

62nd EAAP annual meeting, Stavanger, Norway – by Laura Webb

In this year of 2011, the European Federation of Animal Science's (EAAP) 62nd annual meeting was held in the South West of Norway, in Stavanger, a beautiful Norwegian harbour town on the edge of one of the most stunning fjords in Norway. The congress took place from the 29th of August to the 2nd of September and attracted people from all over Europe and the world, with very diverse backgrounds, from genetics to social sustainability. Between 7 and 10 sessions were held in parallel, with a total of 58 sessions, and with for instance topics such as life-cycle assessment of livestock production, consumer studies of the consequences of piglet castration, and genetics of health, behaviour and functional traits in dogs.



During the Wageningen Institute of Animal Science (WIAS) Day, which provides PhD students with an opportunity to present their work to the department of Animal Science of Wageningen University, the Dutch Zootechnical Organisation (Nederlandse Zoötechnische Vereniging, NZV), awards a travel grant every year since 2009. A committee selects the best presentation (poster or oral) based on criteria such as the ability to place the research in a broader context. I am very pleased to say that this year I was awarded with this grant after the presentation of my poster entitled: *How much solid feed do veal calves really need?*

With the grant I travelled to Norway and gave an oral presentation in the Nutrition and welfare session of the EAAP, entitled: *How do different amounts of solid feed in the diet affect the behaviour and welfare of veal calves?* My PhD work is embedded in a larger project, involving different disciplines of research, including animal behaviour, health and nutrition, economics and life-cycle assessment, and aims to develop a novel, sustainable, feeding strategy for veal calves. I enjoyed presenting my work to such a diverse audience and got some very interesting questions. I also very much enjoyed attending many interesting sessions and learned a lot about diverse topics outside my own area of research, such as salmon farming or about a new farrowing system for pigs (PigSAFE).

My overall impression of the EAAP was that of a very large and diverse meeting, enabling the get together of people from similar and dissimilar fields of research, to share their work, opinions and ideas with a broad audience. This was an excellent opportunity for me to share my work and learn about on-going research in animal science. I thank the NZV for this great opportunity and encourage other PhD students to apply for this grant in the future.

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