

Spotlight

The importance of specialist conferences for science, industry and advisors



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Photo: private

Although over 50% of farmers already use social media, the classical information sources are still preferred as basis for important investment and management decisions. These sources include specialist magazines, official advisory services, company brochures, exhibitions and regional events with expert speakers.

Knowledge exchange at conferences

The different possibilities for information gathering while attending such events play an important role for advisors and scientists, as well as developers and decision makers in business. Of particular interest to such circles are those specialist conferences that take place as part of a regular cycle. The high acceptance of these events is based on their condensed presentation of reliable new knowledge on topical themes, on the factual treatment of future oriented subjects and trends, and on the intensive and also interdisciplinary exchange of experiences and knowledge by the participants.

Belonging to the best known regularly presented specialist events with long traditions within the themes of technology in farm animal production are the KTBL-Tage and BTU-Tagung conferences. These differ in the composition of their respective programme themes although the overlap of target groups is very large. For science, both events offer an outstanding forum for presentation of research and subsequent discussion, associated suggestions for further investigations and initiation of targeted research alliances. In this respect, of increasing importance alongside the fundamental research work are practically oriented cooperation projects in the respective applied science. The industry also profits from such developments. At these conferences, own developments, innovative technical solutions and, not least, own competences and respective market relevancies, can be presented. Also offered are excellent contact possibilities.

Advisory service as link between research and practice

The great range of available information, facts, assessments and evaluations featured at such specialist conferences is, however, not seen as simply an end in itself. It leads, in the ideal case, to an improvement in practical agriculture. In this respect the advisory services assume an important key role in the transformation of the presented increase in knowledge and understanding so that, for instance, the knowledge can be applied for encouraging more efficient production methods taking account of higher animal and environment protection criteria. Conversely, such knowledge exchange

also serves the purpose of highlighting for researchers problems that have been noticed in daily advisory practice.

The agricultural construction association called “Bauförderung Landwirtschaft“ (BFL) is an association of advisory service and associated businesses. It has been dedicated for over 60 years to supporting and encouraging the exchange of information between industry, advisory services and research. The focuses: construction, housing equipment and process technology in farm animal production. This aim also serves the still very young format of the “BFL-Beratertagung“ (Advisory Service Conference), which this year is to be held for the second time: on March 13 and 14, 2018 in the Landwirtschaftszentrum Eichhof in Bad Hersfeld (Hesse), thus completing the outstanding and informative offering of specialist conferences on the technology of farm animal production in Germany.



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