

25th September 2018

Dear Members,

Invitation to our PVS Autumn Meeting, 8th-9th November 2018, Belfast

I am pleased to invite you to join us at our Autumn Meeting, and our first visit to Northern Ireland. We will be holding the conference at the prestigious Titanic Hotel and I would like to extend my thanks to AHDB Pork for their support and sponsorship for this November. In a slight turnabout from the usual, we are going to hold a roundtable discussion (see below) rather than the traditional Sponsors' presentation, although AHDB Pork will be providing a couple of updates elsewhere in the programme, along with further information on current projects via some posters that will be available to view over coffee.

It is a very interesting time in our sector currently, with interest coming from all sides with regards welfare, inspections, trade and the continuing spotlight on antibiotic usage. Susan Walpole and John Cottney have put together an excellent programme for us to discuss some of these in greater detail, ably assisted by our Meetings Secretary Allison Kirwan – a huge thanks to all three of them for all their efforts.

With our first visit to Northern Ireland, and the continued discussions in the political arena over trade and animal health, our first session should be a great opportunity for us to learn how the UK is planning on moving things forwards as we approach March 2019, along with hearing how Denmark is preparing itself for the extra challenges that ASF in Western Europe is presenting following confirmation of the disease in Belgium.

There follows a good opportunity to hear the latest to do with aggression, tail biting and the upcoming Welfare Codes, followed by the opportunity for a round table discussion to encompass these topics and others that are pertinent at this time. I hope this provides a platform for a constructive discussion to result, with valid inputs from all sides to assist all of our understanding around these 'hot topic' areas within our sector. The ever popular Clinical Club and our OGM then follows before dinner and a chance to debate further into the evening.

Our second day will allow us to have an update on the hyper-prolific sow and her piglets, with some of the latest information and research so that we can get the best of these animals in the field. This is an area that has seen some very speedy advances over the last few years, so keeping abreast of this important data has never been more important.

Finally we finish off with research updates from all around the British Isles, following the theme of our previous sessions to do with welfare, tail biting and aggression, and an update on the eMB.

We have a fantastic line up of speakers, to whom I would like to extend my thanks in advance, and I am sure we will have some lively discussions over the two days.

Make sure you head over to the website soon to secure your place, and any issues you may have with signing up please contact Liz on webmaster@pigvetsoc.org.uk. Our meetings are

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members-only closed events, due to the nature of some of the discussions, but non-members are welcome to attend by first sending me a request to president@pigvetsoc.org.uk so that your application to attend can be authorised prior to sign up.

I look forward to seeing you all in Belfast.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Berkshire

Duncan Berkshire MRCVS
PVS President 2018-19

The Pig Veterinary Society (PVS) is a specialist division of the British Veterinary Association. The membership of PVS includes veterinary surgeons and scientists who work in the pig sector, and the Society aims to assist its members in their professional lives by ensuring they have access to the latest information with regards pig health and production. PVS also represents the membership at a national level, making sure that pig welfare is a priority considering the latest research with regards health and management on farm.