Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES December 14, 2020

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

Board Liaison: Wendy Dittbrenner

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

- Work is progressing on the halter show to be held March 19-21 in Nebraska. The venue selection was influenced by covid restrictions and requirements.
- Nebraska requires TB and brucellosis test results on CVI. Pat said that a few years ago they tried to get NE to waive the TB test for camelids since it is not a very reliable test for camelids. They would not waive it. Pat recommends checking with the state veterinarian's office to see if their stance has changed.
- Bonnie mentioned that the last time a show was there, some owners had gotten TB test but not brucellosis. They were able to get brucellosis on-site. Be sure to make it very clear to the owners which tests they need to take.
- AOA is working on nominations for the next election.
- Membership renewal is open

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts/Conference — Long / Potter

- Surprisingly, EEE has been seen even in December in SC and FL – in a donkey and a horse. Haven't seen it in camelids.
- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has awarded 6 grants, totaling $5M, for aniti-microbial research. NIFA is a division of the FDA.
- Pat had sent us information on current camelid antibody studies. Tom suggested we could contact elected officials in states where research is being done to let them know about AOA representing alpacas. Cindy, in the AOA office, is very good at putting out feelers. We'll ask her to check out research being done and see if AOA can get some visibility on this value of our alpacas.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Alpaca Business Benchmarks/Brion Presentation — Potter/Smoker

- Brion had planned to attend a VA alpaca show and give his talk, but he was unable to go due to covid restrictions. He sent out the presentation to the show and answered a few questions.

3.2 IRS and State Tax Audits - defer — Smoker

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

- This is not currently a priority because animal movement around the world is highly restricted due to covid.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Support Ticket about Livestock Appraiser Database for USDA Potter

- AOA received a message from the USDA that they are developiong a database of people who can provide livestock appraisers and are looking for appraiseers for alpacas, llamas, and emus (lumped together in the request).
- By the time the request was received there was not enough time to contact members, compile responses, and send the information the USDA.
- One of the reasons appraisers are used is for insurance payments when herds have to be culled due to disease.
- Pat mentioned that USDA has been working on emergency response to disease outbreaks. That might be the reason for this request.
- Tom asked if we have any “certified” alpaca appraisers in our industry. None of us knew the answer. Bonnie suggested we could look at the application that was sent to Dan and use that as a basis for polling the membership.
- A quick google search pulled up Association of Livestock Appraisers in Idaho and the American Society of Agricultural Appraisers. We don’t know if any of them handle alpacas.
- Dan sent the application to the committee members.
- Task for the next meeting: Look at that form, think about it, and we will discuss it next month.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: (12/09/20) Clappier

- Motion to approve the minutes of 11/09/20 was made by Pat, seconded by Joan. Motion was passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items Potter

- All: review email and application about alpaca appraisers for discussion next meeting.
- All: Renew AOA membership

6.2 Next Meeting Date: 1/11/2021 Potter

6.3 Adjournment Potter

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm ET.