

## **Media Release**

## 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 For Immediate Release:

## Applications invited for the HSA 2010 Humane Slaughter Award

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) – an independent charity that works through education, training, research and technical developments towards achieving high standards of welfare for food animals at markets, during transport and at slaughter – is now inviting applications for its 2010 Humane Slaughter Award.

Very large numbers of farmed livestock are slaughtered daily around the world to provide food and other resources for human benefit. It is important that slaughter methods are as humane as possible – that they approach as closely as possible the ideal of not causing any fear or pain. Great advances have been made in this field in recent decades and work in pursuit of further improvements is continuing.

In order to help give recognition to important contributions and to help promote the pursuit of further advances, the HSA launched the Humane Slaughter Award scheme last year. It is open to individuals or organisations, anywhere in the world, whose work has resulted in significant advances in the humane slaughter of farmed livestock such as cattle, sheep, pigs, other mammals, poultry or fish. The inaugural, 2009, Award was won by Dr Craig Johnson and his colleagues at Massey University in New Zealand for their investigation of pain in cattle slaughtered without prior stunning.

The HSA is keen to receive applications, or nominations of potential candidates from third parties, relating to advances in science or important technological developments that have led or are leading to advances in humane slaughter. The award is for £1,000 and the deadline for the receipt of applications or nominations is  $31^{st}$  March 2010.

Application forms can be obtained from the HSA, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN. Telephone 01582 831919, fax 01582 831414, email <u>info@hsa.org.uk</u> or can be downloaded from www.hsa.org.uk

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As an independent registered charity, the HSA is unique in working exclusively to achieve the highest worldwide standards in food animal welfare at markets, during transport and at slaughter through scientific and technical advances, education and training. Its work includes researching, refining and demonstrating humane slaughter methods, publishing material such as guidelines, best practice, books and videos, funding research projects and the development of equipment. Specialist technical staff provide expert and practical advice on all welfare issues relating to food animals.

The HSA is funded by voluntary donations, subscriptions and legacies.

For more information about the HSA's work call 01582 831919, email <u>info@hsa.org.uk</u> or visit www.hsa.org.uk

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