

NC-1201 Regional Research Project Minutes
March 15, 2018
Hilton Hotel, Omaha, NE

Members of this project met from 7 to 11 am.

Members present were:

Adele Turzillo – USDA – NIFA Liaison
George Smith – Michigan State (project administrator)
Vitor Mercadante – Virginia Tech (chair)
Michelle Rhoads – Virginia Tech
George Perry – South Dakota State
Rick Funston – University of Nebraska
Paul Fricke – University of Wisconsin
Dave Patterson – University of Missouri
Jeff Stevenson – Kansas State University
Carl Dahlen – North Dakota State University
Theresa Steckler – University of Illinois
Robert Cushman – US MARC
Richard Pursley – Michigan State University (secretary)

Others present including students and post-docs:

Paulo Carvalho – University of Wisconsin
Angela Niles – University of Wisconsin
Jordan Thomas - University of Missouri
Maria Haag - University of Missouri
Sarah Underdahl - North Dakota State University
Kacie McCarthy - North Dakota State University

The first order of business was to elect the secretary position for next year. This person will be chair of the committee the following year. Dave Patterson moved and Richard Pursley seconded to nominate George Perry. There were no other nominations. Dr. Perry was elected next year's secretary.

It was agreed that next year's meeting will be March 13 and 14, 2019 and will be held in conjunction with the Midwest ASAS/ADSA meetings in Omaha, NE. We also agreed to see if this group could sponsor another symposium at the Midwest meetings. Everyone was in favor and agreed to have the same format as this year. Everyone agreed that we should invite an outside guest speaker that would present cutting edge research related to the research of this group. Adele Turzillo mentioned that we should consider applying for a Small Conference grant from AFRI this year. The group mentioned that we should try to make sure this symposium did not overlap with the Harlan Ritchie Symposium. Pursley said he would contact ASAS/ADSA to see if another symposium would be possible. Pursley also said he would see if ASAS/ADSA would guarantee us a meeting room for the business meeting next year.

Adele Turzillo provided two documents (NIFA budget and NIFA update) and discussed changes at NIFA for the upcoming year. She mentioned that there is currently a hiring freeze and there are many positions that are not filled. The current director will be stepping down in May. There has been one new program leader hired in the last 14 months. She said the farm bill is currently under discussion as it expires later this year. The federal budget has not been decided upon as the current continuing resolution is ending soon. Most of Adele's report can be found in the "NIFA Update."

We next discussed potential collaborative projects. Carl Dahlen was inviting other members to take part in a study dealing with mineral supplementation effects on pregnancy rate in beef cows/heifers. Pursley gave a brief overview on his findings in why cows double ovulate in a low progesterone environment during ovulatory follicle development but heifers and low producing cows don't. He opened the door for collaboration on this subject. Paul Fricke said he would be interested in testing a way to decrease double ovulations in lactating dairy cows. Michelle Rhoads discussed a heat stress project she is going to start soon and invited people to take part. George Perry would like to continue his work in the induction of an increase of E2 on fertility of beef cows and heifers and possibly dairy cows and heifers. Several members were interested in taking part. Theresa Steckler discussed her upcoming project dealing with anaplasmosis in beef cows and invited members to take part. Lastly, Paul Fricke introduced the idea of pregnancy loss following transfer of IVP embryos and thought that might be a good project to collaborate on. Others were interested.

Project reports were given by everyone present during the meeting. Dave Patterson discussed several extension programs and student training programs that have been quite successful at the U of MO. It created significant discussion amongst members.

Bob Cushman moved to adjourn the meeting and Dave Patterson seconded motion. All voted to adjourn.