

European Grassland Federation EGF

NEWS




EGF2018:

27th EGF General Meeting on "Sustainable Meat and Milk Production from Grasslands"

The 27th EGF General Meeting was held in Cork, Ireland, from 17-21 June 2018 at the Rochestown Park Hotel, Rochestown Rd, Douglas, Cork (Ireland) (see more on www.egf2018.com).

The Conference on "Sustainable Meat and Milk Production from Grasslands" attracted a total of 430 participants from 31 different countries. More than 100 participants attended the Working Group 'Grazing' and Grazing Masterclass, about 60 the Working Group 'Sensing in grassland and forage science and practice', and 126 persons were registered for the workshop on 'Modelling relationships between plant diversity, the functioning of grassland systems and their ability to deliver ecosystem services'. The organisers were particularly happy about the participation of young scientists.

The 27th EGF General Meeting 2018 on a very current theme was professionally organised by the Irish team. The conference was a great success, scientifically, technically and socially.

A summary of the 27th EGF General Meeting by Dr Michael O'Donovan (Ireland) can be downloaded from here 

The EGF congratulates and thanks Prof. Dr Frank O'Mara, but especially also Dr Michael O'Donovan, Dr Deirdre Hennessy, and all their colleagues who were involved in the organisation of this successful conference. In addition, a special thank is addressed to the important generous sponsors and supporters.

The participants in EGF2018 experienced most interesting sessions and exciting tours. They retained pleasant thoughts and memories of Ireland – and Teagasc, excellent proceedings and good memories of the warm Irish hospitality and valuable personal contacts.


EGF2017:

19th EGF Symposium on "Grassland resources for extensive farming systems in marginal lands: major drivers and future scenarios"

The 19th EGF Symposium was held in Alghero, Sardinia (Italy), from 7-10 May 2017 at the Porto Conte Ricerche, the Science and Technology Park of Sardinia in Alghero (see more on www.egf2017.org).

The Conference on „Grassland resources for extensive farming systems in marginal lands: major drivers and future scenarios" attracted a total of 200 participants from more than 30 different countries. A well-attended workshop on "Sensing in grassland and forage science and practice" organized by Michael Wachendorf (Germany) was the launch of a new EGF Working Group with this name.

The 19th EGF Symposium was a great success in every respect, regarding the scientific programme, the offered framework programme and opportunities for social exchange.

A summary of the 19th EGF Symposium by Dr Alan Hopkins (United Kingdom) can be downloaded from here 

The European Grassland Federation EGF thanks Dr Antonello Franca, chairman of the organizing committee, and Dr Claudio Porqueddu, general secretary of the organizing committee and chairman of the scientific committee, and all their colleagues who were involved in the preparation of this Symposium on "Grassland resources for extensive farming systems in marginal lands: major drivers and future scenarios".

The 19th EGF Symposium was supported by:

- Institute for Animal Production System in Mediterranean Environment (ISPAAM) – Department of Biology, Agriculture and Food Sciences (DiSBA), of the Italian National Research Council (CNR)
- International Centre of Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), through its Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ)
- Italian Society for Agronomy (SIA)
- Stapledon Memorial Trust

EGF2016:

26th EGF General Meeting on "The Multiple Roles of Grassland in the European Bioeconomy"

The 26th EGF General Meeting was held in Norway, from 4-8 September 2016 at the Radisson Blu Royal Garden Hotel in Trondheim (see more at www.egf2016.no).

The Conference on „The Multiple Roles of Grassland in the European Bioeconomy“ attracted a total of nearly 300 participants from 30 different countries. A workshop on “Grazing in a high-tech world” offered by the EGF Working Group “Grazing” and two Master Classes on “Forage quality evaluation” and “Evidence synthesis” organised by the local conference organisers took place on Sunday before the Symposium. These additional events attracted 60 and twice 15 very interested people, respectively.

The 26th EGF General Meeting was a great success, scientifically, technically and socially.

The European Grassland Federation EGF thanks Dr Lars Nesheim and all his colleagues who were involved in the organisation of this General Meeting. The 26th EGF General Meeting was supported by NIBIO, Graminor, DLF Trifolium, the Research Council of Norway, the Stapledon Memorial Trust, the Nordland County Council, and Yara.

Reports from the EGF Executive Committee and the EGF Business Meeting, respectively:

EGF2019: EGF got an offer by Agroscope (Switzerland) and EUCARPIA to host the 20th EGF Symposium in 2019 and the 33th Section Meeting of the Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses Section, respectively, as a joint Symposium in Switzerland.

EGF2020: For the 28th EGF General Meeting 2020 EGF got an official invitation by Finland.

