# NCCC-170

**Research Advances in Agricultural Statistics**

Virtual Annual Meeting

June 26, 2020

**Participants Present:** Nora Bello (KS), Bruce Craig (IN, Admin.), Xin Dai (UT), Philip Dixon (IA), Sara Duke (USDA-ARS), Susan Durham (UT), Ed Gbur (AR), Carla Goad (OK), Kathy Hanford (NE), Xuelin Lao (GA), Alex Lipka (IL), Larry Madden (OH), Raul Macchiavelli (PR), Dan Nettleton (IA), Bill Price (ID), Guilherme Rosa (WI), Walt Stroup (NE), Kathy Yeater (USDA-ARS), Jun Zhu (WI)William Bridges (SC), Nick Keuler (WI), Julia Piaskowski (ID), John Stevens (UT), Linda Young (USDA-NASS)

**2020 Officers:** Ed Gbur, Chair; Susan Durham, Secretary; Nora Bello, Program Chair; Carla Goad, Local Arrangements

**NCCC-170 Website:** sites.uark.edu/ncr170/

**NIMSS Website:** [www.nmiss.org](http://www.nmiss.org/)

# Minutes:

# Technical program: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, there was no technical program.

# Business meeting: The virtual business meeting began at 1:00 pm. Ed Gbur presided. The following items were discussed:

1. Ed Gbur welcomed participants and thanked Nora Bello for organizing the Zoom meeting, Bruce Craig for his administration support, and Susan Durham for note taking. Bill Price introduced his colleague Julia Piaskowski.
2. The annual report and impact statements are due this Fall. As soon as possible, participants should send Ed Gbur (egbur@uark.edu) accountings of all activities (workshops, papers, presentations, grants, awards, teaching related items, etc.) from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 (or since last year’s report) that are related to or inspired by their participation in NCCC-170.
3. Bruce Craig led a discussion about an inquiry from Jennifer Clark regarding our willingness to engage with a USDA NIFA Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative RFA. Bruce agreed to ask Jennifer for a template for a letter of collaboration, and to discuss advantages and disadvantages to participation by NCCC-170.
4. The 2021 meeting will be held either at Oklahoma State University with Carla Goad as the local host or at Colorado State University with Julia Sharp as host. Carla and Julia will decide. (Subsequently, they decided on OSU for 2021, actual date yet to be determined.)
5. Ed Gbur led a discussion about the framework of the project renewal which is due this fall. He needs to know by the end of July who wants to be involved with the new project. With respect to “Commonly Requested Proposal Revisions” in the NCCC-170 renewal instructions: Bruce thinks the first bullet point, regarding reduction in the size of proposals, has already been addressed. The second bullet point, regarding clear identification of which participants will be working on which project objectives, is a new requirement. Ed wonders whether it applies to coordinating committees like NCCC-170. It may be moot if all participants sign up for all objectives. The third bullet recommends adding a section about how Hatch funds will be leveraged with outside sources. A discussion ensued about how Hatch funds are distributed. Raul noted the distinction between regional and internal funds. There is appreciable variability among states in how funds are distributed. We may not need to address this point extensively, although there would be value in noting the role of NCCC-170 in reviving the Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture (now the Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture and Natural Resources, scheduled for April 2020, but rescheduled in April 2021 due to the pandemic) and acknowledging the acquisition of external funding to support the conference.

Bruce Craig agreed to continue as administrative advisor. Nora Bello, Bill Bridges and Bruce Craig agreed to draft a project proposal and distribute to participants for review. Components to be considered include the statement developed by NCCC-170 participants and adopted by the ASA, and general education of administrators on the value of statistics and statistical colleagues; the revived Ag Statistics Conference; information sharing among participants; mentoring of non-statistician colleagues by participants; and methodology (Bayesian modeling using SAS software, data science, statistical learning, “data wrangling”, “modern modeling”). Consideration will be given to organizing according to community focus and technical focus. The deadline for a draft was set for early August.

The group identified the need to engage new participants, particularly from land grant institutions in states that are not currently represented as well as corporations. A list of land grant institutions can be found at: *naes.unr.edu/resources/aes.aspx*. Participants are encouraged to identify people that we could reach out to. Guilherme Rosa offered to draft an invitation letter template. Larry Madden offered to identify plant companies, and Raul Macchiavelli offered to touch base with directors of southern experiment stations at their meeting in late July.

The group discussed reproducibility as a project component and reserved it as a component for the next project while potentially working on aspects in the interim.

Bruce Craig will touch base with Chris Hamilton, NCRA Assistant Director and NIMSS System Administrator, regarding the finer details of reporting.

The business meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 pm.