

2011 Joint Annual Meeting with NCERA 214 and WERA 039

Spearfish Canyon Lodge
Spearfish, SD
(Hosted by South Dakota State University)
June 5-8, 2011

2011 NCERA – 214 Annual Meeting Minutes

Monday June 6

The meeting was called to order at 8 am by Jim Miller, NCERA-214 Chair, at the Spearfish Canyon Lodge in Spearfish, SD. Julie Walker and Jeff Held hosts of the meeting, and Dr. Clint Rusk, Department Head at South Dakota State University, welcomed the group. Jim Miller then asked us each to introduce ourselves. Nancy Irlbeck, Colorado State University the newly appointed WERA 039 Administrative Advisor commented on the importance of these committees to the sheep industry stakeholders.

Julie Walker, WERA-039 Chair, introduced Steve Smith, NIFA Animal Production Systems National Program Leader linked to the meeting by teleconference. He provided an update on NIFA re-configuring, personnel changes, competitive programs and funding level for FY 2012. Current REE priorities are bio-energy, global climate change, nutrition and health, food safety, and international food security. In the competitive programs there are seven AFRI requests for applications (RFA's) to be released in Fiscal Year 2011.

Following Steve Smith's update on NIFA, Julie Walker outlined the format and schedule for the meeting. Reports alternated by objective for the two committees. These minutes detail the order of the reports for the NCERA-214 committee.

Jim Miller chaired NCERA-214 station reports.

Objective 1- Develop and evaluate methods to improve reproductive efficiency: Cornell University (Mike Thonney), North Dakota State University (Reid Redden), South Dakota State University (Jeff Held), U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, USDA Nebraska (Kreg Leymaster) and Virginia State University (Stephan Wildeus).

Objective 2 - Develop strategies to improve and predict efficiency of lean growth, carcass quality, and meat palatability: North Dakota State University (Reid Redden)

Adjourned for lunch

Objective 3 - Evaluate genetic resources, nutrient requirements, and production systems for milk production: Virginia State University (Stephan Wildeus).

After the station reports for the afternoon were completed, the SDSU hosts provided a leg of lamb dinner at the Western Plains Agricultural Heritage Museum in Spearfish, SD.

Tuesday June 7

Leadership representing several facets of the American Sheep Industry Assoc (ASI) and the American Sheep and Goat Center (ASGC) highlighted programs and issues related to the industry educational infrastructure.

Peter Orwick, ASI Executive Director, stated the US sheep industry has experienced a surge in revenue with record prices for lamb meat and skins along with the highest wool value since the 1980's. Demand for lamb meat in the non-traditional consumer segment and technology advancements in wool based material provide a strong foundation for industry strength and growth during the next decade. Given the current industry optimism the ASI leadership recognizes that future economic strength is dependent on a strong infrastructure especially for lamb procurement. Lamb packing capacity is underutilized due to low number of lambs available in the US and has resulted in closure for the plant at Hawarden, IA. In 2011 ASI has launched a program called "2+2+2" to encourage producers to improve production efficiency and attract new producers into the industry with the goal to increase the supply of US lambs by 300,000 head by 2014.

Will Getz, Chair, ASI-PERC council, commented that to accomplish the production efficiency goals for the "2+2+2" program will require multi-disciplinary and institutional effort on research priorities and funding support by state and federal partners. The PERC council is developing a web resource page on multi-disciplinary research based information to assist stakeholders with implementation of more efficient production practices.

Lowell Slyter, Editor Sheep and Goat Journal, indicated that this peer-reviewed publication is now exclusively available on-line through ASI and since 2010 has been indexed by CAB. Lowell has served as editor for the past 8 years but announced that at the end of 2011 he will retire from that position.

Larry Miller, Director for the American Sheep and Goat Center (ASGC), discussed the role of the ASGC in improving industry infrastructure and progress toward grant access.

Paul Rodgers, ASI Deputy Director of Policy, covered many issues affecting the US sheep industry including funding support for sheep education activity at land-grant universities and USDA locations, and establishing research and extension priorities for the "2+2+2" program. The research and extension resources in the NCERA 214 and WERA 039 committees are key to success of the "2+2+2" program yet pending retirements and lower funding support for positions and programs could drastically diminish the availability of core sheep production expertise needed to serve the US sheep industry.

