

Southern Region Animal, Dairy, & Poultry Sciences Department Heads Meeting

SAC-2 Annual Meeting – San Antonio, TX February 4, 2015

Call to Order:

Chair Wayne Greene, Auburn, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Attendance and Introductions:

Dr. Greene asked the members in attendance at the SAC-2 meeting to introduce themselves. The following were in attendance:

Name	Location	Email	Phone
Wayne Greene	Auburn (AS)	wgreene@auburn.edu	334.844.1523
Clint Rusk	OK State (AS)	Clint.rusk@okstate.edu	765.491.9437
Ralph Noble	NC A&T (AS)	rcnoble@ncat.edu	336.334.7547
Mike Lacy	UGA (Poultry)	MLacy@uga.edu	706.542.1351
Geoff Dahl	U. FL (AS)	gdahl@ufl.edu	352.392.1981
Neal Schrick	UT (AS)	fschrick@utk.edu	865.974.3130
David Gerrard	VT (AS)	Dgerrard@vt.edu	540.449.2165
Keith Bertrand	UGA (AS)	jkberty@uga.edu	706.542.6259
Bill Brown	UT (Director's Office)	wfbrown@utk.edu	865.974.7121
Jim Strickland	Clemson (AVS)	jstrick@clemson.edu	864.656.3138
Todd See	NCSU (AS)	Tsee@ncsu.edu	919.515.2755
Don Conner	Auburn (Poultry)	connede@auburn.edu	334.844.2639
Mary Beck	MSSTATE (Poultry)	m.beck@msstate.edu	662.325.3416

Absent: Kidd (Ark), Williams (NCSU), Caldwell (TAMU), Blanton (MS).....

Approval of Agenda:

Greene asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. Dahl moved approval; Schrick seconded; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes:

The 2014 meeting minutes were posted to the NIMSS website. Chair Wayne Greene called for a motion to approve the 2014 minutes. Beck asked for clarification of the SAAS issue raised last year (Section B of Minutes). Greene wrote the SAAS Directors after the 2014 meeting to clarify intentions with regard to overlap of the SAAS meeting with the NCBA and IPPE. Some discussion ensued regarding this overlap and an attempt to separate the two meetings. Currently the upcoming department heads meeting is scheduled for Western region in 2016, NE in 2017, and S in 2018. Harmon had asked about the rotation with IPPE, which had been agreed on as an

every 3-year location. Conner moved approval of the minute; it was seconded; motion passed.

Discussion – Topics Important to Southern Region:

Engaging Freshman/Transfer Students:

Greene opened the discussion with observations from his freshman learning community course that students today, in his opinion, are very naïve with regard to the real world. Non-science information becomes factual to them because they don't have a good grasp on manipulating and understanding numbers and data. They don't have much experience with animals and are mostly city kids and pre-vet.

Strickland discussed Clemson's introductory AS course with intro to every species (physiology, feeding practices, etc). It has a weekly hands-on lab rotating through all the farms, learning about biosecurity, general handling. It is followed by species-specific techniques courses where students actually work at the farms. There is also a 1000 level seminar with guest speakers from industry.

Greene indicated study skills are important but also managing the diversity of vegetarianism or anti-animal ag perspectives. Schrick teaches a general course on etiquette, ethics. Recently TN held a teaching summit and threw out their entire curriculum and started over.

Rusk indicated OK has a student success coordinator to deal with 900 students seeking internships, tours, meeting with parents, coordinating with alumni.

Strickland indicated Clemson has a student manager for freshmen and professional development course at the Junior level for developing personal profiles, communication skills, internships, study abroad process.

Conner suggested this goes beyond the familiarity with animal ag and has to do with any hand on. A food science course is required in PS at Auburn to educate PS students about the end product. They can calculate but have no concept of the actual units of measure (g, kg, ton, pound). This is anecdotal but persistent. Food Science students are very strong academically perhaps because of K-12 teaching to standardized tests, but hug gap with regard to hands-on.

Strickland reported on Clemson's freshman women living/learning community managed by 3 women in the department. The students live together in one dorm and have study sessions.

Noble indicated that his 70% female students have a hands-on lab learning to identify all 7 species and that internships are encouraged. Alumni come back and talk about their experiences.

See has faculty member who runs a veterinary advising center for all pre-vet students on campus; there is a pre-professional course but alternate career tracks

has helped admissions. Also has a “vet pack” of interns who come in to help. It is a guided process to opportunities. She pushes students out to faculty in areas the students are interested in – e.g., dairy – so students are matched to interest areas but also areas that are realistic.. Several mentioned not talking about “plan B” but rather options to avoid discouraging those who don’t get into vet school or choose other pathways.

