

March 2016

Slightly earlier in the year than usual, I am delighted to invite you to join us at the East Midlands Hilton Hotel in April. The meeting is generously sponsored by DSM Nutritional Products; to whom we are very grateful.

We are aware that there are plenty of pig related CPD offerings in 2016 and that informed our decision to move the meeting to the earlier time in April. The programme is also a slightly different format and is titled 'Back to Basics' with each session having views and experiences from our practitioners. We hope this will create more discussion and be relevant to whatever sector you work in or experience you have.

Since our meeting in November, medicines issues have been dominating the work of the Executive committee. Our medicines group has been extremely active and working hard on the Society's behalf to get our voice heard. This summer the European Medicines Agency (EMA) will release their latest reviews on the usage of some antimicrobials so we will continue to review our responsible use guidelines (available on the [PVS website](#)). Our meetings provide an opportunity for us all to have discussion and ultimately input to decisions that affect our ability to safeguard the welfare of the animals under our care. I expect the topic of medicines to be an integral part of all the sessions in the programme. Additionally, we have a very timely update on the electronic medicines recording system.

The first session on the breeding herd looks at how we feed sows as they become more prolific followed by how genetic progression can be improved. This is then completed with the practitioner view of how reproductive issues can be approached on farm. The second session brings a number of experienced practitioners to discuss how we can improve the health of the herd. Thursday starts with a session on enteric problems and the meeting closes with a session on neurological diseases and how we can target autogenous vaccines to control disease.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a great mix of science and practice in these sessions and it looks set to be a great forum for learning and discussion. A huge thank you to all of our speakers for agreeing to participate.

Special thanks to Alex Thomsett and Ruth Buxton (who is now on maternity leave following the birth of her son – congratulations Ruth!) for putting together the great programme and for their enthusiasm in driving a different style of meeting. I look forward to lively and fascinating discussions with you all at East Midlands.

Mandy Nevel

The Pig Veterinary Society is a specialist division of the British Veterinary Association. The Pig Veterinary Society exists to assist its members to care for pigs, through dissemination of knowledge about health, disease, the pig's welfare and its management. PVS, as a society, is a champion for pig welfare while maintaining balance with the need to maintain viability.

President: Mandy Nevel BSc, BVetMed, PhD, MRCVS

Email: President@pigvetsoc.org.uk

www.pigvetsoc.org.uk