

## W-2177 Committee Meeting – May 31-June 1 2011

### Brief Summary of Minutes of Annual Meeting:

The committee met at Montana State University on May 31 and June 1, 2011. There were ten committee members present at the meeting. The W-2177 annual meeting was held in conjunction with regional committee W-1010. Dr. Bret Hess, AES Director at the University of Wyoming and the administrative advisor for W-1010 acted as administrative advisor for the W-2177. Joint committee station reports were provided by members from their respective stations. Project renewal discussions were conducted given that the project expires September 30, 2012. Committee members discussed the long history of collaborative research that has been conducted by past and present members of W-2177. It was decided that a sub group of committee members led by Drs. Tonsor and Oltjen would meet in the fall to develop a new five-year proposal for the project.

### Participants:

Busboom, Jan (busboom@wsu.edu) - Washington State University;  
Calkins, Chris (ccalkins1@unl.edu) - University of Nebraska-Lincoln;  
Fausti, Scott (scott.fausti@sdstate.edu) - South Dakota State University;  
Hess, Bret (brethess@uwyo.edu) - University of Wyoming;  
Kott, Rodney (rkott@montana.edu) - Montana State University;  
Nelson, Mark L. (nelsonm@wsu.edu) - Washington State University;  
Oltjen, Jim (jwoltjen@ucdavis.edu) - University of California Davis;  
Parcell, Joe (parcellj@missouri.edu) - University of Missouri;  
Paterson, John (johnp@montana.edu) - Montana State University;  
Pendell, Dustin (dustin.pendell@colostate.edu) - Colorado State University;  
Tonsor, Glynn (gtt@agecon.ksu.edu) - Kansas State University;  
Members of W-1010 Regional Committee

### May 31, 2011

2 pm – The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tonsor, Committee Chair.

2:15 pm – The W-2177 and W-1010 committee members introduced themselves. Joint meeting format was discussed.

2:30 pm – Dr. Hess informed W-2177 committee members that Dr. C. Yuan Hu has been promoted and will no longer be the committee's advisor. He informed us that no decision on Dr. Hu's replacement has been made. Dr. Hess would act as the committee advisor during the two day meeting. Dr. Hess informed the committee that our current five-year project was due to expire September 30, 2012. He suggested the committee should begin project renewal discussions during the current meeting.

Dr. Hess then turned his attention to providing both committees with a general update on USDA funding prospects being discussed by NIFA officials in Washington. Dr. Hess informed the committees that budget deficits would likely have a negative impact on both hard and soft money funding sources for agricultural extension and research activities. It appears that the funding for NIFA CAPM grants will be

greatly reduced. He indicated there is discussion of reducing the funding ceiling from five million to five hundred thousand. If this should occur, that would negatively affect the effectiveness of the program. He reminded committee members that 25% of federal dollars going to AES stations must be allocated to regional projects. Funding for regional projects is not in danger of losing funding. He also reminded committee members that annual reports are due by July 20, 2011.

3:30 pm – W-2177 Station reports

- Dr. Calkins presented material on a restaurant consumer preference study conducted in restaurants located on the east coast and the southwestern part of the United States involving source verified Nebraska beef.
- Dr. Parcell presented material on a cow/calf study involving the timing of A/I breeding trials in Missouri.
- Dr. Tonsor discussed his current work on expanding international markets for beef by providing international customers with source verification as a value added attribute.

6 pm – Joint Committee dinner: barbeque buffet served onsite

6:45 pm - W-2177 Station reports continued

- Dr. Fausti discussed trends in steer and heifer grid market patterns. He also discussed the effectiveness of mandatory livestock pricing reporting regulations with respect to improving transparency of public grid premium and discount price reports relative to the former voluntary price reporting system.
- Dr. Pendell presented material on his work to develop econometric models for a national animal ID system and extended that work to develop a model to investigate the economic value of source verification in international markets with Dr. Tonsor.
- Dr. Oltjen discussed current issues facing the field of animal science and his work on developing a statistical model for cow/calf production in California.

Meeting Adjourned 8 pm.

June 1, 2011

8 am – The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tonsor, Committee Chair. The first order of business was to conduct the business meeting.

8:15 am – Business meeting discussion began with Dr. Hess providing the committee guidance on what the Western Directors expectations were with respect to the project renewal timeline. Dr. Hess informed the committee that the committee has a January 15, 2012 deadline to submit the project renewal proposal to the Western Directors MRC (Multistate Review Committee). The MRC will then complete their review and return it to the committee for revision if necessary. The revised proposal must be submitted for approval by May 15, 2012. Discussion with the Dr. Hess ensued.

Committee members discussed the prospects for project renewal. The general consensus on project renewal was positive. However, it was decided that the scope of the new project needed to be narrowed. Committee members agreed that greater beef industry involvement in the project was needed. It was

agreed that we should meet at NCBA headquarters in Denver every other year. Concerns were raised about station representation not being at the level necessary and it was decided that absent committee members would be asked if they are willing to become more involved or make a decision to drop out.

The committee came to agreement on a plan of action. It was decided that a subgroup of committee members lead by Drs. Tonsor and Oltjen would organize a fall meeting to develop a rough draft of the committee's new five-year research proposal. At this time it was decided that the committee would not elect new officers until after the renewal activities were complete.

9: 15 am – Presentations by guest speakers invited by the W-1010 committee.

- Dr. David Johnston, animal geneticist at the University of New England, Australia discussed his latest research findings on genetic markers related to beef feeding efficiency.
- Dr. Kent Anderson, Pfizer Genetics, discussed Pfizer's latest research on developing genetic markers for the beef breeding industry with a focus on cost of gain.

10:30 am - W-2177 Station reports continued

- Drs. Busboom and Nelson discussed their latest research on animal diet and its effect on meat quality. A discussion of the role of potatoes in the transmission of beef measles was a focal point in their discussion.
- Drs. Paterson and Kott discussed their work on “relative feed efficiency” of feedlot cattle; beef mineral supplement cyclical behavior, and identifying bull genetic traits that effect feedlot performance.

11:30 am – Brief overall discussion of meeting events and confirming plans for the fall meeting.

Noon – meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Scott W. Fausti, South Dakota State University