NCERA-214 Business meeting

Business meeting called to order by Jim Miller (Chair) at 9 am. Several members were unable to attend due to budget constraints: Greg Lewis, Don Ely, Deb Aaron and James Thompson. Scott Griener has both cattle and a sheep expectation in his position therefore chooses to attend this meeting every other year.

Approval of the 2010 meeting minutes was requested by Jim Miller. Dan Morrical moved to approve the minutes and Dave Thomas seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The nomination committee, Kreg Leymaster, Dave Thomas and Dan Morrical, presented a slate of 2011-12 officers. They are Richard Ehrhardt (Chair), Jeff Held (Vice-Chair) and Reid Redden (Secretary). Mike Thonney moved to accept the nominated officers, and Jim Thompson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Meeting site host for 2012 – Dan Morrical suggested that NCERA-214 offer a symposium in conjunction with the 2012 annual meeting at Iowa State University. The symposium theme suggested was on seed stock, yet the scope would need to be defined later. Dave Thomas moved to accept the offer from Iowa State University to host in 2012 a joint symposium-annual meeting, seconded by Reid Redden. Motion approved. A symposium planning committee (Richard Ehrhardt, Dave Thomas and Kreg Leymaster) was selected to work with Dan Morrical to identify topics, speakers and format details for this event. Although as shown in the 2010 meeting minutes, Noelle Cockett at Utah State University was interested in hosting the 2012 meeting however no formal request had been received prior to this meeting.

Our Administrative Advisor is Ernie Minton at Kansas State University, he replaced John Kirby. Ernie was unable to attend this meeting due to scheduling conflicts. He has been very helpful to the committee in preparing for this meeting and will serve in the upcoming mid-term review for the NCERA-214 project.

Curriculum/Education Committee: Jeff Held (Chair) discussed the committees plan to gain access by survey from land-grant institutions the following: sheep and goat undergraduate/graduate courses offered, curriculum content, laboratory experience and enrollment data. The database will be shared with Paul Rodgers, ASI to integrate the findings into the revision process for the SID Handbook in 2012-13. The SID Handbook is the primary text for undergraduate sheep education creating curriculum modules in the next revision is a high priority to better serve collegiate instruction. Committee members are Jeff Held, Dan Morrical, Henry Zerby and Richard Ehrhardt.

Discussion on future research direction. In early April the ASI “2+2+2” program campaign was announced with goals to improve lamb crop management efficiency and increase sheep production on existing and with new operations. For the plan to succeed research based information and technology transfer to producers from the multi-state coordinating committee work including NCERA-214 is essential. Along with partners at ASI and other agencies the work of the coordinating committee can gain greater implementation and impact into sheep production systems across the country. Dan Morrical also requested the committee request evaluation on the iodine requirement of sheep. He suggested the iodine requirement in the 2007 NRC (Small Ruminant) was too low to support late-gestation fetal health resulting in stillborn lambs. Mike Thoney agreed to obtain and file the appropriate documents with ASI to pursue increasing the recommended level of iodine in sheep. Additional discussion focused on gaining access to growth enhancement supplement products currently available to cattle for the lamb industry.

On behalf of the resolutions committee, submitted by Joan Burke

- 1) Be it resolved, the members of the NCERA-214 committee on Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production express thanks to Julie Walker, Jeff Held, and South Dakota State University staff members for their hospitality in organizing and presenting a successful and memorable annual meeting of the NCERA-214 sheep research and extension committee. (To be sent to Clint Rusk, Chair of Animal Science Department and Barry Dunn, Dean, SDSU).
- 2) Be it resolved the members of the NCERA-214 committee on Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production express their appreciation to a) the American Sheep Industry Association for the presence of Paul Rodgers, Will Getz, and Peter Orwick at the NCERA-214 meetings (to be sent to Peter Orwick, Executive Director of ASI and Margaret Soulen-Hinson, President of ASI), b) the American Sheep and Goat Center for the presence of Larry Miller and their support of sheep and goat research in the U.S. (to be sent to Chase Hibbard, Chairman of the Board, ASGC), and c) Lowell Slyter, Editor of Sheep and Goat Research Journal and alumni of SDSU, for his

continuous support of dissemination of sheep and goat research, and for cooking a wonderful lamb dinner for the NCERA-214 committee (to be sent directly to Lowell Slyter).

