

BCBC BRITISH CATTLE BREEDERS CONFERENCE

2020 - Focusing on succession to build a sustainable future

A message from the Chairman Laurence Loxam

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2020 British Cattle Breeders' Club Conference (BCBC). Since its inception over 70 years ago, the BCBC conference has become a unique event, renowned for its mix of practical, high quality speakers and it's drive for innovation.

With the future of cattle breeding at its heart, the BCBC conference links a wide spectrum of farmers, scientists, students and industry influencers. The conference provides a fantastic forum in which to kick off the New Year, challenging ideas, introducing new science and technologies and providing the opportunity to meet people, stimulate thought, debate and discussion. The conference itself is a focal point of the year for the club where we embark on finding answers and solutions in today's fast moving environment. In a world with a rapidly growing population that increasingly demands of 'more for less', how can we ensure that an overriding need for quantity does not detract from the quality of the food we produce?

Succession and sustainability are two key messages I would like to address during the 2020 conference. Both topics are close to my heart as we embark on 2020, the start of a new decade where we are going to see huge changes around the world and especially in the agricultural industry. Therefore, I am thrilled to welcome speakers such as Dr Jude Capper and Martin Thatcher to name just two. We are so fortunate to have such a great line-up so I am excited to hear each and every paper.

We are, of course, deeply indebted to all our sponsors, without whom we would not be able to run a conference of this stature.

Finally, to be the Chairman of the 2020 Conference is truly a great honour and I feel humbled to have found myself in this important position. It is very much my hope that you enjoy the programme, speakers and the chance to network with other attendees, leaving the 2020 BCBC conference informed, full of ideas, and with the energy and vision to embrace practical innovation and add value to every level of our great beef and dairy industries. I look forward to seeing you there.



ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

Organised by the British Cattle Breeders Club

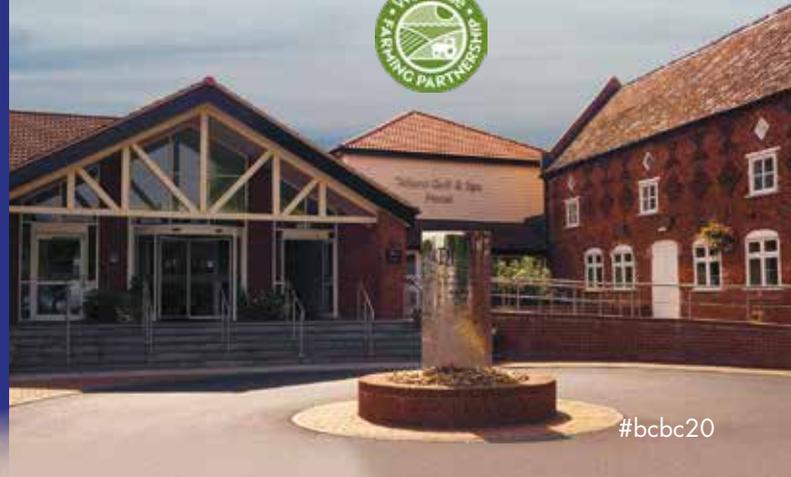
20th – 22nd January 2020

Telford Hotel & Golf Resort,
Great Hay Drive, Sutton Heights,
Telford, Shropshire, TF7 4DT

President: Mike Coffey

Chairman: Laurence Loxam

Secretary: Heidi Bradbury



#bcbc20

British Cattle Breeders Club

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**BRITISH CATTLE BREEDERS CONFERENCE
BOOKING FORM 20TH - 22ND JANUARY 2020**



If you wish to pay your delegate fees by BACS the Club's bank details are:

Bank:
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40 52 40
A/c no:
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A/c name:
British Cattle
Breeders
Club (BCBC)

Name of delegate:
(Please include title)

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Please Circle Farmer Industry Research Breed Society Other

Conference Registration		RESIDENT in Conf. Hotel	NON RESIDENT	Fill in below as appropriate
WHOLE EVENT		£269	£325	£
Or book separate parts of the conference here	Monday Beef Workshop	FOC to all Beef Day delegates. BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE		YES / NO
	Monday Dinner	Included	£30	£
	Tuesday Beef Conference	£159	£159	£
	Tuesday Dairy Workshop	FOC to all Dairy Day delegates. BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE		YES / NO
	Tuesday's Club Dinner	Included	£45	£
	Wednesday Dairy Conference	£159	£159	£
TOTAL				£

Membership

2020 Membership fees – above fees include BCBC membership with membership discount applied. If you pay BCBC fees by Standing Order please contact the secretary.