Brown asked about staffing and funding for these various positions: faculty? Staff? Teaching? Academic appointments? Strickland’s position is a former research tech position converted to academic advising. Rusk blocked salary dollars and moved a clerical position to advising. See uses faculty.

Jointly administered Teaching Programs across Institution:

Brown reported that the Academic Program Leaders and Experiment Station Directors meet regularly in Atlanta to discuss issues of mutual interest/concern. With shrinking teaching budgets, increasing numbers of students, and various levels of subsidy from Extension and Research Divisions, a recent topic has been the feasibility of offering jointly taught undergrad and graduate programs across states and institutions. Two programs already in use are Ag*Idea (GA, Auburn) and ACCEPS (LA, AR, MS, OK). Both programs share tuition; ACCEPS was developed by primarily horticultural faculty whose individual classes were not making because of low enrollment. Gerrard, Dahl and Schrick all indicated their institutions have said no to Ag*Idea; MS is on the fence. Most present indicated they can all handle the core discipline courses, but its the “lighter” courses (swine, goats, sheep, dairy) that are problematic. The Poultry Consortium in the upper MW was cited as a viable program, as was the swine production program developed by the US Pork Center.

A considerable discussion ensued about achieving joint programs at the faculty level but that upper administration is where these collaborations typically fail. The issues are where tuition is paid vs. where courses are taken/taught and who gets credit. It’s all about credit and money and until that’s solved, joint teaching programs are unlikely to succeed formally; at the graduate level it’s even more complicated because grad students don’t actually pay tuition.

The Directors are meeting next in 2016.

Review of Multi-State Projects:

A. S1027 – The Poultry Food System: A Farm to Table Model

Don Conner, Monitor

Conner didn’ t check in NIMSS but this committee doesn’ t have much momentum and didn’ t meet this year. It is pretty much defunct and has not even gotten a Writing Committee together. Conner moved to accept the termination; Dahl seconded. Discussion: Conner will communicate options to Casey Owens at AR. Motion passed.

**B. S1032 – Animal Production Systems: Synthesis of Methods to Determine Triple Bottom Line Sustainability from Findings of Reductionist Research
Bob Harmon, Monitor**

Harmon did not attend the meeting. Greene moved to continue to monitor, as this project has been approved to 2018. Dahl seconded; motion passed.

**C. S1035 – Nutritional and Management Abatement Strategies for Improvement of Poultry Air and Water Quality
Mary Beck, Monitor**

This project is no longer active in NIMSS. Beck moved to terminate in the SAC-2 review process; Dahl seconded; motion passed.

D. S1061 – (S-1044): Nutritional Systems for Swine to Increase Reproductive Efficiency

Dave Gerrard, Monitor

The Committee meets annually in early January in conjunction with the NCCC-42 (Committee on Swine Nutrition). This year's meeting was held January 7-8 in Orlando, FL and as is the norm, began and ended with a joint session. Minutes are not due until early March. Neal Merchant (NCCC-042) and TBA (S-1044) serve as administrative advisors and regularly attend. The agendas for each are typically conducive for a fair amount of discussion and usually include guest speakers. This year's speaker was Chris Hostetler, Director of Animal Science, NPB and Charlotte Kirk-Baer, who provided a NIFA update. The project (S-1044) terminated 9/30/13, the current project (S-1061) was re-written (2013-2018). The NCCC was also re-written (2014-2019).

Among the aspects of the S-1061 project are specific points to coordinate the various research and Extension initiatives across participating institutions, and to standardize methods, data and statistical analyses to provide a larger and more robust datasets that should result in more comprehensive recommendations.

Gerrard moved these committees continue; they are productive and their annual meeting is well-attended. Lacy seconded; motion passed.

E. S1064 – (S1045): Genetic Improvement and Adaptation and Reproduction to Enhance Sustainability of Cow-Calf Production in the Southern United States

Keith Bertrand, Monitor

Project S-1064 is the new multi-state project that replaced S-1045 (Genetic Considerations for Beef Cattle Production in Challenging Environments) that terminated in September of 2014. The universities/entities involved in S-1045 met on May 28-30, 2014 jointly with the WERA-1 Coordinating Committee at G. Rollie White Visitor Center located in the O.D. Butler Animal Teaching, Research and Extension Complex on the Texas A&M Campus, College Station, TX. The attendance at this year's meeting of S-1045 had 11 people from 5 of the 11 participating institutions. An annual-final report for S-1045 was also submitted in September of 2014. The project produced 21 papers and reports during this fifth year of the project compared to 27, 15, 17 and 21 papers and reports for the first, second, third and fourth years, respectively. A technical writing committee was formulated from those universities/agencies involved in S-1045 and a new regional

