



Report on the 2009 Meeting of the WPSA Working Group 6 (Reproduction): Incubation and Fertility Research Group

The Incubation and Fertility Research Group (IFRG) held its annual meeting this year on the 7th & 8th of July at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. The meeting attracted 28 delegates from countries across Europe and North America.

The delegates listened to a total of 13 papers (full list attached) on a wide variety of subjects from the importance of eggshell temperature for hatching success to techniques for freezing Pheasant semen. Some of the most interesting papers were on the use of new technology to understand what is happening during the incubation process. Two papers covered the use of MRI technology to image embryo development while a third paper discussed the potential use of thermal imaging cameras to solve hatchery problems. Poultry were not the only avian species covered in the conference, with one paper discussing the occurrence and pattern of embryo mortality in wild birds and a second paper discussing the relationship between egg mass and shape across all bird species.

The invited speaker this year, generously sponsored by the WPSA, was Silvia Cerolini from the University of Milan who reviewed her research on the cryopreservation of semen. The paper highlighted the difficulties of successfully freezing poultry semen.

Dr Glenn Baggott has for many years acted as Chairman of the IFRG but this year announced that he intends to stand down. The meeting was very grateful to Glenn for his work and support for the IFRG and thanked him for his efforts over the years. Dr Nick French will be taking over the role as Chairman.

It was a very enjoyable meeting with excellent discussions and at a very good location. We look forward to next years meeting.

Further information on the IFRG can be obtained from the website: www.ifrg.org or www.ifrg.eu. Full details of next years meetings will be posted on this site or by contacting the meeting organiser Dr Victoria Hurst, Victoria.Hurst@bernardmatthews.com.

Nick French
13 July 2009

Papers Presented at the 2009 WPSA Working Group 6 (Reproduction) IFRG Meeting

Vitamins and Embryogenesis *Andrew Ball – DSM Nutritional Products (UK) Ltd*

Reducing the impact of stress on broiler breeders *Alwyn Havard – Havard Associates International, UK*

Some novel off-line and on-line MRI methods and their potential application to egg quality *Brian Hills – Institute of Food Research*

u-MRI looking deeper into avian embryonic development *Suzanne Duce – University of Dundee*

The turkey: Is it a big chicken? *Nick French – Aviagen*

Embryo death: hatching failure in wild birds *Nicola Hemmings – University of Sheffield*

Relationship between mass, surface area and volume *Charles Deeming – University of Lincoln*

Cryopreservation of chicken semen by the pellet method: Study on semen processing, sperm quality, DNA integrity and bacterial contamination *Silvia Cerolini – University of Milan*

Some advice to breed common pheasants used as donors of good quality semen
Brief note on *in vivo* responses of cryopreserved pheasant semen
Pheasant semen cryopreserved in pellets: Effect of drop volume on spermatozoa viability and mobility *Margeurita Marzoni & Annelisse Castillo – University of Pisa*

High eggshell temperatures: A matter of life and death importance? *Roos Molenaar – Hatchtech Incubation Technology*

Does chicken egg storage affect chicken embryo cell viability *Jacob Hamidu – University of Alberta*

Thermal Imaging in the hatchery *Dinah Nicholson – Aviagen*