

56th Annual Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production

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The 56th annual meeting of the European Association of Animal Production was held in Uppsala, Sweden on June 5-8 2005, hosted by Swedish Agricultural University. About one thousand of people attended the meeting. The EAAP annual meeting is major scientific meeting, attended by most large swine producing countries and breeding companies, and used by them to showcase their technical expertise. Participants came from not only European countries but also the countries which are important markets for Canada outside of Europe. Many of them are experts whose advice is sought by the swine importers.

Yuefu Liu from Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement (CCSI) attended the meeting. His day to day activities was listed in Table 1. He presented CCSI's research results on new technology of genetic evaluation entitled "Genetic Evaluation Using Markers Completely Linked to QTLs" authored by Yuefu Liu and Pramod Mathur (Appendix 1). The presentation showed how to use non-functional polymorphic sites within or completely linked to genes, such as HFABP and ESR genes in swine, which have different linkage phase in different breeds. EAAP meeting was an important opportunity to showcase the technology used in Canadian swine improvement. Our clients judge our swine genetics also through the technology we used, because genetic potentials of pigs are not observable.

Table 1. The day to day activities of Yuefu Liu in EAAP meeting

	Date	Highlights, including results (see note below for examples)
Day 1	June 3, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to the meeting
Day	June 4, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel and Arrival
Day 3	June 5, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the session on Functional Genomics of Reproduction and Disease Resistance • Attended Free Communication on Genetics
Day 4	June 6, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the meeting on Development in Quantitative Genetics • Attended the seminar on Pig Production, Management and Health
Day 5	June 7, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the session of Breeding program for a wide range system
Day 6	June 8, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Understanding of Genetics of Quantitative Traits
Day 7	June 9, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel back to Ottawa

The meeting lasted four days. Topics relevant to the swine genetics and the pork industry were especially interesting this year.

The meeting had 34 sessions including different areas of Animal Production and free communications. The sessions related to Animal Genetics includes

- Genetics of variability
- Functional genome
- Development of quantitative genetics
- Breeding program for a wide range of system
- Increased understanding of the genetics of quantitative traits
- Free communications in genetics
- Poster session

The sessions related to Pig Production includes

- High health pig system
- Nutrition and management strategies to improve resource use in livestock system
- Feed evaluation system for ruminants, horses and pigs
- Alternative low input/organic production methods
- Round table: Ethical values and economic goals: Conflicts or complementarities in animal production
- Free communication in pig and poultry nutrition
- Free communications: pig production, management and health
- Poster session

Yuefu attended the sessions of Functional genomics of reproduction and disease resistance, Genetics of variability, Development in quantitative genetics and Pig production, management and health, Breeding program, Increased understanding of the genetics of quantitative traits as well as some free communication sessions related to genetics and swine production. The presentations were generally very informative. It could very well reflect the advancement the areas of swine genetics and swine production.

The meeting provided the opportunity to do more networking with representatives from different countries and institutions. This includes Dr, Manfred Mayer from Federal Institute for Agricultural Animal Biology located at Dummerdorf, professor Henner Simianer from Gottingen University, Germany, Dr. Meuwissen, Dr. B. Villanueva etc.

The papers for the oral and poster presentations of the meeting are available at <http://www.eaap.org/content/uppsala.htm>