

Minutes
NCAC6- Animal Science Department Heads Meeting
January 30, 2019
New Orleans, LA

Attendees: C. Krehbiel, (NE). D. Beerman (IA), J. Cassady (SD), M. Schutz,(MN) John Foltz (OH), A. Mathew (IN), E. Titgemeyer (KS), M. Bauer (ND), D. Marshall (Administrative Advisor).

The meeting was called to order by Joe Cassidy at 8:00 AM, January 30th with the NCAC6 heads/chairs meeting in conjunction with the larger group of Animal/Poultry Science heads/chairs from the Southern, Northeast and Western regions.

NCAC6 HEADS/CHAIRS OFFICER ELECTIONS

Nominations were held for election of officers for the NCAC6 Animal Science heads/chairs committee.

- Clint Krehbiel was elected as Chair for a 3-year term
- Alan Mathew was elected as Secretary for a 3-year term.

NC MULTI-STATE PROPOSAL/PROJECT REVIEWS

NC multi-state proposals/reports were discussed individually and voted upon as recorded below:

NC_temp229: Detection and Control of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus and Emerging Viral Diseases of Swine. Proposal for renewal

The report was prepared by R. Johnson and A. Mathew. Mathew presented the report. It was noted this project has a long history of good productivity and interaction among participants. Participant numbers have declined in the past few years; however the project appears to have continued strength and relevance. Recommendations to strengthen the proposal included more clearly defining how the participants collaborate via the use of common protocols, central data collection and other means, and providing a plan for how the research findings will be tied together in a collaborative manner.

The proposal was recommended for approval with minor revision.

NC_temp1181: Optimizing land use for beef cattle production. Proposal for renewal

The report was prepared by J. Foltz and D. Beerman. Foltz presented the report. In all the project has a strong history of productivity, with good participation and interaction among participating institutions. The new proposal appears to continue that trajectory. Some discussion was held regarding the potential for this group to meet jointly with participants of the Southern Region multi-state project with a similar focus.

The proposal was recommended for approval with minor revisions.

NC_temp1182: Management and Environmental Factors Affecting Nitrogen Cycling and Use Efficiency in Forage-Based Livestock Production Systems. Proposal for renewal

The report was prepared by C. Krehbiel and E. Titgemeyer. Krehbiel presented the report. This project proposal was well-written, included well-defined goals and objectives, and has a good history of participation and cooperation among participating institutions.

The proposal was recommended for approval, without revision.

NCCC_temp42: Committee on Swine Nutrition: Proposal for renewal

The report was prepared by T. Crenshaw and A. Mathew. Mathew presented the report. This has been a traditionally strong, well-coordinated and cooperative group, with well-defined projects that have purposely included common protocols and statistical analyses across participating institutions to ensure compatibility and consistency of data, thus representing large numbers of animals at several stations for robust scientific outcomes. Current version of the project the project includes 10 participants representing 10 states/institutions This Coordinating Committee meets annually, in conjunction with S-1061, the Sow Nutrition and Management multistate project. The 2 groups meet for a joint half-day session before convening as separate groups for the remainder of the 1.5 day meeting. Attendance at last year's annual meeting in was excellent with 16 of 19 participating institutions represented

The proposal was recommended for approval, without revision.

NCCC_temp210: Regulation of Adipose Tissue Accretion in Meat-Producing Animals. Proposal for renewal

The report was prepared by D. Beerman and T. Crenshaw. Beerman presented the report. It was noted this project has broad participation including representation from the North Central, Southern and Western region. The proposal will continue previous objectives, adding to the past outcome. A good history of publications in refereed journals that span several disciplines. The group plans for 2 symposia focused on adipose biology at national/international venues for the next 5-year renewal.

The proposal was recommended for approval without revision.

NCERA_temp57: Swine Reproductive Physiology. Proposal for renewal

The report was prepared by T. Cassidy and B. Lamberson. Cassidy presented the report. The renewed project would include 14 participants representing 9 institutions and USDA-ARS units. Proposed work spans male and female swine reproductive biology, with 8 project objectives over the next 5-year renewal period. This group has a good history of productivity and collaboration, including through joint collection of data and use of consistent protocols and data analysis. The cooperative multi-state approach is particularly important for gilt and sow research which requires large numbers of animals.

The proposal was recommended for approval without revision.

NC1029: Applied Animal Behavior and Welfare. Midterm review

The report was prepared by V. Mistry and P. Ruegg. The project has broad participation across North Central, Southern, Western and Northeast region, and also includes international institutions. The group continues a strong record of publication and information exchange across two broad objectives, including: 1. development of novel behavior and physiological indicators of animal welfare and 2. Strengthening the scientific basis of animal welfare assessment and auditing programs. The group takes a cooperative approach through interactive discipline teams involving multiple institutions for each.

The project was recommended for continuation.

NC1192: An integrated approach to control of bovine respiratory diseases. Midterm review

The report was prepared by M. Bauer and M. Schutz. Bauer presented the report. The reviewers suggested that although collectively productive, the activities of this group appear to be largely independent/individual research projects, with little evidence of coordination or cooperation among the multi-state participants. Additionally, no report was filed for 2018, thus presenting a challenge for the review. It was recommended at time of renewal that the group propose developing a Coordinating Committee.

The project was recommended for continuation, with a request that the 2018 report be submitted at the earliest opportunity.

NCERA219: Swine Production Management to Enhance Animal Welfare. Midterm review

The report was prepared by R. Johnson and C. Krehbiel. Krehbiel presented the report. The project includes 15 participants representing 13 institutions. While historically a productive group, recent participation in meetings has been low. It was also noted that this project could benefit from producer/stakeholder input.

The project was recommended for continuation.

The above completed the formal duties of the Heads/Chairs Committee.

GENERAL DISCUSSIONS

Discussions followed with members of the Southern, Western and Northeast regions to consider the timing and location of the 2020 Heads/Chairs meeting. It was suggested that to facilitate broader participation in the meeting, including for Poultry and Animal Science heads/chairs, the Committee should consider not tying the meeting to the annual National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA) meeting or the International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE), as those 2 events typically occur at nearly the same time each year, thus making it a challenge for all to attend. A recommendation was made to hold the heads/chairs meeting in April in Washington DC. As this change would impact the timing of multi-state project reviews, the Committee asked Don Marshall to communicate with the Experiment Station administrators to see if multi-state project reviews could be conducted in April, and if this would present a challenge, the heads/chairs would plan for a virtual/online meeting earlier (likely late January or early February) to conduct the reviews and report their recommendations.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alan Mathew, Secretary.