

# The Moderators' Closing Remarks



Robert Poole  
*Deputy CEO  
and Policy Director  
Australian Dairy Farmers*

Today has highlighted the need for collaboration and an underling theme for the conference of “Working Together”.

John McKew works for Dairy Australia (DA) – a collective investment from Australian dairy farmers towards research, develop-

ment and defense of our industry.

I myself work for ADF, again farmers working together to ensure the industry is represented politically and proactively facing the challenges.

Jan demonstrates the importance of international collaboration in breeding. The Guernsey breed must have a global programme, given the numbers in your respective populations.

Interbull’s support is essential to give farmers the choice of genetics from around the world. Jan’s expertise and advice as you move to sure up the future of the breed is critical.

Similarly the country reports show that working together for the Guernsey breeders is not optional. Only through working together will you generate the data from progeny testing. You must have high levels of data capture and you must pull in the same direction.

By pooling your resources you have employed people like Seth, Bill and Digby and these people are critical to the breed’s future. Tomorrow we look forward to growing the breed through marketing, breeding programmes and through new technology. I encourage you to be proactive in absorbing this advice.

Jim’s passion and tribute to his Maori friend and the message from Zimbabwe provides a reality check about the importance of our family and friends and the relative political stability, lifestyle, political freedom and rights we enjoy. I hope you enjoyed today’s sessions.

Daniel Abernethy  
*BAgrSc(Hons), General  
Manager, Australian Dairy  
Herd Improvement Scheme*



It did not take me long to pick up the Working Together attitude that Rob referred to in his comments yesterday.

Australia’s Genetic Evaluation Unit, ADHIS aims to provide farmers with unbiased information on all bulls available in the marketplace in order for them to make informed breeding decisions. We are also an active member of Interbull providing data for International collaboration in genetic evaluation for the benefit of farmers world wide.

High levels of data capture and joint co-operation in proving bulls and utilising the best genetics of the breed is fundamental. A key issue for breeds such as Guernseys around the world is, what is the breed’s comparative advantage? In what areas does the breed excel?

With the advent of molecular genetics we will be able to analyse the comparative advantage of any given breed. Commercial farmers will be able to further analyse bulls based on their total profitability which may not be necessarily related to breed. As a result the benefits of marker technology will also be a challenge as farmers focus on the amount of profit they obtain on a per hectare/acre basis outside of the breed of animal they milk.

We have discussed this technology for bulls however I think a key benefit of this technology will be in accessing cows to obtain information about pedigree and suitability of cows to a given farming system.

The discussions on niche marketing showed some aspects relating to the comparative advantage of Guernseys. Although this is not an approach all Guernsey farmers can make it is an exciting potential for what the Guernseys could utilise from a marketing perspective.

I encourage you as a breed to carefully review the data Seth provided when making breeding decisions. This data shows that breeding for certain traits may not give you the result you are actually after, specifically for productive life/survival.

Digby’s presentation shows the potential benefits from a young sire program. Good results relative to parent average were seen, however there are variances around these averages which need to be carefully considered. Molecular genetics will provide benefits in this type of program.

I am encouraged by the collective view of delegates and your desire to advance the Guernsey breed. I would like to thank the Guernsey community especially Bill Luff, Ray Fiebiger and John Mozier, for inviting Robert and myself to be conference moderators and enabling us to contribute to what has been a successful conference.

# 13th World Guernsey Conference – Canada July 2010

I would like to say thanks for the privilege to be your President. I hope I can live up to the expectations of the WGCF and that with the help of key people this will happen.

Congratulations to Ray Fiebiger for his work on making this conference a success and to Kathleen Grosser for her work in getting things organised and to Marg Bentley. Well done.

The next conference is in Canada.

Some of the topics which could be covered include:

- ★ Organic farming using Guernsey cattle and niche markets.
- ★ Guelph has a Turf Grass Institute which experiments with developing and growing some of the world's best grasses. This information could be used around the world to feed the Guernsey cow.
- ★ The University of Guelph has some world renowned professors in the Agriculture and Veterinary field who could speak to us on various topics
- ★ Using Genotype chip to find that special Guernsey sire with DNA which will help the rest of the population.
- ★ Crossbreeding in Canada is a hot topic - like the use of other red breeds to cross with Guernseys to get the hybrid vigour - is it feasible or acceptable?
- ★ An international classifier field day

