

2015 Annual NCERA-214 Meeting Minutes

Cornell University

Rochester, New York

June 9-10, 2015

Monday, June, 8

Dr. Katherine Petersson, Chair of NCERA-214, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Rochester, NY. Dr. Thonney, Professor at Cornell University and a NCERA-214 member from the organizing committee welcomed the group and provided opening remarks.

Dr. Ernest Minton, Administrative Advisor for the project and Associate Director for Research at Kansas State University, provided an administrative update. Dr. Minton indicated that the current NCERA-214 renewal new project is valid until 2019. He also commented on the fact that NIFA requests an impact statement and a 2-page summary for the conclusion of the project after the 5 year period. He commented that a draft is already available. It was agreed that the impact statement was going to be considered by the group and that Dr. Petersson would circulate a draft by e-mail.

Following Dr. Minton's remarks, introductions were made by NCERA-214 members and other guests. Station reports followed, beginning with Objective 1.

Objective 1 - Develop and evaluate methods to improve reproductive efficiency

- Cornell University (Mike Thonney, Cristian Posbergh, Natasha Pettifor). Three bags full by Leonie Swann.

Station reports continued after a break with Objective 1.

- West Virginia University (Marlon Knights)

Reports continued with Objective 2.

Objective 2: Develop strategies to improve and predict efficiency of lean growth, carcass quality, and meat palatability:

- South Dakota State University (Dr. Jeff Held)

Following lunch, station reports for objective 2 continued with the University of Kentucky (Don Ely), Texas A&M AgriLife (Dan Waldron).

Objective 3: Evaluate genetic resources, nutrient requirements, and production systems for milk production.

- University of Wisconsin (Dave Thomas and Tom Murphy),

The meeting adjourned. The evening's activities included a tour of Kyle Farms with Matt Kyle and dinner at the Dinosaur BBQ.

Tuesday, June 9

At 8:37 a.m., Katherine Petersson called the NCERA-214 business meeting to order. With minor editorial corrections noted by Joan Burke to last year's minutes, Dan Morrical moved to accept the minutes and Jeff Held seconded.

Dr. Minton provided examples of impact statements (NC1029) and recommended the impact statement being reviewed and edited by the group. He also recommended capturing such impact with pictures.

Dr. Katherine Petersson suggested the change in nomination of NCERA-214 from a coordinating committee to a research committee. This change may allow group members to obtain additional research funds through their respective agricultural stations, although Dr. Minton mentioned that the release of funds for research is up to each experiment station. Dr. Mike Thonney asked for a clarification regarding the difference between committee and research project. It was discussed that a greater degree of interconnectedness among institutions could represent the main difference between committee and research project. Dr. Dave Thomas suggested that a research committee may improve the ability of the group of obtaining Hatch funds. Dr. Dan Morrical also agreed that a research committee would help the group and Dr. Jeff Held mentioned that this change could even help young faculty. Dr. Thonney moved to pursue a research committee denomination for project, to add an additional objective and to seek approval. Dave Thomas seconded. The group unanimously voted to pursue the change from committee to research project. Katherine Petersson volunteered to be the contact person for pursuing such change.

Paul Rodgers appreciated the invitation and introduced John Lemondes (military procurement) and Susan Shultz (education and research council). Susan Shultz appreciated the passion of the group towards the sheep industry. Paul Rodgers mentioned that ASI made \$1.4 M available for research projects aligned with 3 productivity goals. John Lemondes described that he is involved in product development and that significant research is being conducted into active wear and fire resistance for military garments and that wool is a key product on this regard. Paul Rodgers mentioned that he would like to form a small committee to look at a list of research, education and development needs at some point during this summer. He commented that a survey instrument is being delivered with the plan to analyze results and then meet with NCERA-214 committee. Mike Thonney suggested that ASI should provide multi-year funds (some to be spent on infrastructure) for research and product marketing. Paul Rodgers commented on leveraging

funds and on the possibility of producing a proposal from the group. He said that John Snyder is the contact person within ASI if the group decides to move forward with the idea. Dan Morrical moved that Susan Schoenian contact a member of the center that provides funding to help create a request for proposals and to propose having members of the group review future proposals. Mike Thonney seconded. Motion carried.

It was discussed during the meeting that proceedings are confidential. Dr. Petersson suggested identifying and actively recruiting new members particularly when the group is proposing to move to a research committee. Mike Thonney suggested the inclusion of animal welfare as a new item in the new project. Deborah Aaron felt that health and well-being issues are being covered by other committees.

The location for next year's meeting was discussed next. Dan Waldron moved to hold next year's meeting in San Angelo, Texas. The motion was seconded by Katherine Petersson. Motion carried. The weeks of June 5-7 or 12-14 are being proposed as possibilities.

The nomination committee of Dave Thomas presented the following slate of officers for 2016. Susan Schoenian (Chair), Juan Villalba (Vice Chair), and Debra Aaron (Secretary). Dan Morrical Seconded. Motion carried.

Dan Morrical moved for an exploratory team for a 2017 symposium. Jim Miller moved that Richard Ehrhardt, Whit Stewart and Melanie Barkley lead the exploratory committee. Motion carried.

Dr. Katherine Petersson provided a sympathy card to be signed by the group in remembrance of Clark Willis, the sheep producer and active member of the industry who served on numerous ASI committees and councils through the years and who hosted a dinner in his ranch during the NCERA-214 meeting in Logan.

The resolutions committee composed of Stephan Wildeus and Joan Burke indicated they would send out resolutions (via e-mail) for approval. The following resolutions were presented and approved via e-mail by the committee:

1. Be it resolved the members of the NCERA-214 committee on Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production express thanks to Dr. Mike Thonney, Barbara Jones, and Terry Haines 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 Chair of the Department of Animal Science, and the Dean of the College of the Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University.)
2. Be it resolved, the members of the NCERA-214 committee on Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production express their appreciation to the American Sheep Industry Association for the

presence of Paul Rodgers, Susan Shultz, and John Lemondes at the NCERA-214 meetings. (To be sent to Peter Orwick, Executive Director of ASI and Burton Pfliger, President of ASI.)

3. Be it resolved, the members of the NCERA-214 committee on Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production express their appreciation to Matt Kyle of Kyle Farms for hosting a tour of the farm. (To be sent to Matt Kyle, 2122 Avon Geneseo Rd., Avon, NY 14414.)

4. Be it resolved, the members of the NCERA-214 committee on Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production desire development of innovative partnerships with the American sheep industry to support funding of sheep research.

5. Be it resolved, the members of the NCERA-214 committee on Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production strongly support the continuation of the USDA ARS sheep research and filling vacant positions at the stations at Booneville, AR, Dubois, ID, and Clay Center, NE. Researchers at these stations have been an integral part of our committee and a critical resource for the sheep industry. To be sent to:

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Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am. It resumed at 11 am with objective 4.

Objective 4.

- Dale Bumper Small Farms Research Center, USDA, ARS, Booneville, AR (Jan Burke)
- Louisiana State University (Jim Miller)
- Michigan state University (Richard Ehrhardt)
- University of Wisconsin (Tom Murphy)
- Utah State University (Juan Vilallba)
- University of Rhode Island (Katherine Petersson).

The meeting concluded after Dr. Petersson's presentation.