research project was written, submitted and approved. The new project is S-1064, the project title is “Genetic Improvement and Adaptation and Reproduction to Enhance Sustainability of Cow-Calf Production in the Southern United States”, and the project is scheduled to run from October 14, 2014 to September 30, 2019. The new project has 8 states participating (AR, GA, FL, MS, OK, SC, TX, VI). The objectives for the new project are: 1) Estimate genetic variation associated with animal health using classical animal breeding and genomic techniques to facilitate sustainable beef cattle production systems; 2) Meta-analyses of economically important traits of cow productivity and fertility to assess breed and production system combinations; 3) Documentation of genetic components pertaining to heat tolerance adaptive traits in sustainable beef cattle production systems; 4) Investigation of early cow-life performance (first four parities) affecting lifetime production in Brahman and Brahman X Angus cows. The objectives are important, and they are achievable based on the activities and methods proposed in the project description. As with all regional breeding projects, it will be important for the different states to use some common bulls wherever possible to enable the combining of data for larger, more comprehensive analyses. During the Southern Department Heads/Chairs Meeting in San Antonio, TX , Bertrand, the monitor for the prior S-1045 project and the new S-1064 project, moved that the Heads/Chairs approve the new S-1064 project. Gerrard seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed to continue the project.

F. SCC 81 – Sustainable Small Ruminant Production in the Southeastern U.S. Ralph Noble, Monitor:

This multistate project involves 18 **participating institutions** plus 10 additional collaborators. Participating institutions include 8-1890 institutions (Fort Valley State University-GA, Kentucky State University, Langston University-OK, North Carolina A&T State University, Tuskegee University-AL, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, Virginia State Universities), 7-1862 institutions (Auburn University, Clemson University, LSU, North Carolina State University, University of Maryland-College Park, Virginia Tech and West Virginia University) the University of Virgin Islands, the USDA ARS Booneville, Arkansas research station and the ARS Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center.

Collaborators (10) include an additional 3- 1890’s (Alabama A&M University, Florida A&M University, Delaware State Universities), 4-1862’s (Purdue University, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky and Texas A&M University), USDA ARS-Arkansas, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, and Alabama NRCS). That totals to 28 land grant institutions, federal and state agencies and NGO involvement.

The **objectives** are 1.) Parasite control, 2.) Forage based feeding systems, 3.) Germplasm evaluation and 4.) Information dissemination.

Productivity is reflected in a number of areas. They have authored 22 publications, 39 abstracts and proceedings, 1 book chapter, 6 extension publications and numerous training sessions.

The 2015 meeting is taking place on February 1, 2015, at the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS), in Atlanta, GA from January 31-February 3, 2015.

Productivity, cooperation and progress continue with the SCC-81 project. I Nobel recommended we approve to continue this multistate project. Dahl seconded; motion passed.

G. SCC 84 (S1040) – Genetic selection and mating strategies to improve the well-being and efficiency of dairy cattle

Geoff Dahl, Monitor

Met at Iowa State University, October 23-24, 2014

Attendees: Dr. Chad Dechow (Penn State), Amy (University of Minnesota), Dr. Brad Heins (U Minnesota), Dr. Tony Seykora (U Minnesota), Dr. Kent Weigel (U Wisconsin), Dr. John Cole (USDA-AIPL), Dr. Les Hansen (U Minnesota), Dr. Rebecca Cockrum (Virginia Tech), Dr. Heather Huson (Cornell), Dr. Diane Spurlock (Iowa State), Dr. Mike Schutz (Purdue), Dr. Geoff Dahl (U Florida, representing Department Chairs).

Previously known as S-1040, current project has a focus on genetic analysis to improve efficiency of dairy cattle. Station reports from all participating stations and a number of data sharing arrangements among participants resulted from discussion. The group planned and presented a major education and outreach effort through workshop “Advancing Dairy Cattle Genetics: Genomics and Beyond”, February 17-19, 2014, Phoenix, Arizona. The event was extremely successful and drew producers, academics, and industry attendees. Planning to repeat.

Committee needs to update minutes and membership on NIMMS site.

Asked that Dahl emphasize to Chairs/Heads that grad student travel support be provided by departments to increase participation.

Will be recruiting at least one new member (new faculty at Florida). John Cole elected secretary for project. Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Sweden; will be hosted by Geno Global and Swedish Ag University contact. Tour Swedish Red studs etc. Relevant to the crossbreeding aspects of the project. Will be held October 24-21, 2015. This meeting being organized by Les Hansen.

Dahl recommended continuance; Rusk seconded; motion passed.

H. SERA -15 – Competitiveness and Sustainability of the Southern Dairy Industry Mike Looper, Monitor

Looper did not attend the meeting. Greene indicated the project meets with the Southern Dairy Conference and host it. They had a strong conference 2-3 weeks ago in Atlanta with a 2-3 day meeting on dairy production. It is an active group (MS, TN, KY, NC, FL). Early on the project had a strong ag economics focus but now is predominately dairy production.

