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(ISNH8)



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Eighth International Symposium on the Nutrition of Herbivores
(ISNH8)



6th-9th September 2011, Aberystwyth, Wales, UK, www.isnh8.org

These Proceedings of the International Symposium on the Nutrition of Herbivores constitute summaries of papers presented at the 8th conference in Aberystwyth, Wales UK, 6th–9th September 2011.

The summaries have not been edited and the Organising Committee and publisher accept no responsibility for their accuracy. Views expressed in all contributions are those of the authors and not those of the symposium's committee members.

This publication contains all summaries that were available at the time of going to press.

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FOREWORD

It is our pleasure to welcome you to this 8th Meeting of the International Symposium Series on the Nutrition of Herbivores. The objectives of the Symposium are “to provide a forum for development, exchange and presentation of knowledge on the nutrition of terrestrial herbivores in captured and free-living environments”. The important roles of herbivores in food security and in the emergence of developing economies out of poverty are key global issues for this era. Set against this is the intense scrutiny of herbivore-based production systems for their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and, in affluent societies, concern about health-risk factors of animal products and attempts to ameliorate these in the production system.

The common theme in these issues is herbivore nutrition and the harnessing of advances at molecular, physiological and systems levels to improve fitness of product while reducing environmental impact.

There are many challenges in the application of new and emerging technologies and these challenges and the limitations of once promising approaches will be exposed and debated, and some more conventional approaches re-visited.

A section on animal health reflects increasing recognition of the nutritional costs of immune function due to natural pathogen exposure of grazing herbivores, of our ability to manipulate immune function through nutrition and of the broader implications for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per unit product by maximising animal performance.

The International advisory committee has worked hard to strengthen the depth and breadth of expertise at the meetings and is pleased to confirm that the next meeting will be held jointly with the International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology in Sydney during September 2014. We extend a warm invitation to join us there.

In conclusion, our special thanks to Professor Nigel Scollan and his colleagues at Aberystwyth University for their magnificent work in bringing this scientific programme and conference together and in anticipation of traditional Welsh hospitality. Diolch o galon.

Professor Andrew Sykes & Professor Dennis Poppi
For the ISNH8 International Advisory Committee

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