Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2016

Meeting: Conference Call—June 15, 2016, 7:30 p.m. EDT

Members: Deborah Bailey
Lynn Boak
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Brion Smoke

Board Liaison: Bonnie Potter

Staff Representative: Darby Vannier

Meeting called to order at 7:33 p.m. EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance (Potter, Vannier):

- Election: Two days remain to get ballot postmarked.
- AOA is working on the July Fleece Conference & Annual Meeting.
- The staff is working on the 2017 National Halter Show and lining up hotels. They are also looking at venues for the 2018 show.
- They are also working on a 2017 Fleece Show. They are evaluating hotels in Sacramento, California, as possible venues.
- Business conversion: AOA has announced a discount period for anyone who wants to convert their account from a personal to a business or farm account. Benefit of having a business account: it is easier to deal with paperwork in case of death or divorce, i.e. don't have to send all of the certificates to AOA and have new certificates printed. The normal cost to do that is $5/alpaca. During the discount period AOA will do it for $3/alpaca. Owners will generally keep the same herd code they have been using.
- Question: If someone dies and estate is too small to probate and there is no executor, who can make ownership decisions about the alpacas? Answer: Whoever is making decisions about any assets or property can handle the alpacas. If the only document is a will, AOA will accept a will with non-relevant sections redacted.

2.0 Health Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts (Long, Potter):

- Flooding in TX affected a lot of livestock. Didn't hear about alpacas being affected.
- We're seeing first of mosquito-borne diseases: EEE in FL, EHV. Have not yet seen EHV in alpacas.
- The Horse council is talking about biosecurity. Biosecurity discussions in the alpaca industry have died down since the corona virus problem a few years ago.
- MERS is of interest to WHO because mortality rate in humans is high. Alpacas have been found with positive antibodies, indicating they have been infected, but there is no evidence of them having transmitted it.

3.0 Government Related

3.1 Review of Articles on" Things You Should Know" (Boak):

- Should she say more about Conservation Easements? Consensus: The information in the article is enough to alert people to the concept and possibility. Anyone who is interested in it can research it further.
- Joan moved and Pat seconded a motion to send all 3 parts to Board with recommendation to send to members, in 3 separate eBlasts. Motion passed. Lynn will be sure we have the final version of Part I.

4.0 New Business:

4.1 Antibiotic Usage in California (Potter):

The California legislature has been trying for years to curb antibiotic use in livestock. Two years ago the Governor didn't sign off on it. This year he did. Here is the wording of the bill:

> A California bill signed by the Governor last October will prohibit, beginning Jan 1 2018, the use of medically important anti-microbial drugs for the treatment of livestock animals, except pursuant to a prescription or feed directive from a licensed veterinarian and when, in the professional judgment of a licensed veterinarian, the anti-microbial drugs are necessary: 1. To treat a disease or infection; 2. To control the spread of disease or infection; or 3. In relation to surgery or a medical procedure.

Pat checked the FDA website. "Important anti-microbial drugs covers" most of what we use for alpacas. Coccidial drugs such as corid will not be included. On the plus side, it may reduce antibiotic resistance by reducing the extent to which some owners give a lot of antibiotics to their animals without veterinarian oversight.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Clappier):

5.1 Approval of the minutes of 4/20/2016 had been deferred from the last meeting because we no longer had a quorum at that point in the meeting. Both the 4/20/16 minutes and the 5/18/2016 minutes were approved.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Review Action Items (Clappier):

- Lynn: Send the Final version of Part I to the committee members.
- Bonnie: Send all 3 parts to board with recommendation that they approve sending it to the membership and posting it on the website.
- Everyone: Think about topics we want to start working on with next meeting, e.g., disaster preparations, biosecurity, other topics. Bonnie will query the Board if they have anything they want GIRCom to work on.

6.2 Next Meeting (Potter):

July 20, 2016, 4:30 p.m. EDT.

6.3 Adjournment (Potter):

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. EDT.