Elections to the Executive Committee:

- President: O'Mara (Ireland) for the period 2016-2018
- Regional representatives: Countries to represent EGF regions 2016-2020
 - Northern Europe – Sweden
 - North Eastern Europe – Lithuania
 - Eastern Europe – Russia
 - South Eastern Europa – Slovenia
- Federation Secretary: Kessler (Switzerland) re-elected for 2016-2018

EGF2015:


18th EGF Symposium on "Grassland and forages in high output dairy farming systems"

The 18th EGF Symposium was held in Wageningen, The Netherlands, from 14-17 June 2015 in Hof van Wageningen (see more at www.egf2015.nl).

The Conference on a current theme for a large area of Europe attracted a total of 187 participants from 30 different countries. Two workshops on “Grazing and automation” and “Optimising Resource Management” which were advertised for Sunday before the Symposium and offered by EGF working groups attracted 60 and 20 very interested people, respectively.

The EGF Symposium on “Grassland and forages in high output dairy farming systems” was a great success, scientifically, technically and socially.

Available for you:

- Information on the scientific programme and all the submitted papers can be found in the **Knowledge Center**
- The synthesis of the Symposium, written and presented by Prof. Dr. Johannes Isselstein (Germany) is available here for download 

The European Grassland Federation EGF is most grateful to Marcia Stienezen, Agnes van den Pol-van Dasselaar and Jeroen Nolles, and all their colleagues who were involved in the organisation of this Symposium. The 18th EGF Symposium was strongly supported by the Netherlands' Society for Grassland and Fodder Crops and the Wageningen University & Research Centre.

EGF2014:

25th EGF General Meeting on "EGF at 50: the future of European Grasslands"

The EGF General Meeting 2014 was held in Aberystwyth, Wales UK from 7-11 September 2014 in the Arts Centre on the campus of the Aberystwyth University.

The 50-year anniversary of the EGF was integrated into the conference which was attended by 300 participants from 38 countries. The 25th EGF General Meeting 2014 was a great success and offered the participants a memorable setting. The European Grassland Federation EGF is most grateful to the British Grassland Society and the Aberystwyth University for the perfect

organisation and valuable achievements of the conference and thanks for the warm hospitality in Wales.

Available for you:

- Find the history of the EGF (The European Grassland Federation at 50: past, present and future) here for download 
- Find all the presentations of the conference in PDF format for download on the **EGF2014 website**
- Enjoy looking at the photographs in the **EGF2014 Photo Album**


Report from the EGF Executive Committee and the EGF Business Meeting, respectively:

- EGF has a new **Mission Statement**
- EGF significantly intensified and strengthened the contact with the EU
- Elections to the Executive Committee:
 - President: Nesheim (Norway) for the period 2014-2016
 - Regional representatives: Countries to represent EGF regions 2014-2018
 - Central Europe – Switzerland
 - Western Europe – Belgium
 - Southern Europe - Italy
 - Federation Secretary: Kessler (Switzerland) re-elected for 2014-2016

EGF2013:

17th EGF Symposium on The Role of Grasslands in a Green Future - Threats and perspectives in less favoured areas

Grasslands play an important role in marginal regions of Europe. With the expected climate and increased emphasis on sustainable agriculture these areas will become more important for food production. The challenge is to maintain and improve agricultural production using fewer resources.

- The Symposium Synthesis by Dr Roger Wilkins, EGF Honorary Life President, can be downloaded from here 
- The presentations are available on the Symposium's website (www.egf2013.is)

The EGF Symposium 2013 was arranged and hosted by the Agricultural University of Iceland and the Ministry of Industries and Innovation. It took place on 23-26 June 2013 at the Hof Conference Centre in the beautiful surroundings of Akureyri, Iceland and was attended by 176 participants from 32 countries.

The 17th EGF Symposium 2013 was a great success, scientifically, technically and socially.

Outstanding points were: Numerous excellent papers, interesting discussions, a perfect conference infrastructure in a country full of natural wonders. Congratulations and thank you Prof. Dr Áslaug Helgadóttir, Dr Thóroddur Sveinsson and Thórunn Reykdal and the whole team for the great success and for the friendly hospitality.


EGF2012:

24th EGF General Meeting on Grassland – a European resource?


EGF2012 was a success. 313 participants from 40 different countries were attending the 24th EGF General Meeting held 3-7 June 2012 in Lublin, Poland.

40 young scientists registered for master classes and 100 experts participated in a series of workshops on selected topics and took part to the excursions prior to the workshops. The offered pre- and post-conference tour were booked by 25 people.

The proceedings, volume 17 of the book in the series Grassland Science in Europe, contains 204 papers (see Proceedings).

