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# The Equine Science Society: From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> Symposium

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#### ABSTRACT

In 1968, the group currently known as the Equine Science Society hosted its first symposium. At the meeting, there were 27 participants representing about a dozen institutions and 23 research presentations were given. In 2017, the Society is hosting its 25<sup>th</sup> Symposium and will have over 200 presentations from individuals representing about 120 institutions. Throughout the history of the Society, the objectives have been to promote quality equine research, establish communication amongst those involved with equine research, teaching, extension, and production, conduct periodic symposia, and cooperate with other organizations having similar interests.

#### 1. The Objectives of the Society

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> symposium held by the group currently referred to as the Equine Science Society (ESS) and that was formally known at the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society (ENPS). The objectives of ESS are to: (1) promote quality research on equine nutrition and physiology; (2) establish effective communication among researchers, teachers, extension, and production personnel regarding equine nutrition and physiology; (3) conduct periodic symposia; and (4) cooperate with other organizations having similar or related interests [1]. These objectives have remained relatively unchanged since the constitution was first published in 1975 [2].

#### 2. The Genesis of the Society

The first symposium grew from a meeting in the mid-1960s between E. Ott, H. Hintz, and H. Stowe in St. Louis,

MO (H. Stowe, Personal communication). They decided there was a need for a meeting to discuss equine nutrition research. At the time, Dr Stowe was the director of the equine clinical nutrition section in the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Kentucky. A special facility had been built at their research farm where purified diets could be fed to foals. The original goal was to determine vitamin A and E requirements for young foals using test subjects that were the offspring of "nurse mares" (usually draft horse mares) that were scheduled to foal when the majority of Thoroughbred and Standardbred mares were foaling. Eventually, Dr Stowe was able to purchase a commercial pelleting machine to allow for pelleting the purified diets. The interest in and support for horse nutrition research allowed for the first Equine Nutrition Research Symposium to be held in 1968 at the University of Kentucky and was sponsored, in part, by the Stud Manager's Course of the Grayson Foundation along with the Department of Veterinary Science and the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Kentucky (Table 1). The program committee consisted of H.F. Hintz, P.A. Linerode, and H.D. Stowe who served as the Chairman for the symposium. The program listed 27 participants with 23 research papers being presented [3].

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#### Table 1

Dates, host institutions, location, and presiding president for the 25 symposiums hosted by the Equine Science Society (formerly known as the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society).

Symposium	Dates	Host	Location	President
Equine Nutrition Research Symposium	July 25-27, 1968	University of Kentucky	Lexington, KY	H.D. Stowe <sup>a</sup>
Second Equine Nutrition Research Symposium	July 30-August 1, 1970	Cornell University	Ithaca, NY	H.F. Hintz <sup>a</sup>
Third Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	January 18-20, 1973	University of Florida	Gainesville, FL	P.A. Linerode
Fourth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	January 16-18, 1975	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and University of California, Davis	Pomona, CA	L.H. Breuer
Fifth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	April 28-30, 1977	University of Missouri, Columbia	St. Louis, MO	E.A. Ott
Sixth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	May 17-19, 1979	Texas A&M University	College Station, TX	J.W. Evans
Seventh Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	April 30-May 2, 1981	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Warrenton, VA	J.P. Baker
Eighth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	April 28-30, 1983	University of Kentucky	Lexington, KY	G.D. Potter
Ninth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	May 23-25, 1985	Michigan State University	East Lansing, MI	J.P Fontenot
Tenth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	June 11-13, 1987	Colorado State University	Fort Collins, CO	E.L Squires
Eleventh Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	May 18-20, 1989	Oklahoma State University	Stillwater, OK	H.F. Hintz
Twelfth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	June 6-8, 1991	Alberta Horse Industry Branch	Calgary, AB, Canada	H. Stowe
Thirteenth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	January 21-23, 1993	University of Florida	Gainesville, FL	S.G. Jackson
Fourteenth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	January 19-21, 1995	California Polytechnical State University	Ontario, CA	L.M. Lawrence
Fifteenth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	May 28-31, 1997	Texas A&M University	Fort Worth, TX	R.J. Coleman
Sixteenth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	June 2-5, 1999	North Carolina State University	Raleigh, NC	D.H. Sigler
Seventeenth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	May 31-June 2, 2001	University of Kentucky	Lexington, KY	D.L. Thompson
Eighteenth Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium	June 4-7, 2003	Michigan State University	East Lansing, MI	C.H. Wood
Nineteenth Equine Science Society Symposium	May 31-June 3, 2005	University of Arizona	Tucson, AZ	D.R. Topliff
Twentieth Equine Science Society Symposium	June 5-8, 2007	University of Maryland	Hunt Valley, MD	M.M. Vogelsan
21st Equine Science Society Symposium	May 29-31, 2009	Colorado State University	Keystone, CO	M.J. Arns
22nd Equine Science Society Symposium	May 31-June 3, 2011	Middle Tennessee State University	Murfreesboro, TN	P.D. Siciliano
23rd Equine Science Society Symposium	May 28-31, 2013	New Mexico State University	Mescalero, NM	B.D. Nielsen
24th Equine Science Society Symposium	May 26-29, 2015	University of Florida	St. Pete Beach, FL	J.E. Bruemmer
25th Equine Science Society Symposium	May 30-June 2, 2017	University of Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN	L.K. Warren

<sup>a</sup> Chairperson.

The proceedings was published and distributed after the symposium. According to society correspondence from 1973 kept by Dr E. Ott, there had been a decision in the early years to request only paper titles before the meeting because it was felt that requesting an abstract would make the research 12 to 18 months old and would reduce participation. At that time, correspondence was done primarily through the postal service. Call for topics went out 8 to 12 months in advance to permit selection (based on titles only) and subsequent correspondence to take place.

Research presentations at the first symposium ranged in length from 20 to 45 minutes – as opposed to the 12-minute format currently in use that was eventually adopted when the number of presentations increased. Examining the abstracts presented at that first meeting, much of the work dealt with very fundamental aspects of equine nutrition. Topics included such items as energy requirements, digestibility of forage, nitrogen metabolism, comparison of digestive tract physiology, electrolyte balance, calcium and phosphorus balance, serum selenium concentrations, vitamin synthesis and requirements, and glucose tolerance [3]. While the majority of the meeting was devoted to nutritional and metabolic phases of equine nutrition and physiology, the idea of having a coordinated approach to equine nutritional research was promoted [4].

As Dr Gary Potter indicated, "We all owe a debt of gratitude to Dr John Baker and Dr Howard Stowe for hosting the first Symposium way back in 1968 at UK. Drs. Ed Ott, Les Breuer, Harold Hintz and others were also instrumental in that first Symposium. I doubt anyone at that time had any idea what ENPS, now ESS, would eventually evolve into. Research and graduate programs in animal science departments, that focused on equine sciences, were few and far between at that time. As the horse Download English Version:

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