

## **Industry-Academia days in Hinxton (UK)**

EADGENE organized an industry-academia event in cooperation with EFFAB and Genesis Faraday from 19 to 21 October 2005 at the Sanger Campus in Hinxton (UK). The annual meetings of Genesis Faraday and EFFAB allowed industry representatives in animal breeding and animal health to take a first glance at the EADGENE project and its possibilities, organized around joint industry-academia talks, funding information, posters and a discussion about the future of animal breeding. The event kicked off with a full-day course “Genomics Applied to Livestock Breeding”. The basics of genomics up to several interesting applications of genomics in breeding were discussed.

Thursday and Friday were reserved for the conference, including a funding and poster market. Thursday took off with a buffet lunch. After the lunch it was time for the first part of the Industry-Academia Interaction Conference. Research facts in genetics and genomics according to animal health and their application ‘factor’ were the aim of the afternoon. The audience received extensive overviews of the possible uses of animal health genomics in the animal health industry, and of the latest diagnostics methodologies, practices and prices. The second part of the Thursday afternoon consisted of four animal diseases that were highlighted from the point of view of an industry, as well as research, within the same field (PWMS in pigs, mastitis in cattle, E-coli in poultry, IPM in salmon). The industry discussed the problems that should be solved, costs of the disease in money and animal terms and their idea of a solution. The research representatives in turn gave examples of possibilities that could lead to find or create a solution. It became clear that research and practice still had a long way to go. The Thursday session was closed with a presentation about the advantages animal research can take out of the human research knowledge and technology, and some useful indications for industry-academia cooperation that is beneficial for both parties. The drink followed by the conference dinner perfectly provided ample possibilities to intensify contacts and closed the Thursday session.

Friday’s topic was “Breeding and Research Funding now and in the next 15-20 Years”. Research funding was expounded on the basis of several sessions which discussed this from different interesting points of view. Finally a discussion of the Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform (FABRE-TP, [www.fabretp.org](http://www.fabretp.org)) took place. And the conference was closed with a lunch.

All in all it were three interesting and informative days with lots of room for networking as well.