W-4173 – Impact of Stress on Performance, Health, and Well-Being of Animals1:30:

Saturday, July 15:

12:45: Meeting was called to order by Ty Schmidt at 12:45 with an introduction of present members.

Tom Welsh – Texas A&M

Dustin Yates – University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Duarte Diaz – University of Arizona

Caitlin Cadaret – Colorado State University

Bethany Baker-Cook – University of Auburn

Ty Schmidt – University of Nebraska – Lincoln

1:15: Ty Schmidt provided an overview of W-4173, discussed the current status of the multistate research project, and current project goals (as defined from 2023 Annual Meeting).

1:45: Station Report Presentations:

Tom Welsh – Texas A&M

Dustin Yates and Ty Schmidt – University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Duarte Diaz – University of Arizona

Caitlin Cadaret – Colorado State University

3: 30: Discussion of Annual Project Report/Renewal of W-4173, current status of member involvement with annual meeting, and planning of annual meeting for 2024.

* Members discussed the status of the leadership of W-4173 (officer structure, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary).
* Decline in member participation in Annual Meeting: For the past eight years our team has seen a steady decline in member participation in the Annual Meeting. During this eight year period, in-person participation has generally been around 5 – 7 members present.
  + In polling current members, the main reason for limited participation in the annual meeting is due to lack of funds
* This decline in member participation has provided a leadership gap. Over the past five years the leadership of W – 4173 has fallen on the small group of members (University of Nebraska, University of Arizona, and University of Minnesota).
* Members discussed some of the possible reasons for the drop-off in member participation.
  + Members have indicated that the primary reason for not attending annual meeting is the lack of financial support from institutions.
  + Several members have also indicated that the date and location of the annual meetings has impacted their participation.
* To address the concerns about the scheduling the meeting, members discussed potential options to help increase participation.
* Specific discussion among the group was generated about trying to find the optimal time of year and location for the meetings.
  + - Meeting in Conjunction with ASAS was discussed. The meeting was held in conjunction with ASAS this year, with the lowest turnout we have had for a W-4173 meeting.
      * Reasons for this low turnout could potentially be due to the location (Albuquerque, NM)
    - Rotational format where every odd year the meeting will be held in conjunction with ASAS and one even years the meeting would be held at a participating university.
    - Working with ASAS, propose a symposium for W-4173 to allow members to present their units priority research results.
      * Potential special issue of JAS or Translational Animal Science specifically for W-4173 was proposed.

Overall results of the discussion was an agreement for the present members to investigate potential opportunities with ASAS and to connect with all members of W-4173 to identify means for increasing participation.

Sunday, July 16:

9:00: Deb Hamernik – Deputy Director, Institute of Food Production & Sustainability provided the group with an update regarding NIFA (budget, deadlines, and status of leadership).

* Group discussed the issue of funds provided to travel to the W-4173 annual meeting.
  + Significant discuss was generated by participants about the frustration with universities requiring involvement in a multistate, but providing no funds to participate.

10:30: The remainder of the meeting was focused on addressing the lack of participation in W 4173. Numerous ideas were presented and discussed. The results of this discussion was that members would investigate options discussed above. After investigation, members would convene for Zoom discussion for how to proceed with increasing participation in W-4173.

11:30: Ty Schmidt volunteered to remain the chair for 2024 and Tom Walsh, Dustin Yates and Duarte Diaz providing assistants.

No date was identified for the 2024 meeting. Following discussion, the plan for 2024 is to poll the entire W-4173 members and identify the best time of year and location to improve member participation.