- 3) Be it resolved the members of the NCERA-214 committee on Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production express their appreciation to the producers and industry officials involved in the NCERA-214 and WERA-39 Sheep Industry Tour (to be sent to Larry Prager, Manager, Center of the Nation Wool; Jack and Cindy Orwick; Jim and Joyce Orwick; Paul and Beth Erk, Erk Bros Ranch, Newell, SD; Dwight and Gwen Kitzan and Josh Kitzan, Kitzan Sheep Operation, Nisland, SD.

Jim Miller concluded the Business Meeting at 10:30 am.

Following the business meeting station reports for Objective 4 and 5 were presented.

Objective 4 - Develop profitable and sustainable production systems (including parasite control and other health issues): Cornell University (Mike Thonney), Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center, USDA, Arkansas (Joan Burke), Fort Valley State University (Will Getz), Louisiana State University (Jim Miller), Michigan State University (Richard Ehrhardt), U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, USDA, Nebraska (Kreg Leymaster) and Virginia State University (Stephan Wildeus).

Objective 5 - Wide dissemination of research results and information to universities, regulatory agencies and producers: University of Maryland (Susan Schoenian), Michigan State University (Richard Ehrhardt) and University of Wisconsin-Madison (Claire Mikolayunas) and others as presented in the proceedings.

Adjourned for dinner

Wednesday June 8

Industry Tour (8-5 pm)

- 1) Center of the Nation Wool Warehouse- Belle Fourche, SD
- 2) Orwick Ranch – Newell, SD
- 3) Erk Bros. Rambouillets – Newell, SD
- 4) Kitzan South African Meat Merino and Suffolk Flocks – Nisland, SD

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Held, Secretary July 6, 2011

List of 2011 Attendees

- Aaron, Debra (daaron@email.uky.edu) - University of Kentucky
- Burke, Joan (joan.burke@ars.usda.gov) - USDA, ARS, Arkansas
- Ehrhardt, Richard (ehrhards5@msu.edu) - Michigan State University
- Getz, Will (getzw@fvsu.edu) - ASI
- Hatfield, Patrick (hatfield@montana.edu) Montana State University
- Held, Jeff (Jeffrey.Held@sdstate.edu) - South Dakota State University
- Irlbeck, Nancy (Nancy.Irlbeck@colostate.edu) Colorado State University
- Leymaster, Kreg (kreg.leymaster@ars.usda.gov) - USDA, ARS, MARC
- LeValley, Steve (steve.levalley@colostate.edu)
- Lupton, Chris (C_Lupton@tamu.edu) Texas AgriLife Research
- Miller, Larry R. (larrymiller@atlanticbo.net) ASGC
- Miller, Jim (jmille1@lsu.edu) - Louisiana State University
- Mikolayunas, Claire (mikolayunas@wisc.edu) – University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Morrical, Dan (morrical@iastate.edu) - Iowa State University
- Redden, Reid (reid.redden@ndsu.edu) North Dakota State University
- Rodgers, Paul (prodgers2@earthlink.net) - ASI
- Schoenian, Susan (sschoen@umd.edu) - University of Maryland
- Schauer, Chris (Christopher.schauer@ndsu.edu) – North Dakota State University
- Slyter, Lowell – (lowell_slyter@hotmail.com) SGRJ
- Thomas, Dave (dlthomas@wisc.edu) - University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Thonney, Michael L. (mlt2@cornell.edu) Cornell University
- Thonney, Mike (mlt2@cornell.edu) – Cornell University
- Walker, John (JWalker@ag.tamu.edu) Texas AgriLife Research
- Wildeus, Stephan (swildeus@vsu.edu) - Virginia State University
- Zerby, Henry (zerby.8@osu.edu) – Ohio State University