

Minutes of the 2009 SERA-015 Meeting  
January 25, 2010  
Westin Hotel, Airport, Atlanta, GA

Present:

Jeffrey Bewley, University of Kentucky  
Bruce Jenny, Louisiana State University  
Jim Bannon, Auburn University  
Sue Mosley, USDA  
Jack McAllister, University of Kentucky  
Leigh Maynard, University of Kentucky  
Tony Rickard, University of Missouri  
Joe Horner, University of Missouri  
Wayne Prewitt, University of Missouri  
Steve Nickerson, University of Georgia

The meeting convened at 2:00 pm with Jeffrey Bewley, vice-chairman presiding. Bennet Cassell, chairman, was unable to make the meeting because of a delayed flight. Early discussion centered on whether or not to continue to have the meeting with the current timing and location. The decision was made that, with increased attendance this year, it would be best to leave the schedule the same for next year. The group also discussed moving the SERA meeting to an evening meeting (5 PM) rather than early afternoon to better accommodate travel schedules, particularly for those driving or those with teaching duties. Budget issues for traveling to the meeting were discussed as many active members of the group were unable to attend because of a lack of funds.

The new Southern Dairy Conference website was discussed briefly and the group agreed to continue to support the website. A representative from each state updated the group on the current status of the dairy industries in their respective states. Sue Mosley reported that milk production in the Southeast decreased by 2.2% in 2009 compared to an overall decrease of 0.4%. All states reported similar struggles with low milk prices and producers exiting the business in 2009. The University of Missouri group (Tony Rickard, Wayne Prewitt, and Joe Horner) talked about potentially joining the SERA group and described their active research and extension program in dairy grazing. They also mentioned a soon to be released online course on dairy grazing. This discussion led to conversation about exploring ways to collaborate across state borders in all three land grant missions, teaching, research, and extension.

Stephanie Hill of Mississippi State University was elected vice-chairman.

Respectfully submitted

Jeffrey Bewley, Chair SERA-015 for 2011