



Sustainable Food Trust

A global voice for sustainable food and health

What role for grazing livestock in a world of climate change and diet-related disease?

A one-day seminar for scientists, NGOs and policy-makers

Engineers' House
Clifton, Bristol BS8 3NB

Tuesday 3rd February 2015

9.00 am - 5.30 pm

Grazing livestock continue to receive negative publicity, with some scientists calling for their numbers globally to be halved to help slow global warming. Red meat is also repeatedly presented as less healthy than white meat. This is a particular problem in the UK where over 70% of farmland is under grass, but it also links to global food security issues that are rarely discussed.

This invitation-only meeting brings together some of the UK's leading scientists and a range of NGOs and industry representatives, to take a fresh look at the issues and the evidence, in order to agree the best way forward for the environment, for human health and for farmers.

8.15-9.00 – Registration and refreshments

9:00 Patrick Holden Chief Executive, Sustainable Food Trust – *Welcome and overview*

09.05 Professor Keith Goulding, Rothamsted Research, morning chairman – *Introductory remarks*

09.10 Professor Pete Smith, University of Aberdeen – *Reducing global meat consumption would improve the climate, food security and human health, so why is it not a no-brainer?*

Emissions and sinks

9.30 Dr Tom Misselbrook, Rothamsted Research, *Ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions – who emits more?*

9.45 Dr Ute Skiba, CEH Edinburgh – *The role of nitrous oxide in the agricultural greenhouse gas budget, with focus on managed grasslands*

10.00 Professor David Powlson, Rothamsted Research – *Potential soil organic matter benefits from mixed farming: evidence from long-term experiments*

10.15 Professor Richard Evershed, University of Bristol – *The impact of agriculture on the soil methane sink*

10.25 Richard Young – *A Sustainable Food Trust perspective*

10.30 Break

10.45 Chaired discussion with panel

Legumes, nitrogen and feed efficiency

11.30 Professor Bob Rees, SRUC – *The potential value of legumes in farming systems*

11.45 Professor Mike Wilkinson, University of Nottingham – *Re-defining efficiency of feed use by livestock*

11.50 Discussion

12.15 Lunch and lunch table discussion sessions

Table 1 Agri-environment schemes – *are they fit for purpose?* – Rapporteur Dr Claire Horrocks

Table 2 Carbon sequestration – *can sequestration under grass be considered a valid offset for ruminant GHG emissions and could deep-rooting grasses, herbs and legumes sequester more?* Rapporteur – Ian Wilkinson

Table 3 Mixed farming – *would the reintroduction of mixed farming increase or lessen agriculture’s negative externalities?* Rapporteurs – Professor Keith Goulding and Robert Orr

Table 4 Eat less meat! 1. – *Which meats and why? (Environment and human health).* Rapporteur – Sue Dibb

Table 5 Eat less meat! 2. *Which meats and why? (Finite resources, including antibiotics, and human wellbeing).* Rapporteurs – Richard Young and Amy Thomas

Meat and milk - Patrick Holden, chairman for the afternoon session

1.30 Professor Ian Givens, University of Reading – *Milk and dairy products: dietary partners for life?*

1.45 Dr Michael Lee, University of Bristol and Rothamsted Research – *Benefits of forage systems on product quality*

2.00 Professor Kevin Shingfield, University of Aberystwyth – *Benefits of forage systems on product quality: mechanisms and implications*

2.15 Professor Mark Eisler, University of Bristol – *Spilt milk worth crying over*

2.30 Discussion

3.00 Break

Wider issues

3.15 Jerry Tallwin, Rothamsted Research – *The biodiversity value of grassland – actual and potential*

3.30 Dr Abi Burns, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – *Livestock: a perspective from RSPB*

3.45 Dr Matt Reed, University of Gloucester – *The silence of the barns: understanding the social and cultural importance of grazing animals to society*

4.00 Report back from five lunchtime discussions

Concluding discussions

4.30 Wider issues

4.45 Can we agree the best way forward?

5.25 Summing up

5.30 Ends

The Sustainable Food Trust would like to thank Animal Welfare Approved, Eblex, Cotswold Seeds and the National Trust for sponsoring this event. We would also like to thank the Ashden Trust, the Mark Leonard Trust, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Prince of Wales’s Charitable Foundation for their support of our true cost accounting project as part of which this meeting has been organised.

