AHI) model but also looking at international examples and reflect on potential and challenges for industry-led programmes built on consensus to deliver real progress. This Keynote Address is part of an afternoon session on National Cattle Health Programmes featuring five other speakers.

CONGRESS SESSIONS

Monday 4th July, 2016

- Udder health, metabolic disorders, tuberculosis, small ruminants, mastitis control programme, nutrition, beef herd health management, education

Tuesday 5th July, 2016

- Reproduction, bovine welfare, immunology & vaccines, diagnostic imaging, dairy herd health management, emerging diseases, public health, sustainable Agriculture

Wednesday 6th July, 2016

- Reproduction, BVD, lameness, anti-microbial resistance, epidemiology, surgery, complementary medicine

Thursday 7th July, 2016

- Paratuberculosis, parasitology, therapeutics, young stock, national cattle health programmes, cattle health economics, genetics & breeding, abortion/stillbirths

Date: 4th July, 2016

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Hugh Torpey, MCI will be available on the ground throughout the congress to also help with media enquiries or speaker liaison Tel: 085-7608091 hugh.torpey@mci-group.com