

AFCP/HAU Conference
Animal Science – Addressing Current Challenges

Friday 14th July 2023

Regional Food Academy, Harper Adams University
Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB

Biographies

Prof. Bob Bansback

Bob is an Honorary Professor in Agricultural Economics at Harper Adams University, a Board Member of AFCP, and past President of the Agricultural Economics Society. He has been a Director of the Meat and Livestock Commission, Director of Assured Food Standards, Director of the Red Meat Industry Forum, and Chairman of the International Meat Secretariat's Economics Committee. He is a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Butchers.



Fern Baker

Fern is a third year PhD student in Veterinary Medicine and Science at the University of Nottingham, "Evaluating strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from dairy production systems". She is interested in researching how the dairy industry can work towards Net Zero and increase efficiency, without compromising milk production. Her PhD project has involved creating a combined enteric methane prediction equation for use in a farm simulation model to evaluate strategies for economically reducing dairy farm emissions in the UK. Fern's PhD was jointly funded by AHDB and 4 AFCP member charities: Dartington Cattle Breeding Trust, The Perry Foundation, Seale Hayne Educational Trust and West Country Dairy Awards.



Prof. Karl Behrendt

Karl is Elizabeth Creak Chair of Agri-Tech Economic Modelling at Harper Adams University, the founding Director of the Global Institute for Agri-Tech Economics and Co-Director of the Centre for Effective Innovation in Agriculture. He has over 20 years industry experience in farm and agribusiness management consulting, extension and research. His core disciplines are in bioeconomic modelling and decision support for farmers, industry and policy, and is currently undertaking research into the economics of precision livestock farming, net zero in agriculture, adopting agroecological farming and the using technology to achieve more sustainable farming systems.





Dr. Caroline Best

Caroline completed her PhD at Harper Adams University in 2021, part-funded by the Perry Foundation, where she investigated the causes and control of lameness in sheep. Outcomes from the PhD have made a valuable contribution to the understanding of lameness in sheep, with five peer-reviewed papers published in academic journals. Caroline has since joined Bristol Veterinary School as a Senior Research Associate working on the Arwain DGC project investigating antimicrobial usage and resistance on Welsh cattle and sheep farms.

Prof. Jude Capper

Jude L. Capper, PhD, DSc (h.s.) ARAGS is the ABP Chair and Professor of Sustainable Beef and Sheep Production at HAU. Jude's research focuses on modelling the sustainability of livestock systems, with current projects focusing on carbon footprints of beef and lamb production. Jude is also a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Butchers, Treasurer of the National Beef Association and Chair of the Route Panel for Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care at the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.



Sarah Icely

Sarah has worked on the Harper Adams University pig unit since graduating from Harper. She has always loved pigs, and a placement year in America confirmed her enthusiasm. She is currently in the final year of a part-time PhD, focussing on supplementary milk and creep feeding of piglets pre-weaning. Her role involves all areas of commercial pig production, training and demonstrating to students, and she is responsible for the research projects on the unit. Sarah is particularly interested in improving post-weaning piglet performance by refining pre-weaning supplementary nutrition.



Prof. Graham Jellis

Graham has a PhD in Plant Pathology from Manchester University. He managed R&D programmes at the Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge (later Plant Breeding International) for 27 years before taking up a post as Research Director at the Home-Grown Cereals Authority. He has been an Honorary Professor at Nottingham University since 1995. Since retirement he has been involved with agricultural charities. He chairs the Grants Committee of the Perry Foundation and the Board of the AgriFood Charities Partnership (AFCP).





Prof. Michael Lee

Professor Michael Lee FRSA FRSB ARAgS is an expert in sustainable livestock systems, defining their role in securing global food security at the same time as protecting environmental health (livestock's role in human and planetary health). In November 2020 Michael moved from Rothamsted Research and the University of Bristol (where he held a joint position) to his current position as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Harper Adams University, England's premier specialist agriculture and land use University. He is a past President of the British Society of Animal Science and in August 2019, he was elected President of the European Federation of Animal Science Livestock Farming Systems Commission.

Dr Lynn McIntyre

Lynn is a Food Microbiologist with a number of areas of specialism, including: food safety in poultry, red meat, dairy and produce production (particularly *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, *Listeria* and *E. coli*); food preservation methods including bacteriophages; evaluating the shelf-life of foods through durability and challenge testing; and rapid detection methods for hygiene and food safety. Her excitement for food microbiology stems from when she was a summer student working on a project to develop a rapid detection method for *Listeria* spp. in dairy products at a Scottish research institute. An opportunity to go overseas for her PhD led her to Canada and later to New Zealand where she worked as a senior lecturer at Massey University, and latterly as a senior research scientist, managing microbial food safety contract research for the NZ Food Safety Authority. Lynn has been back in the UK for 13 years and enjoys a diverse range of roles and responsibilities at Harper Adams University, including teaching, research, knowledge exchange, biological safety, and health and safety. She is part of the Department of Food, Land and Agribusiness Management.



Prof. Liam Sinclair

Liam Sinclair is from a mixed beef and sheep farm in the North of Scotland. He undertook a degree in Agriculture with Animal Science at Aberdeen University, before moving to Nottingham University where he completed a PhD on rumen metabolism. Liam then moved to Harper Adams University as dairy lecturer, progressing to Professor of Animal Science in 2010. His research interests focus on dairy cows and include reducing their environmental impact, increasing forage utilization, enhancing the health attributes of milk, and improving mineral nutrition. He was awarded the Sir John Hammond Prize in 2011 for his applied research in ruminant nutrition and ability to transfer research findings to industry. In 2016

Liam was elected President of the British Society of Animal Science, and in 2022 was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Societies.



Simon Thelwell

Simon is Director of the School of Sustainable Food and Farming (SSFF). Established in 2021, The School is an industry wide collaboration with four founding partners which include Morrisons, McDonalds and the NFU. The SSFF is the interface between farmers and the food industry, it provides advice, consultancy and training in sustainable agricultural production, empowering farmers, and the wider food industry to achieve Net Zero within a sustainable farming and food system.



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