

**Minutes**  
**NCAC6- Animal Science Department Heads Meeting**  
**February 1, 2017**  
**Nashville, TN**

**Attendees:** C. Krehbiel, W. Dayton, D Beerman, S. Loerch (Secretary), K. Odde, T. Crenshaw, V. Mistry, W. Lamberson (Chair), J. Cassady, J. Swanson, D. Marshall (Administrative Advisor).

The meeting was called to order by W. Lamberson

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

**NC\_temp 1201: Methods to increase reproductive efficiency in cattle. New project.**

Discussion was led by W. Lamberson. This project proposal explains the importance of the problem, the needs for research, and addresses the potential impacts. The proposal also provides evidence as to why the project should be conducted by multiple institutions. The work addresses national priorities. The objectives are clear. The proposal does not specifically mention common protocols, central data collection or analysis, etc. Based on results with former committees, it is clear such mechanisms exist, but they are not clearly defined in this proposal. Specific suggestions were provided in the reviewer's report. *A motion to approve with minor revisions passed unanimously.*

**NCERA225: Implementation and Strategies for National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation. New project.**

Discussion was led by J. Cassady. The goals and objectives are clearly stated and appropriate to the activity. In addition, the proposed goals meet critical knowledge gaps which currently exist in the beef industry. Several potential outcomes were not discussed. Specific suggestions were provided in the reviewer's report. *A motion to approve with normal revisions passed unanimously.*

**NC1181: Enhancing resiliency of beef production under shifting forage resources. Midterm report.**

Discussion was led by V. Mistry. The committee has been active. After initiation of the current project in 2014 they have had two annual meetings. Comprehensive reports for both meetings have been provided. Little evidence appears in the reports to reflect integration of research across the stations as reflected by joint authorship on publications or research grants. Each participating institution reported on progress towards the objectives. The group has been successful in acquiring external funds to support their work. Results of research are being disseminated through numerous publications and presentations. Specific suggestions were provided in the reviewer's report. *A motion to approve with normal revisions passed unanimously.*

**NC1182: Management and Environmental Factors Affecting Nitrogen Cycling and Use Efficiency in Forage-Based Livestock Production Systems. Midterm report.**

Discussion was led by S. Loerch. The project has good participation and a good record of accomplishment is evident for all objectives. The number of publications and impact is excellent. Little evidence of collaboration across institutions was presented in annual reports. Little evidence of outside funding to support project objectives was presented. Information and technology transfer is evident.

Specific suggestions were provided in the reviewer's report. *A motion to approve with revisions passed unanimously.*

**NC229: Detection and Control of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus and Emerging Viral Diseases of Swine. Midterm report.**

Discussion was led by K. Odde. The project addresses the stated objectives and the committee has done an excellent job of addressing these very important problems of the swine industry. There is good evidence of committee members working together to address project objectives. A substantial amount of funding has been obtained by committee members to address the objectives. Committee members have been very successful at ensuring that their work is getting to both veterinary and producer audiences. Specific suggestions were provided in the reviewer's report. *A motion to approve with normal revisions passed unanimously.*

**NC210: Regulation of Adipose Tissue Accretion in Meat-Producing Animals. Midterm report.**

Discussion was led by W. Dayton. The committee appears to be addressing the objectives in the proposal. The committee members have produced a significant number of publications in refereed journals and they have appointed a committee to plan a symposium dealing with adipose tissue. Based on written reports it appears that there is a significant diversity in the research areas covered and there is a significant exchange of information and research techniques that can be applied to the study of adipose tissue biology. Although the number of members attending is not high there are a significant number of graduate students and post-docs attending the committee meetings and that is a very positive aspect of the meetings. Specific suggestions were provided in the reviewer's report. *A motion to approve with normal revisions passed unanimously.*

**NCCC42: Committee on Swine Nutrition. Midterm report.**

Discussion was led by W. Lamberson. Excellent progress towards project objectives have been made. Specific comments were provided in the reviewer's report. *A motion to approve with normal revisions passed unanimously.*

**NCERA57: Swine Reproductive Physiology. Midterm report.**

Discussion was led by D. Beermann. Need to relate progress, results and accomplishments to specific objectives rather than have the reviewer draw inferences about these relationships; needs revision. Brief summaries of where collaborations actually took place should be included, rather than leave it to the reviewer to determine degree of collaborations. Very little documentation of outreach or exchange of technology is provided. Ten members, one visitor and two students attended the annual meeting. Specific comments were provided in the reviewer's report. *A motion to approve with revisions passed unanimously.*

This completed the formal duties of the committee. Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Informal discussion followed with members of the Southern and Western regions. Next year's meeting will be in Atlanta on January 29-30, 2018. At that meeting, regional groups will convene together as projects are discussed. This will allow Heads/Chairs to gain a better appreciation of projects in all regions. Discussion and voting on specific projects will be limited to the leaders representing that specific region.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Steve Loerch, Secretary.