

LHPG Congress 2014

This year the Livestock Health and Production Group of the South African Veterinary Association now known as the Ruminant Veterinary Association of South Africa (RuVASA) held their annual congress at Skukuza, Kruger National Park. The general topic was economics with interesting and informative talks by the main speaker, Dr Henk Hogeveen from Wageningen Agricultural University where he is currently associate professor at the chair group, Business Economics. Dr Hogeveen gave insights on the Dutch dairy industry, economics pertaining to reproductive performance, mastitis and disease outbreaks. He also gave a thought provoking lecture on the relationship between herd veterinarians, farmers and farm performance.

Various delegates from private practice, academia and industry attended. MSD Animal Health had a big presence and gave away multiple spot prizes such as the “Feedlot Pathology Atlas” and the “Compendium of Reproduction” as well as various others. MSD Animal Health was proud to have sponsored 20 enthusiastic, up-and-coming large animal veterinary students. They presented various posters relating to partial budgeting (Using Ralgro as an example), Peste Des Petits Ruminantes, and the value of pregnancy diagnosis.

The first day covered talks based on dairy practice, management and economics and ended off with a social braai at the lapa in Skukuza. The second day covered topics surrounding sheep practice and came to an end with a wonderful Gala dinner sponsored by HIPRA, with entertainment by Hennie Maas and Mathys Roets. The third day’s talks were based on beef cattle practice with presentations on new diagnostic tests and novel vaccine developments.

The congress ended off on a good note, with delegates keen to go explore the park on their way home.



