Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES January 11, 2021

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen [absent]
Brion Smoker [absent]

Board Liaison: Wendy Dittbrenner [absent]

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm ET.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Dittbrenner/Huntley

- The annual audit is in progress.
- AOA show: an eBlast was sent out earlier today discussing requirements. AOA has been talking to the state vet trying to get a waiver from the TB test, but it doesn't seem likely that' we'll get one.
- Communications include all covid-related requirements. AOA requires masks at all AOA events, plus social distancing where possible.
- EPD results should be available mid- to late-February. This is a bit later than usual because of switching to new processor in New Zealand.
- New software updates from the Fall are being implemented. There should be no impact on users.
- Bonnie reminded the group that the last time we had a show in Grand Island, AOA had arranged a veterinarian and a lab to be ready to do quick turnaround brucellosis tests if any owners didn't do them.
    - This would require a lab to be close enough to the show venue that it doesn't take a lot of hours to take the blood samples there.
    - If we are able to arrange that, we don't want to advertise that capability because we don't want owners to rely on it.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- In January, covid was detected in wild mink in UT; they had probably escaped from mink farms (where it was diagnosed). This highlights that wild animals can pass diseases to animals and/or people. MN has had problems with TB going back and forth between deer and cattle.
- There has been a case of pigs with covid-19.
- Anti-microbial use increased in 2019 over 2018; it is down dramatically from 2017.
- EHV1 has been seen in OR and CA.
- There continues to be news reports about the potential usefulness of camelid antibodies.
- Dec 10 – a new treatment for haemonchus was prescribed in sheep. A bacteria passes through GI tract and destroys larvae in the feces. This might potentially become applicable to camelids.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Livestock Appraiser Application/Discussion — All

- Joan discussed the email she had sent out. She found one livestock appraiser in Alberta who includes llamas and alpacas among his services. The USPAP certification on the USDA form appears very generic. Perhaps a good way to identify potential appraisers in our industry would be people who have passed judges certification and apprenticeship, and perhaps worked 1-2 years or a certain number of shows.
- Pat: Judges could judge quality of alpacas but might not be well-versed on current prices. Auctioneers would know market prices in different regions.

- Bonnie: Perhaps it would be helpful to members to know who to contact if they need to have alpacas appraised for insurance or other reasons. This could be part of our service to members. Do we want to put together a database that the office could provide to members who inquire?
- Pat reminded us of the owner who claimed in court that all her animals were worth $15K each. Being an appraiser can involve legal situations.
- Bonnie reminded us that we have to be careful of liability to AOA if we recommend someone.
- In the ensuing discussion, we decided:
  - The USDA form/questions don't seem especially relevant to us and we will not submit any names to USDA.
  - It may be useful to create our own form which would ask questions, guiding the person to discuss all of his/her qualifications and services they would provide. People could read these documents and decide if they want to contact any of the individuals.
  - Information might include education, experience, qualifications, number of animals you have sold and in what price range, geographic region.
  - We would put a prominent disclaimer that we are providing information but we are not recommending or promoting any of these individuals. This information is just available to help members locate people to talk to.

- Bonnie mentioned the resource directory that AOA has put out in the past, with information about veterinarians, shearers, fiber processors, etc. She suggested we update this resource annually to remain relevant to members who do not show alpacas.

3.2 IRS and State Tax Audits - defer — Smoker

3.3 International Transport of Alpacas/Info for website - defer — Potter

4.0 New Business

4.1 None

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: (12/14/20) — Clappier

- Motion to approve the minutes of 12/14/20 was made by Pat, seconded by Joan . Motion was passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter
- All: Think about an appraiser questionnaire.

6.2 Next Meeting Date: 2/8/2021 — Potter

6.3 Adjournment — Potter
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm ET.