

Dear Chris,

I have obtained support from many of the committee members to retain the designation of NCERA-57 for the renewal of our committee. The basic reason is our long tradition of meetings and collaborations to promote research on reproductive biology in swine and dissemination of this knowledge to the swine industry. This has been a long-standing, very productive multistate project that with the name change will possibly lose its identity (and therefore make it difficult for scientists in the field to find what they knew as the NC__ 57 committee.

The first meeting of this committee was held in 1961 at the University of Illinois. At that time the research objective of committee was designed to promote boar semen artificial insemination. In that endeavor the committee was ultimately successful, with papers published in late 60s and 1970s by members of this group establishing extenders for liquid storage of boar semen and development of boar semen cryopreservation technology. Since the late 60s the committee's purpose has broadened to include research and programs to promote swine reproduction from both the male and female perspective.

In recent years the committee has extended our outreach to swine producers, researchers, and students through the sponsorship of workshops/symposia on Seasonal Infertility – 2002, Boar stud Management & AI in Swine – 2004, Reproductive Inefficiency of Small Litters – 2006, and Sow longevity – 2008. In addition to expertise among members of our own committee we also brought in non-member experts from the USA and Canada. This committee is recognized by industry for these symposia and as we plan to continue them the retention of the current designation is important avoid confusion that might reduce participation.

Members of this group interact in collaborative on a research scale exemplified by Drs. Duane Davis and H. D. Guthrie, having been invited to submit an application titled “Seasonal infertility in swine: research and educational goals to enhance the profitability and sustainability of the pork industry” to the FY 2009 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Integrated Solutions for Animal Agriculture program.

With all this in mind I hope that you can give strong consideration to renewal of the project retaining the NCERA-57 designation.

Best regards,

Dave

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