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VAT No 268 6594 03
Scottish Registered Charity

Type of Award: Murray Black Award 2017, £800

Your name and affiliation:

Anne Huting
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Agriculture, School of Natural and Environmental Sciences.
Newcastle University

Start and end dates of undertaking the funded activity: September 25th until October 6th 2017

Lay summary of the award:

Objective 1: To attend EAAP 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia

Objective 2: To visit the research facility of the Leibniz Institute, Germany

What was done?

I travelled to Tallinn, Estonia to attend the European largest Animal Science conference, EAAP 2017, which took place between 25th September and 29th September. I presented the results of one of my trials: "Can piglets that are small for their size at birth or weaning catch up?" during a 15 minute theatre presentation (Session 29: Weaning pigs in a healthy way). After the conference, I travelled to the Leibniz institute in Dummerstorf, Germany to present some of my work and to discuss their work in relation to alternative approaches to minimise small piglet's contribution to batch inefficiency. In addition, I visited their facilities.

Benefits of the Award:

1. Are there any significant outcomes / follow up activities as a result of the activity you undertook?

The highlight of the conference and the meeting at the Leibniz institute was discussing my work with other researchers in which areas were identified that needed improvement. In addition, the contacts made may result in future collaborations and career prospects.

2. How have you personally benefitted from the award?

Being a 3rd year student it is important to start thinking about future career prospects and to network with researchers and industry representatives. Attending EAAP 2017 was a perfect place to do this. The constructive criticism received during my presentation has helped me to improve my work. In addition, meeting researchers with a similar area of interest have positively contributed to elaborate on new and improved existing, research objectives. Furthermore, the wide range of topics presented at EAAP, for example, nutrition, intestinal health and immunity, has broadened my knowledge.

Visiting another research institute playing a key role in pig production efficiency, like the Leibniz Institute, has provided me with a valuable knowledge regarding alternative ways to target the challenges pig producers are facing. In addition, it was a great opportunity to discuss my work, receiving valuable feedback, and to visit their modern research facilities.

3. Benefit of the award to the animal science community, academic and industrial:

Attempts to solve small piglet's contribution to batch inefficiency require a multifactorial approach, it is therefore very important to share findings and experiences with other scientists during the annual meeting, exchanging ideas and elaborate on views. The latter would most likely result in practical and cost effective strategies that contribute to a more sustainable pig production, from which the industry would benefit greatly.