

Press release: Over 220 delegates from 26 countries celebrate the 7th meeting of the EEHNC with the focus on “Feeding the equine athlete”.

Over 220 delegates from 26 countries attended the 7th edition of the European Equine Health & Nutrition Congress (EEHNC) that was hosted in Bruges (Belgium). Internationally recognized specialists in nutrition, veterinary scientists, veterinarians, industry representatives and equine professionals attended this meeting. The congress focused on “Feeding the equine athlete”. The first day of this congress was dedicated to “Growing towards performance”. The following day was dedicated to “Feeding the Equine Athlete” (Friday). Participants could also follow practical workshops.

Professor Pat Harris (Waltham-on-the-Wolds, UK) explained how 'feeding the foal' commences with the correct nutrition of the broodmare. Nutritional factors can 'program' aspects of foal development both pre and post parturition and this is a new exciting research area within the study into environmental factors leading to activation or dormancy of certain genes. Jan Boone (Ghent University, BE) and Harold Brommer (Utrecht University, NL) highlighted how equine sports science can learn from advances and professionalisation in training schedules and fitness regimes in human athletes and how this is starting to be applied at the top level of equine athletes as confirmed by scientists, Olympic team veterinarians and top riders of most equine disciplines. John McEwen (Director of Equine Sports Medicine of the British Equestrian Federation) gave great insight into how the British Olympic Equestrians are supported by top level Exercise Physiologists, Veterinarians and Nutritionist throughout their training. Nutraceuticals were explored by Pierre Lekeux (University of Liege) and Michael Lindinger (Nutraceutical Alliance), with special focus on anti-oxidants and immune supplements and how they can support health and performance in the equine athlete. Subsequently there was a focus on maintaining physiological health and avoid behavioral problems through provision of good quality and quantity of forage as the basis for the diet with added nutrients and energy supply from well formulated concentrates. In the final discussion international riders Anky van Grunsven, Karin Donckers and Lieven DeVos shared their feeding practices to provide insight in the feeding management of their horses during training, transport and international events.

The Poster Award was given to Anneleen Decloedt (Laboratory of Chemical Analysis– Ghent University). She was awarded a 500 Euro check from Peter Bollen, President of the EEHNC and Prof. Geert Janssens (Chairman EEHNC Scientific Committee) for her abstract, entitled “Does the consumption of moulded feed affect the excretion of anabolic-androgenic steroids in horses?” Her study is part of a larger study but these initial results suggest that horses should not consume moulded corn straight from the field. DeCloedt also stressed the importance of properly storing feed, label control and to offer feed produced under Good Manufacturing Practice.

The first EEHNC took place in Antwerp in 2000. The 7th EEHNC was organized in cooperation with the departments from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Ghent University, Utrecht University and the University of Liège. The Animal Science Group (Wageningen University and Research Centre) was also involved.

Social Media & Proceedings

The proceedings of the European Equine Health & Nutrition Congress are also available as a booklet. The proceedings booklet contains reviews of the invited speaker sessions and abstracts from the poster session. Information about the congress and order information regarding the proceedings can be obtained from <http://www.equine-congress.com>

Take home messages from invited speakers were recorded on video and can be found on the [“7th Equine congress” YouTube channel](#).

Note for the editorial board

More information about this congress can be obtained from dhr. Dr. Ing. D.A. van Doorn M.Sc. E-mail: David.van.doorn@equine-congress.com Tel: +31 (0) 30-2533474. Please e-mail david.van.doorn@equine-congress.com if you are interested in providing extended information about this congress on your website, journal or other form of media.



