

19th March 2019

Dear Members,

Invitation to our PVS Spring Meeting, 1st-2nd May 2019, Leeds

I am pleased to invite you to our upcoming Spring Meeting to be held in Leeds, returning us to the North of England. I am also grateful to Hysolv Animal Health and IDT Biologika for their support to the Society and their sponsorship of this meeting – we look forward to their contribution to the scientific programme with regards Influenza diagnostics.

The challenges to our sector continue and we come under further pressure with regards to all things welfare, preparations for notifiable disease challenges, trade and our future relations with Europe and the rest of the World. Our programme has been put together in an attempt to provide some clarity in some of these areas, or to at least provide stimulus for a good discussion and debate. I would like to pass on my thanks to Jill Thomson and John Cottney for pulling together a fantastic line up of speakers, along with support from Allison Kirwan to bring the logistics to the team.

With the continued confusion (at time of writing) over what on earth is going to happen with Brexit and the ensuing political landscape, we start day one with an up to date view on the impacts of whatever has been decided (by then) on both our sector and our profession. To continue the morning session, we have an update on where we currently stand with regards EU legislation that covers welfare and euthanasia on farm – this is a hot topic in Defra and Government at the moment and it will be good to have engagement down to the front line on farm.

ASF and the interaction with wild boar populations is a huge discussion area that the whole of Europe is grappling with at the moment, and we are lucky to have some information on the latest updates for ASF vaccine technologies and wild boar management from our colleagues on the continent. This is followed by our popular Clinical Club slot and the Annual General Meeting (AGM), at which there will be several important updates on the work that the Officer and Exec team have been representing the Society on over the past 6-12 months.

Thursday morning has an array of topics that are very pertinent on farm, covering on farm welfare assessments and the big viral infections of PRRS, in relation to control and elimination, and 'flu. We finish day two with an important session on Salmonella and the interactions between pigs, humans and birds, for which there is new evidence emerging about possible cross overs and the challenges this may present to our sector.

The AGM provides us with the opportunity to review the past year and plan for the year ahead, including thanking those members of the Exec who are stepping down and welcoming new members to the team. Standing to serve on Exec is an excellent opportunity to engage further with our active sector of the livestock industry and start to understand some of the opportunities that are open to us, along with some of those challenges. It doesn't necessarily have to take up large amounts of time, but does involve some feedback

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on some of the pertinent discussions. We are opening nominations for both the main Exec and for Junior Vice President, and I would totally recommend putting your name forward if you feel like you would like to understand our sector more – please contact me on the email address below if you wish to discuss these positions or put yourself forward.

For the meeting itself, do 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 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 Leeds.

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.