Accommodation Reservation – Payable to the Hotel upon departure

- Accommodation is limited and allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. If the accommodation is full when you book, alternative accommodation suggestions will be made but you will need to pay for the dinner(s) at the conference hotel if you wish to attend them.
- By filling in the section below you are agreeing to this accommodation being booked on your behalf. You will be liable to pay unless at **least 2 weeks notice of cancellation** is provided.
- Please contact the Secretary if you wish to stay on **Sunday** or **Wednesday** night, special rates available.

Please tick appropriate boxes	Monday night	Tuesday night
Single Room – £107.50 per night		
Double or Twin – £86.00 per person per night		
Name of person sharing room _____		

All delegates please sign here: _____ **DATE:** _____

to agree to the terms specified and give consent to BCBC to use my data for BCBC purposes as per the BCBC Privacy Policy

PAYMENT METHODS:

- Book and pay on-line by visiting our website www.cattlebreeders.org.uk
- Telephone the secretary and pay over the phone by card. You will still need to return the form.
- Return this form with a cheque (payable to BCBC) or return and pay by BACS using details opposite.
- There are special rates for **students**, see website or contact the secretary for details.
- Farmer group bookings, please contact the secretary for details.

Return this form to: Heidi Bradbury (Secretary), BCBC, Underhill Farm, Glutton Bridge, Earl Sterndale, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 0RN Tel: +44 (0)7966 032079
Email: heidi.bradbury@cattlebreeders.org.uk Website: www.cattlebreeders.org.uk

Our Privacy Policy is available to view on our website
Conference & Hotel Bookings - Full Terms & Conditions are available to view on the website or from the secretary

ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE 20TH – 22ND JANUARY 2020

2020 – FOCUSING ON SUCCESSION TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Monday 20th January

All events take place in the Great Hay Suite unless otherwise stated.

14.00 Beef Workshop

Planning beef breeding strategies

Breeding lies at the foundation of any beef production system. While herd breeding decisions are just one element of cattle management, selecting superior parents for breeding will lead to cumulative and permanent gains in herd productivity, profitability and efficiency. There is no single definition of a good breeding plan. Instead, breeding plans need to be devised to meet the specific requirements of a herd and the target market. Join the British Cattle Breeders Club and AHDB Beef & Lamb for this practical workshop to take the first steps in developing a breeding plan for your suckler herd.

15.30 Coffee

16.00 – 17.00 Beef Workshop continues

18.30 Wine reception sponsored by Neogen Europe

19.30 onwards. Dinner in the restaurant

Tuesday 21st January – BEEF DAY

09.00 Club Chairman Laurence Loxam opens the conference

SESSION 1 – Looking to the Future

Chair: Clive Brown

09.05 Roddy McLean, Director of Agriculture, Natwest

Support of the Sector – The Challenges and Opportunities

Roddy will look at some of the key challenges and opportunities facing the sector and how Natwest is supporting the next generation.

09.45 Sophie Throup, Senior Agriculture Manager, Wm Morrison plc, Bradford

Beef into the future: customer focus and a retail perspective

With customers increasingly interested in issues and wanting insight into the food they eat and the choices they make, what can beef producers think about when planning for the future? As Agriculture Manager for the UK's only integrated retailer, Sophie will give an overview on customer perspectives at Morrisons and how these might inform the beef business.

10.15 Coffee

SESSION 2 – Implementing Knowledge

Chair: Anya Westland

10.45 Dr Tim Byrne, Managing Director, AbacusBio International Limited, Roslin Innovation Centre, Midlothian

How heavy is too heavy? Optimising cow mature weight for typical UK farms

The productivity and profitability of UK beef breeding herds must be improved to ensure they remain sustainable. It has long been recognised that the profitability of such enterprises is influenced by the mature weight of the breeding female and, in the UK, breeding females have been getting heavier. This study explores the implications of changes in mature weight and identifies the key factors that determine just how heavy is too heavy.