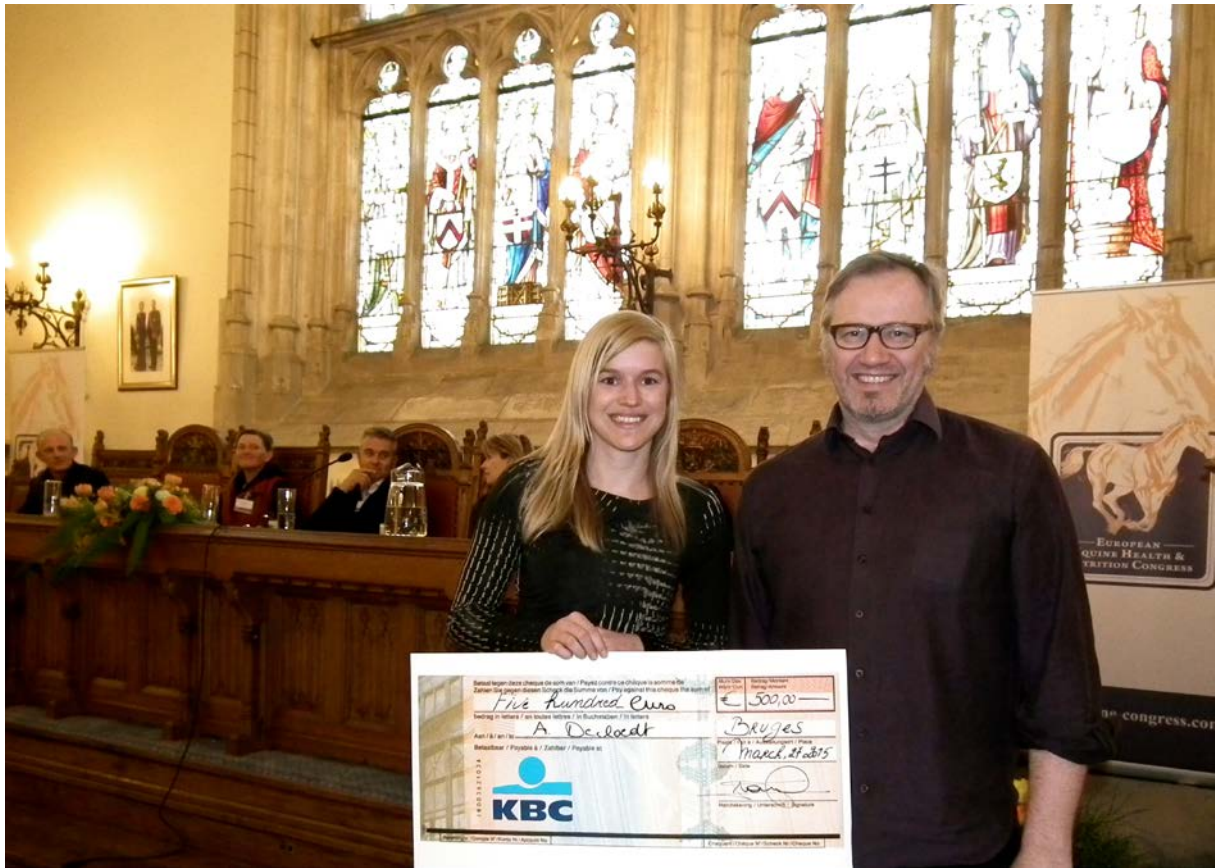
In the final round table discussion international riders Anky van Grunsven, Karin Donckers and Lieven DeVos shared their feeding practices to provide insight in the feeding management of their horses during training, transport and international events. Belgian team veterinarians Jeroen DeClercq and Jef DeSmet and Dr. Pat Harris and Dr. Wijnberg also participated in this discussion moderated by Peter Bollen (President EEHNA). Picture: photography David van Doorn



*Over 220 delegates participated in the 7th EEHNC that was held in the Provincial Palace in Bruges (Be).
Picture: photography by UNEQUI (Andrea Ellis)*



Dr. Michael Lindinger talking about immune supplements and how they can support health and performance in the equine athlete. Picture: photography by UNEQUI (Andrea Ellis)



Prof. Geert Janssens (Chairman of the 7th EEHNC Scientific Committee) and Anneleen Decloedt (Ghent University) with the cheque that Ms Decloedt won for her winning abstract. Picture: photography by UNEQUI (Andrea Ellis)



Over 130 congress delegates participated in the social programme of the EEHNC. Picture: photography by UNEQUI (Andrea Ellis)

More pictures are available on request; Pictures can be used freely for 7th EEHNC related articles but a copyright symbol followed by the photographer should be stated in/under the picture.