Royal Entomological Society
Special Interest Group
Food & Feed

Insects as Food and Feed Conference 2026:

Science, Industry and Innovation

Thursday 19 – Friday 20 November, RES Headquarters, Wenlock Road, London

Programme

Thursday

11:00	**Optional RES Library Tour 1, including rare books collection** *(delegates need to book this in advance)*
11.30	**Optional RES Library Tour 2, including rare books collection** *(delegates need to book this in advance)*
12:00	Registration and lunch
13:00	**Welcome and Introduction** Emilie Aimé, RES Director of Publishing and Daniel Amor & Kieran David Robertson, RES Insects as Food and Feed SIG Convenors
13:15	**KEYNOTE: Beyond Protein - Insect Oils as the Next Generation of Sustainable Functional Lipids** Marc Pignitter, University of Vienna
13:55	**Engineering gut antimicrobial peptide expression in black soldier fly to enhance antimicrobial function for sustainable feed applications** Conall Stanforth, University of Cambridge
14:15	Refreshments and posters
14:45	**Establishing Insect Cell Lines for Food and Feed Applications** Sophie Letcher, EntoCellular
15:05	**Evaluating Heterosis in Black Soldier Fly: Growth and Survival Following Reciprocal Crosses Between Selected and Unselected Lines** Laura Strachan, Beta Bugs Ltd
15:20	Movement break
15:30	**WORKSHOP: On the pulse of insect farming: how veterinary advisory can contribute to increased welfare and sustainable productivity** Benjamin Kennedy, Invertivet Bearded Vets & Mark Marcello, VIS
16:50	Closing remarks
17:30	**Networking reception** Join us at Old Street Tavern for drinks and sharing platters, ***kindly sponsored by***

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Friday

09:30	Refreshments
10:00	**KEYNOTE: From Idea to Exit - Thought to Fork and other destinations** Ruth Dolby, Director, Food Science Fusion Ltd
10:40	**PANEL DISCUSSION: Growing Demand for Insect Products: public perception, markets and collective action** UK Edible Insect Association (UKEIA)
11:30	Refreshment break
12:00	**KEYNOTE: Building an insect-as-feed company in Asia: experiences and lessons learnt from entry to exit** Tom Berry, Former Founder & CEO of Nutrition Technologies
12:40	**Circular by design: Scaling Black Soldier Fly biology from environmental ambition to industrial reality in the UK** Julian Knight, FKS UK Ltd
13:00	Lunch and posters
14:00	**Closing the Loop: Could This Be the Future of Live Food in Zoos?** Ross Hickles, ZSL London Zoo
14:20	**Bug powered muscle: Are insects a viable protein source to support the demands of human skeletal muscle?** James Rutherford, University of Surrey
14:40	**Effects of live black soldier fly larvae on behaviour, welfare, meat yield and meat quality of broilers** Ashraf Alkhtib, São Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil and Nottingham Trent University.
15:00	**Indigenous Entomophagy among Nagas as Food, Culture and Connection** Femi Benny, University College London
15:20	**DISCUSSION:** **What does the IAFF sector actually need to succeed? What direction are we headed?**
16:00	Closing remarks
16:15	Finish