11.15 Prof. Bart Lardner, Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Developmental programming and alternative heifer development

This talk will explore the effects of maternal nutrition during gestation on progeny performance. Another focus will be alternative heifer development programs, where the goal is to not grow too fast in confinement, but create functional cows required to perform in a similar environment.

12.00 Dr Michelle Judge, Geneticist, Teagasc, Co Cork Ireland

Breeding for superior beef meat eating quality

Major advancements in meat eating quality have been made in recent years through processes within the farm gate as well as within the abattoir, including animal handling, slow chilling, hip hanging and the dry aging process. Despite the extremely controlled conditions in abattoirs, large variability in meat quality persists; genetics undoubtedly contributes to this variation.

12.30 Lunch

SESSION 3 – Breeding for success

Chair: Karen Wonnacott

13.40 Mike Powley, Farmer, Oak House Farm, Green Hammerton, York

Building for the future, concrete and carbon

Mike will update us on his recent changes to his breeding programme and direction of the suckler herd. Mike will then explain the 5 year process of building a new farmstead to prepare the business for the future with concrete. The second part of the paper will focus on Mike's ideas on preparing the farm's soils for the future using carbon to make them a stable, sustainable asset for the next generation.

14.10 David & Maggie Kelly, Farmer, Nether Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria

Limousin to Hereford, change for change sake?

David and Maggie Kelly farm 365 ha permanent pasture in the Lune Valley in Cumbria. Calving 250 pedigree Hereford cows a year with followers and 15 pedigree Limousins. On a separate unit 250 Hereford x calves are being reared for the Co-op. Maggie will be focusing on reasons for moving from continental cattle to Herefords, the benefits of stocking cattle hard, using EBV's to select for easy calving, short gestation and good growth to produce cattle that the market requires.

14.40 Ben Harman, Farmer, Grove Farm, Chesham, Bucks

Repeatable quality beef – Chagyu, right every time

I don't profess to have all the answers, I don't even profess to be an expert in everything I do. What I can do is give an insight into how I have built a brand that sees demand exceed supply consistently and returns a profit by focusing on quality, repeatability and having a story to tell.

13.40 - 15.10 Parallel Session for Dairy Delegates – Workshop

Breeding – Shape your future

Breeding should be part of the future planning you carry out for your business; whether that is expansion, change of direction or leaving a legacy. Join AHDB Dairy's Marco Winters and Fern Pearston to learn about the set of tools available from AHDB designed to help you evaluate your herd's genetic strengths and weaknesses, inform your breeding decisions and evaluate those decisions once they have been made. Delegates can put these learnings into practice with a break out session during the workshop.

15.10 Tea



SESSION 4 – Learning from others

Chair: Lucy Andrews-Noden

15.40 Martin Thatcher, Managing Director, Thatchers, Sandford, Somerset

Growing a Family Business

This is a story of how we grew a 4th generation family farming business from a turnover of £5m in 2005 to £100m in 2018. Some of those key decisions that we had to make then, at the time were difficult to make but with hindsight were very obvious. How, by focusing on less we managed to achieve more and the results of doing so.

16.10 Dr Jude L. Capper, Livestock Sustainability Consultant, Didcot, Oxfordshire

Going green – How do we communicate our industries environmental advantages?

We often hear that cattle are killing the planet and that we should eat considerably less meat and dairy. These claims are pervasive, but ignore the role of cattle in producing nutrient-rich foods on land where we cannot grow other crops, whilst enhancing ecosystems and maintaining soil fertility. The UK beef and dairy industries have made amazing environmental progress, yet how do we communicate this to the naysayers?