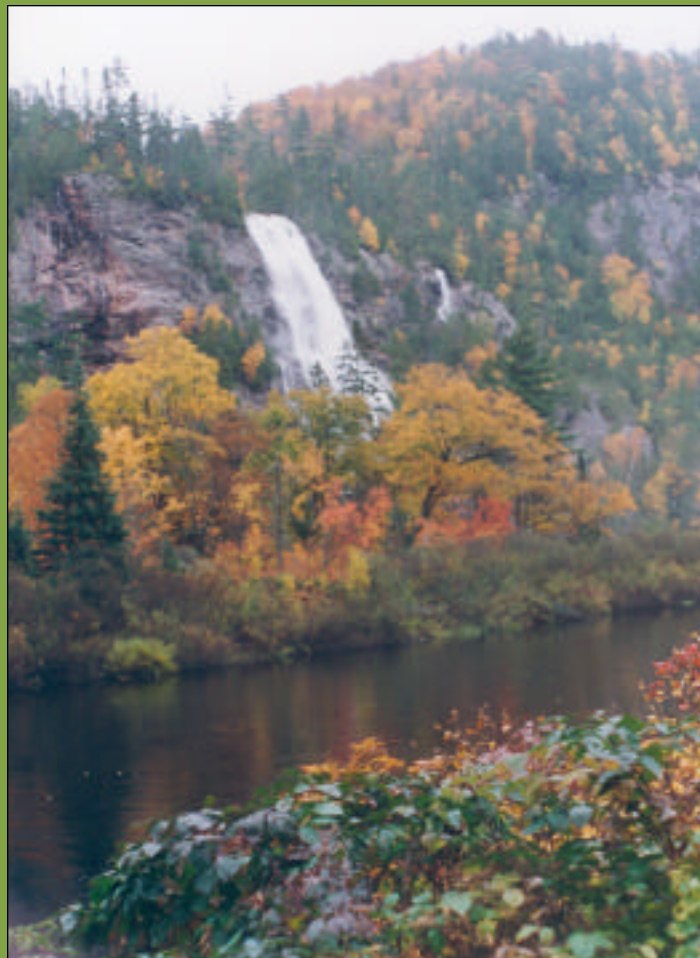
These are some ideas which we hope could lead to good discussion when we hold the next conference in Canada.

Thanks again to Australia for a job well done. So ... onward and upward until we see you in Canada in July 2010.

Ontario is a magnet for industry, the arts and science. The population is made up of many cultural backgrounds drawn to this vibrant province. It produces almost 60% of all the manufactured goods that are shipped out of the country.

Niagara Falls is a world famous tourist destination attracting 18 million visitors a year. Ontario's quarter million lakes and countless rivers and streams hold about one third of the world's fresh water.

It is Canada's second largest province covering more than one million square kilometres, an area larger than France and Spain combined. With a population of more than 12 million, Ontario is home to about one in three Canadians. Eighty percent live in urban centres, largely in cities on the shores of the Great



Lakes.

According to a 2001 census Ontario has more farms than any other province accounting for 26% of farms in Canada. The cattle farms account for 22% of those in Canada. The average farm size is 212 acres.

The University of Guelph is ranked as Canada's top comprehensive agricultural research university. The college provides innovative life sciences education and research for agriculture, food, the environment and rural communities in Canada and around the world.

At the junction of the Speed and Ermosa River, one hour west of Toronto, is the picturesque city of Guelph. Considered one of the first planned cities in Canada, Guelph's original area resembles that of an European urban area complete with wide main streets and narrow side streets, streaming from a main focal point.

The city forms part of one of the fastest growing regions in Ontario. Provincial projections anticipate that an additional 4 million people will be added over the next 30 years. Of this the Province has targeted population growth to the city and surrounding county area of over 125,000 additional people. The current city population is approximately 115,000 while that of the surrounding Wellington County is 80,000.

The City of Guelph continuously works at developing innovative solutions to address issues such as the depletion of our natural resources, climate change and pollution. It has been involved with implementing and overseeing a number of ground breaking environmental initiatives aimed at preserving our natural resources while maintaining a high quality of life for Guelph residents.

The Maritime Provinces of Canada provide some of the most dramatic and spectacular scenery in the country. In addition to the Guernsey visits, our agri-based pre-congress tour will highlight the best sightseeing in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. We invite you to start your "Canadian" experience with our down-home brand of hospitality ... great food and spectacular scenery are but the backdrop to our Pre-Conference welcome. This pre-tour will encompass the very best of the Maritime provinces and our unique Guernsey heritage. A five night, inclusive travel programme guaranteed to set the tone for a remarkable Canadian adventure!