

SASAS Congress 53

2nd Notice & Call for Papers/Posters

After a 3 year absence, come and reconnect with your friends and colleagues again, meet new colleagues and network, make new friends and networking connections at the 53rd SASAS congress in the KZN Midlands.



Pietermaritzburg and the midlands is well known as hosts to internationally renowned sporting events, such as the Comrades Marathon, the Duzi Canoe Marathon, the Midmar Mile swim and the Cascades MTB Park which has hosted MTB world championships on numerous occasions. The Midlands has a selection of great mountain bike trails to offer.

The KZN Midlands is well known for livestock production off pasture, particularly dairying. Cedara in the KZN Midlands specialises in Livestock Production of cultivated pastures, most significantly dairying on pasture. The University of KwaZulu-Natal, in Pietermaritzburg, has a reputation for Poultry and Animal Science Research as well as Pasture and Veld Management Research.

The theme of the congress is:

Changing paradigms in livestock production – confronting a new reality.

Our world has been changing ever faster with global warming and then the upheaval of the pandemic and the influence of social media. Global warming is making an impact on our continent, and according to ILRI by 2050 heat stress induced by climate change may drastically alter livestock production in Africa.

Our congress will focus on some of these issues, with international experts invited to address us on these issues. International experts have been invited to address some of these issues at the congress.

The congress, covid willing, will be a hybrid congress incorporating in-person attendance with live streaming only of the main venue. Parallel sessions will be available on the virtual platform for viewing at your leisure. Parallel session will not be live streamed due to the costs involved.

Our invited speakers include:

Dr John Roche, the chief scientific advisor to the Ministry of Primary Industries in New Zealand, on critical issues facing livestock production. John was a regular speaker at the SA Large Herds Conference.

Dr Gavin Whitelaw of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum on the “Early Farmers in KwaZulu-Natal: the archaeological evidence”. Those of you who watched the documentary series Shoreline will remember Gavin.

Johann Zietsmann, a livestock consultant on Cattle Production off Veld, based in Zimbabwe, who will speak on; Livestock production on veld: Challenging conventional wisdom.

Johann studied at the University of Pretoria under Professor Jan Bonsma, and graduated with a BSc (Agric) in Animal Science in the early 1970s. He then he started farming in Zimbabwe. He has extensive experience as a hands-on cattleman and consultant. He is currently based in Chinhoyi in Zimbabwe where he runs his consultancy. He regularly travels to South Africa, other parts of Africa and the world to help cattle farmers achieve optimal veld management and cattle

production and achieve maximum, sustainable profit per hectare. Johann now farms in Zambia and for the last 10 years has been consulting in the USA and Latin America (mainly Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador).

Prof Norman Maiwashe of the ARC at Irene will address the issue of breeding adapted livestock for production off veld alone with a paper on “Practical application of BLUP/EBV’s in grazing livestock systems”.

Dr Florence Nherera-Chokuda, the CEO of NERPO will touch on the constraints and challenges involved in improving rural/communal livestock production.

Dr S Mbizeni from UNISA will discuss the potential impact of increasing environmental temperatures on the geographical expansion of existing diseases, the re-emergence of old diseases, such as Nagana in KZN, and the potential for new emerging diseases to South Africa with global warming.

Prof Neil Duncan, formerly from Onderstepoort will address the issue of Biosecurity in the livestock industry, as the disease challenges are expected to increase with climate change.

See the website for more speakers as they confirm their participation.

The venue for our congress moved to the Ascot Conference Centre in Pietermaritzburg for logistical reasons.

The Ascot is built on the site of the old racing stables for the Scottsville race course. There are 4 Lodges (Ascot Inn with modest rooms in former racehorse stable, Ascot Bush Lodge, Aintree Lodge and Wensleydale Guest Lodge) in close proximity of the conference centre, the furthest being 500 metres away, in easy walking distance. Further accommodation is available close by (Su Casa Guest House, Regal Inn Xpress & the Road Lodge) and for more luxurious accommodation, the Southern Sun Golden Horse Casino at the Scottsville Race Course.

The organising committee:

Sibongiseni Gcumisa – Chairman
Nomfuzo Mkhize – vice-chairman
Donna Berjak – Secretary
Nonhlanhla Sibisi - Admin
Karen Yardley - Poster judging
Heleen Els - Poster judging
Fabian Fon - Student quiz and debate
Zikhona Rani - Student quiz and debate
Trevor Dugmore - Finance
Nicky Tyler

A new development is that, in addition to the Plaas Media student quiz, there will be a student debating contest with the winners decided with a live debate between the finalists at congress.

Congress event management and hybrid event supplier is Vetlink Media Solutions.

Registration, Papers and Poster submissions are via the <sasascongress.co.za> website. Please complete the paper or poster application on the website and submit a summary of your paper/poster in the format given below by 30 June 2020.

TITLE -12 point bold - centred

Authors – 11 point font – Presenting author in bold

Affiliation and address – 10 point

#Corresponding author: 10 point

Background: - 11 point – Fully justified

Aim:

Include hypothesis

Methodologies:

Results:

Discussion:

Conclusion/recommendations:

NB - Max length – one page