16.40 Chairman closes paper sessions on beef day

17.00 AGM in Coalbrookdale Room

EVENING EVENTS

19.00 Champagne Reception sponsored by Dairymaster

19.30 Annual Club Dinner in the Great Hay Suite with beef kindly donated by Dovecote Park & Waitrose. Dress Code: Black Tie

21.30 Q&A Panel Session on Global Warming, look at methane emissions, veganism and cowsspiracy, panel members to be confirmed

Wednesday 22nd January – DAIRY DAY

09.00 Club Chairman Laurence Loxam opens the Dairy Day

SESSION 5 – Looking towards 2025

Chair: Andy Dodd

09.05 Prof. Mick Watson, Bioinformatician and Genome Scientist, The Roslin Institute, Midlothian

Greenhouse gas emissions from farmed livestock – the role of the microbiome

There is a lot of hot air spoken about greenhouse gas emissions from ruminants and Professor Mick Watson will put the FACTS into scientifically correct context. He will discuss the role of the microbiome and other factors and will discuss how agriculture can present its case with FACTS. His talk will be followed by a panel discussion where the FACTS can be discussed and arguments put forward on the role of ruminants in maintaining biodiversity and their contribution to the carbon cycle.

09.45 Werner Brand, Geneticist/Programmer, SRUC, Easter Bush Campus, Midlothian

Deep learning and its application in livestock industry

Deep learning is a modern tool used to build powerful predictive equations from a wide range of data sources by creating artificial neural networks to simulate an animal brain. EGENES and SRUC have been successful in training deep learning models for application in the livestock industry. These include predicting pregnancy and TB status in dairy cows and dairy goat udder classification from digital images. This talk will explore and showcase the application of deep learning in agriculture and livestock farming.

10.25 Coffee

SESSION 6 – Genomics

Chair: Henry Richardson

10.55 Neil Eastham BVSc DBR NSch MRCVS, Partner, Bishopton Veterinary Group & RAFT Solutions, Ripon, North Yorkshire

Future-proofing your herd through the use of genomics

Neil recently completed a Nuffield scholarship exploring how UK dairy farmers can benefit from the use of genomics. Over the course of his study Neil learnt how producers across the world are realising a return on their investment in female genomic testing by changing the way they make selection and breeding decisions. As well as explain how application of the lessons learnt make genomic testing a useful management tool, Neil will explore the role the vet can play and review future developments within the field of genomics.

11.25 Prof. Roel Veerkamp, Prof. Numerical Genetics & Head of Department, Wageningen University, Research Animal Breeding & Genomics, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Multi-breed genomic prediction

Since the size of the reference population is crucial for the accuracy of genomic prediction, it would be very nice to be able to perform multi-breed genomic prediction. Especially for numerical smaller breeds, or when phenotyping is very costly. In practise, however, multi-breed prediction appeared not very accurate when simply combining reference populations. Today we can define criteria and predict scenarios where it might be beneficial to combine reference populations across breeds.

12.05 Gavin Tait MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon, AB Europe, Westruther, Scotland

In Vitro Embryo production for cattle breeders

AB Europe (Animal Breeding Europe) started its journey into In Vitro Embryo Production in 2014. We will look at the many potential advantages IVP offers in terms of production efficiency, convenience and animal welfare, when compared to traditional flushing. What have we learned since our outset, and how do we get the most out of this technology as we move into the future?

12.40 Lunch

SESSION 7 – Return & Investment

Chair: Ruari Martin

13.45 Rob Hitch, Partner/Accountant & Dairy Specialist, Dodd & Co Accountants, Carlisle

Delivering succession for farming businesses

Considering the points that help businesses continue to prosper through the succession process. Options available to facilitate gradual transfer of businesses and underlying assets. What makes successors want to take businesses on and what stands in their way. Do policy choices aid or hamper sustainable businesses.

14.15 Patrick Morris-Eyton, Dairy Farmer, Beckside Farm, Millom, Cumbria

Improving Sustainability for the future

We are in the process of building a greenfield dairy site to expand our current herd into. We are aiming high with this to produce milk to the highest standards while improving the sustainability of our business utilising technology and best practice to best ability. I will also talk about how we went about the topic of succession and what brought about the discussion and what happened following.

14.45 Neale Sadler, Dairy Farmer, Bridge Farm, Edstaston, Shropshire

The Conversion to and production of a2 milk

In 2012 the decision was made to convert the herd at Bridge Farm to 100% a2 milk production, involving the DNA testing, identifying and selling of all non a2 dairy stock and the subsequent restocking with a2 animals. This presentation looks at why the decision was made and the journey so far.

15.15 Chairman Laurence Loxam closes the conference

15.20 Tea available before departure