



Travel & Training Bursary Report

FFN member: Louise Mullemeister

Event: XXVIII World Buiatrics Congress, Cairns – 27-31 July 2014

My name is Louise Mullemeister and I am a Senior Veterinary Officer with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I recently attended the XXVIII World Buiatrics Congress in Cairns from 27-31 July 2014. The World Buiatrics Congress (WBC) was hosted by the Australian Veterinary Association specialist interest group, the Australian Cattle Veterinarians and is considered the “Olympic Games of conferences” for people who study cattle. Buiatrics is the study of cattle and their diseases.

The scientific programme included 350 oral presentations plus 69 keynote lectures from a large number of internationally and nationally renowned speakers, as well as 250 poster presentations. The programme covered in depth discussions on pestivirus, neospora, paratuberculosis, leptospirosis and genetic diseases, among many other conditions. It also included topics such as genetics to improve herd productivity, effects of preconditioning on feedlot production and cattle welfare.

Congress highlights included presentations on bovine viral diarrhoea virus (pestivirus), in particular the effects a ‘Trojan cow’ and ‘Cumulus bull’ can have on a herd and how to detect them. I also gained a greater understanding of bovine Johne’s disease control in overseas countries and the economic cost, transmission and control options for Neospora infection in beef cattle. Professor Mark Hilton of Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine presented a number of excellent presentations on veterinarians’ roles in improving herd profitability and sustainability through cattle health, welfare and improving the environment.

Attending the WBC was a valuable opportunity for me to network with professionals and academics in the beef cattle production field, enhance and expand my knowledge on diseases affecting productivity and market access, but also increased my awareness on current issues and concerns surrounding cattle health and welfare. I am grateful for the Future Farmers Network for their training and travel bursary which provided a significant contribution to the cost of attending the Congress.

Louise Mullemeister