



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY *of* ENGLAND



November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011

## Equine Students hard work pays off

The five finalists of this year's EQVALAN® Duo Equine Thesis of the Year Award 2011 have been selected following a hard battle between 14 very strong candidates. The successful five will make their final pitch to the judges on Friday November 11th at Stoneleigh Park.

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year in which the Royal Agricultural Society of England has made the Merial-sponsored award, which recognises the exceptional equine academic achievements being undertaken every year at colleges and universities throughout the UK.

The winner will receive a cash prize, a trophy and five years free membership to the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

Dr Emma Batson from Merial Animal Health says:

“It is always tough to judge this award and this year's shortlist continues to showcase the high achievement and ambitious scope of the academic research within our industry. The equine industry faces many ongoing challenges and the short listed theses all help to further our understanding of the horse and the equine industry in which we work. It will be very tough to choose a Thesis of the Year from such a high quality shortlist.”

This year's five finalists are -

- Bill Chapman, **Moulton College/University of Northampton**: Comparison of the efficacy of preloading versus reloading electrolyte supplementation in novice competition horses
- Caryl Ffion Marks, **Hartpury College**: A case control study to investigate risk factors for horse falls in steeplechase races at Cheltenham racecourse
- Christine Hills, **Writtle College**: Does grazing limb preference affect equine biomechanics and any developmental asymmetries?

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- Eoin O'Brien, **University of Limerick**: An analysis of pre-purchase veterinary certificates for sport horses in Ireland
- Lisa Randle, **Warwickshire College**: Prevalence of Obesity and Health Issues in Mature Leisure Horses in the Midlands of the UK: An Equine Body Condition Survey

Ends

Notes to Editors:-

1. Press release issued by Catherine Stuart, Membership & Communications Executive, Royal Agricultural Society of England  
Tel No: 02476 858 252      Email: [catherines@rase.org.uk](mailto:catherines@rase.org.uk)
2. The Royal Agricultural Society of England, play a leading role in the development of British agriculture and a vibrant rural economy through the uptake of good science and the promotion of best practice. [www.rase.org.uk](http://www.rase.org.uk)
3. Merial is the world's leading and most successful animal health company producing a wide range of pharmaceuticals and vaccines to keep livestock and pets healthy and productive. With headquarters in the UK, Merial has bases in the US, France, Latin America and Asia. The company employs approximately 6,500 people, operates in more than 150 countries and generates sales in excess of 1.7 billion Euros. [www.merial.com](http://www.merial.com)