The synthesis of the scientific programme is available here .

Decisions by the EGF Executive Committee and the EGF Business Meeting, respectively:

- EGF will establish a Scientific Advisory Board for consultation on strategic and scientific aspects.
- EGF established contact with the EU (DG AGRI) to be maintained in the future.
- EGF elaborated EGF Resolutions (download here ) on the CAP reform and sent them to the EU.

Elections to the Executive Committee:

- President: *Marshall* (United Kingdom) for the period 2012-2014
- Regional representatives: Countries to represent EGF regions 2012-2014
 - Northern Europe – Finland
 - North Eastern Europe – Estonia
 - Eastern Europe – Bulgaria
 - South Eastern Europe – Bosnia/Herzegovina
- Federation Secretary: *Kessler* (Switzerland) re-elected for 2012-2014


EGF2011:

16th EGF Symposium on Grassland farming and land management systems in mountainous regions

EGF2011 was a big success. More than 200 delegates from 30 different countries attended the 16th EGF symposium, which was held 28-31 August 2011 at AREC Raumberg-Gumpenstein, Austria.

The Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein (AREC) offered ideal conditions, and the organisers created a fantastic environment for a successful conference. The atmosphere and surroundings were unique. But above all very competent experts were responsible for the organization and execution of the event. Congratulations and thank you Karl Buchgraber, Erich Poetsch and Bernhard Krautzer and the whole team for the great success and for the warm hospitality.

Mountainous areas make up 30 % of Europeans total land area. Apart from forests, natural and managed grasslands are the dominating vegetation in these areas. In terms of the production function mountain grasslands are often characterised as disadvantaged land areas. But in terms of landscape and ecosystem services, mountainous grasslands are a valuable resource for society. However production as well as the other functions are threatened by the consequences of economic pressure on farmers, inadequate farm structure, globalisation of markets and processes like climate change, intensification and land abandonment.

- The conference synthesis by Prof. Dr. Johannes Isselstein can be downloaded from here. 
- The presentations of invited and offered papers are published on the EGF2011 Website


EGF2010:

23rd EGF General Meeting on Grassland in a Changing World

The organisers of the 23rd EGF General Meeting and the German Grassland Society (AGGF) welcomed 400 participants at Kiel from 29 August to 2 September 2010. They made the EGF 2010 conference to all attendants a memorable event.

The mellow atmosphere of late summer provided a perfect environment for a successful arrangement and some of the most beautiful sites of Germany impressively presented themselves showing their diverse landscapes as well as variable forage crops.

Forage crops, covering more than 40 % of the agricultural land in Germany, play an important role in maintaining landscape biodiversity, besides being the backbone in feeding many domestic animals, e.g. cattle, sheep and horses. Only recently have they started to become a source for biogas production. Due to the increasing competition with alternative forage crops as e.g. maize produced for milk production, the share of permanent grassland is, however, decreasing in Germany. Thus, ecosystem services of permanent grassland beyond production functions play a dominant role in current discussions on the future of grassland and grass-able rotations are discussed intensively in order to develop sustainable forage production systems for milk production.

- Please find the "Conclusions and reflections from the 23rd General Meeting of the European Grassland Federation" by Josef Nösberger (Switzerland) here 
- All the presentations and posters are published on the **EGF2010** Website

EGF2009:

15th EGF Symposium on Alternative Functions of Grassland

At the congress lasting from 7 to 9 September 2009 in Brno (Czech Republic) a wide range of issues concerning changes in the role of grassland especially with regard to the specific features of countries with a high proportion of arable land and a low proportion of grassland and with respect to the impact on some social and economic conditions of new member countries of the European Union (decrease in the number of ruminants and the level of animal production as a whole) were discussed. The discussion also included ideas about how to retain, maintain and utilise grassland in areas where its use for animal production will not be a top priority.

Czech Republic is one of the countries with a high share of arable land and low proportion of permanent grassland. But grassland is decreasingly used in animal production. This raises new questions and offers new alternatives in land use and utilisation of grassland biomass. The main goal of the Symposium therefore was to discuss several alternative functions of grassland: the importance of grassland as aesthetic landscape element and attractive space for recreation and sports activities, and the value of grasslands as source of bio energy. Also the methods for preserving different permanent grassland types were given attention.

The Symposium was organised by OSEVA PRO Ltd., Grassland Research Station Rožnov-Zubří (www.oseva.cz), Research Institute for Fodder Crops, Ltd., Troubsko (www.vupt.cz) under the auspices of the Minister of agriculture and in co-operation with the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Please find a description of the outcome of the 15th EGF Symposium 2009 here 