Greene moved to continue to monitor, even though it terminates in September 2015. Brown will check on the re-write status. Schrick believes a rewrite is underway and seconded the motion. Motion passed.

I. SERA-41 – Beef Cattle Production Utilizing Forages in the Southeast to Integrate Research and Extension Programs across State Boundaries

Neal Schrick, Monitor:

Status: Rewrite

Motion: Continuation

Current activities: 2015 SSAS Symposium: Design, Analysis, and Execution of Quality Grazing Research Symposium, in conjunction with SERA 41 1:00 PM–6:00 PM (February 1, 2015). The Westin Peachtree Plaza; Augusta Ballroom B (7th Floor)

The writing team (L. Stewart, P. Beck, M. Poore, J. Rhinehart, B. Macoon, M. Hersom, and Guillermo Scaglia) for the new SERA041 worked on the recommendations from their research and extension administrators and the document was sent to all state representatives so that they would have the outline before the meeting on Sunday evening. The SERA041 meeting would be concentrated on collecting input/suggestions from all present. Recommendations will be incorporated as deemed necessary and re-submitted for review and approval.

Statement of Issue and Justification

As of February 2010, the USDA reports that the SE region has over 12 million cows that are born and raised on a forage-based diet. Based on this approximately 1/3 of the feeder cattle came from states in this region. Each year, more than 6 million calves graze cool-season pastures in the Southeastern United States and the Southern Great Plains to add valuable weight as stocker calves. Use of pasture and forage is the world's most common beef production system. Successful livestock production depends on forage programs which supply large quantities of adequate quality, homegrown feed.

Replacement heifer development in the SE region is predominantly accomplished through forage-based nutrition systems. As beef cattle numbers continue to decline in SE states and demand for beef remains high, most economists conservatively forecast a sustained period of rebuilding. This rebuilding will bring a greater demand for high quality replacement heifers to the already established trend. Extension Specialists from these states have created several groups that deliver important and timely information to producers in their respective states. SERA41 group conducted several online workshops to deliver timely information to professionals and producers in all our states. Also, during the lifetime of SERA41, collaborative research was conducted and AFRI-NIFA funding was pursued.

Since this work was producing results, the group was encouraged to re-write the project to follow previous and success steps and maintain the structure that SERA41 had with the intention of using this powerful tool to solve common problems for the region associated with grazing beef cattle.

Objectives 1) Maintain a constant feed-back between Land-Grant University missions of research and extension and Beef Cattle Associations (at state and national level) as well as any other beef cattle related organizations (Farm Bureau, NRCS, GLCI, etc.).

2) Promote multi-state research and extension programs to achieve profitable production efficiency maximizing knowledge transfer and impact of these programs.

3) Create the necessary environment to promote exchange of information and networking between research and extension Faculty leading to the development

of integrated multi-state and multi-disciplinary proposals to seek external funding.

Other Business:

- Greene mentioned that several projects have terminated without a re-write, with a few in the re-write phase. He encouraged us to encourage our faculty to collaborate across state lines and suggest recognition of multi-state projects.
- Mark Mirando noted that the decrease in Southern Region projects is in part because faculty are active in projects in other regions. Regional projects made sense early on but not so much today. Current projects are more broadly based across the nation. Scientists in the Southern Region should be recognized nationally for participation in other regional efforts. USDA is thinking more on the national level now. This is one reason the projects are now called multi-state instead of regional, although dividing regionally does facilitate the administrative functions that are tied to the projects. North Central and South are the two largest regions with regard to project numbers. There are very few Western projects and even fewer in the Northeast. The suggestion was made that maybe NC and S could review projects together in the future.
- Brown indicated he has not looked recently at NIMSS for animal projects; Mirando said they use a spreadsheet to assign projects to NPL's. There are ~60 animal projects.
- The minutes of this meeting are distributed to Brown to forward to the Director of the Southern Region, Eric Young, and to the other Experiment Station Directors, who are responsible for approving faculty to join projects. Beck indicated that minutes are not available on NIMSS. Brown will investigate.
- It was moved that the Southern Department Heads will ask to review projects with the North Central group next year. Dahl seconded; motion passed.
- At the end of this meeting, Beck will become Chair for two years. Gerrard nominated Schrick to become Secretary for the next two years. Bertrand seconded. Rusk moved nomination cease. Motion passed.
- Gerrard thanked Greene for serving as Chair for the last two years.
- Mirando indicated that projects are to be approved within 30 days after submission and that if they are not, email Mirando or Turzillo (whether Hatch or Multi-state). Spending is tied to approval so reminders to Washington are important.
- Greene asked for a motion to adjourn. Strickland moved, Dahl seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:
Mary M. Beck, Secretary