

# **ANIMAL BREEDING OPPORTUNITIES**



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*Front cover centrepiece: Ancient Egyptian corkscrew-horned hair sheep. Beni Hassan ca. 200 BC  
(after Griffith, 1896)*

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THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION  
and  
THE BRITISH POULTRY BREEDERS ROUNDTABLE  
and held in Durham in September 1988

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## Preface

The sciences on which animal production is based are becoming increasingly specialized. As a result, communication amongst scientists in different disciplines, advisers, and those in practice, becomes more and more difficult. This is particularly true of animal breeding. Its quantitative concepts often act as a deterrent to understanding by non-geneticists and as a result the opportunities animal breeding offers have not been fully realised. New statistical developments, which bring the potential of additional benefits, threaten to widen the gulf between animal breeding theory and practice and between animal breeding and the other animal sciences. Equally, whilst the recent advances in molecular genetics have re-emphasised the biological base of animal breeding, these too have often outpaced specialists in other disciplines, and are not widely understood.

This publication is a record of a meeting held to discuss present opportunities in animal breeding in a form intended to bridge the 'communication gulf'. The meeting dealt with the relevance of problems now being studied to the progress and future prospects for genetic improvement. It brought together specialists in a way that reflects the vigour of the science and the importance of animal breeding. The individual presentations were kept fairly general so as to provide background and understanding for non-specialists in any particular topic.

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Ross Breeders Ltd.

The symposium was organized by the late Professor R. B. Land, Dr G Bulfield and Professor W. G. Hill.

Sessions were chaired by Dr G. Bulfield, Professor W. G. Hill and Dr G. Simm.



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