

NCAC6 – Animal Science Department Heads Meeting

February 4, 2015

San Antonio, TX

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: D. Beerman; L. Berger (Chair); J. Cassady; B. Dayton; G. Lardy; S. Loerch; A. Mathew; T. McFadden (Secretary); V. Mistry; K. Odde; J. Swanson; H. Zerby; D. Marshall (Administrative Advisor); M. Mirando and A. Turzillo (USDA-NIFA)

The meeting was called to order by L. Berger.

General discussion of NCERA87 (recorded by A. Mathew): This project addresses cow-calf production and is seen as an important area for collaborative work. Some issues were identified and discussed at last year's meeting. Those issues appear to remain and there is a lack of leadership among members. Given the importance to the industry, it was recommended that we seek one or two individuals who might provide leadership for a multi-state project with a similar focus. If the appropriate leader(s) can be found the heads could help identify potential participants to contribute to a more functional/productive project.

Project proposals/reports were discussed individually and voted on, as recorded below:

NC_temp1184 – Molecular mechanisms regulating skeletal muscle growth and differentiation.

Reviewed by L. Berger and A. Mathew: L. Berger summarized his comments on the project noting it is a productive group that is a pleasure to review. He noted he has received positive feedback from the project's administrative advisor, D. Hamernik. The group is focused on molecular mechanisms regulating muscle growth and differentiation and conducts more basic than applied research. They have been very productive, listing 179 refereed publications. They are well focused and a well integrated, collaborative group. A. Mathew agreed and added they are well funded. L. Berger recommended approval without revision.

L. Berger moved to approve; A. Mathew seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

NC1201 – Methods to increase reproductive efficiency in cattle.

Reviewed by G. Lardy and D. Schaefer (absent): Copy of review circulated. G. Lardy noted that D. Schaefer provided much of the review. Lardy noted the group has made excellent progress. Progress reports have been posted, are well done, and reflect effective, collaborative work. The group launched

the Beef Reproduction Task Force, and recently the Dairy Cattle Reproduction Council (DCRC). Linkages are very good. Attendance could be improved. Funding is considered good. Information and Tech Transfer (ITT) is considered good with evidence of some activity at this mid-term point and expectation of more activity in the future. Discussion followed with K. Odde asking who is the group's leader and noting this group is involved with the DCRC, which is a 501c3, that raises funds, sponsors symposia, etc and is influential on managers of large dairies. G. Lardy recommended approval without revision.

G. Lardy moved to approve; J. Swanson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

NC1202 – Enteric diseases of food animals: Enhanced prevention, control and food safety

Reviewed by K. Odde and V. Mistry: Copy of review circulated. K. Odde summarized his review of the project, and noted Dr. Mistry did an especially thorough review. The group used to be focused narrowly on enteric diseases but since about 2012 adopted a broader scope extending to impact on food. There are four objectives addressing: 1. Emerging diseases, 2. Prevention of enteric disease, 3. Dissemination of knowledge, and 4. Group interaction. The group has had very good participation with 32 attendees at the last meeting. They also have an outstanding track record of productivity. Frank Blecha is now Admin. Advisor. The progress report, linkages, funding, and ITT were all rated excellent. Funding includes federal grants, mostly in food safety, including an ~ \$25M CAP grant. K. Odde recommended approval with normal revision. Don asked which food scientists are involved. J. Swanson asked if pre- or post-harvest is the emphasis. No further discussion.

K. Odde moved to approve with normal revision; T. McFadden seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

NCERA225 – Implementation and strategies for national beef cattle genetic evaluation

Reviewed by J. Cassidy and T. McFadden: J. Cassidy summarized his comments on the project. He noted M. Hogberg was Advisor, now K. Bertrand. The committee has met every year and all reports were submitted this year. Attendance has been good (20-30 present) until last year (16 present), perhaps due to weather or other. Contributions at annual meetings has been good. Progress has been good, linkages are excellent. Funding was rated poor since it was not reported. ITT is excellent with many peer-reviewed and popular articles, presentations, Brown-bagger series, eXtension Beef Cattle Clearinghouse and NBCEC/BIF Genetic Prediction Workshops being important contributions. The group is working on incorporating genomics into EPDs. T. McFadden noted he used appendix K for review, which does not include assessment of funding. D. Marshall asked to send both versions. K. Odde noted there are online graduate courses in animal breeding and genetics and asked if this group is involved. J. Cassidy responded not this group; Ron Lewis had successive training grants to develop those courses and faculty now volunteer to teach. Courses are offered through AgIDEA; there will be a conference call Feb 18 to finalize plans. Courses were taught at no cost. Now will charge \$500 tuition which will reduce

enrollment of international students. Further discussion on online courses, how departments handle credits and costs, etc. The SE consortium offers a graduate certificate in Animal Science with 5 core grad courses in reproduction, meats, ruminant nutrition, monogastric nutrition, and genetics. Group includes NCSU, UGA, Clemson, Auburn, SDSU. J. Cassady recommended approval with normal revision. No further discussion.

J. Cassady moved to approve with normal revision; J. Swanson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

That concluded review of Projects.

Chair Berger called for discussion of other items:

- Several asked about next year's meeting venue. It's up to the Western group (hosts).
- L. Berger hoped it would stay connected with NCBA in San Diego
- Show of hands indicates about half this group attends NCBA
- It was noted that IPPE (poultry meetings) will be 2 days earlier and should be accommodated
- K. Odde suggested move this meeting to Saturday – last day of NCBA
- NCBA 2016 is January 27-30 in San Diego
- Last year met in Atlanta so we have 3 more years
- Next year need to elect officers: Chair and Secretary

With no further discussion, Chair Berger thanked those present.

Dr. Marshall had no further comment.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Tom McFadden, Secretary