Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES April 10, 2023

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Derrick Letsinger
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen (absent)
Chris Sturgeon (absent)

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Discussing forming a nonprofit 501(c)3 fund focused on education. National show went well and auction raised close to $60k which was better than goal. Registration for National Alpaca Fiber Conference is open. Continuing to do tech assessment. Still looking at the issue of 840 chips. Bonnie emailed Robin as concerned that any decision we make would also affect the llama community. Pat said that camelids are not on the radar for traceability as the concern is food animals. The cattle community is fighting the requirement. Need premise ID first. Livestock definition depends on the program; we are livestock for disaster program but not for traceability ID. Some states already have a requirement for the 840 chips. AOA considering the ID for all shows since it is required in some states. Bonnie and Derrick expressed concern for all shows instead of for just the shows in states where the 840 chip is required. GirCom will continue to monitor the issue.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Nothing specific to alpacas. Avian influenza still a big problem. A few cases of Equine Herpes virus have been reported. Antibiotic use in livestock still a concern although use has decreased in food producing animals. Over the counter antibiotics will no longer be available effective June 11th. Bonnie offered to draft an eBlast to be sent to members. Penicillin still on back-order.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Website education review: AOA Board approved an Education Committee. Bonnie will tabulate our recommendations for the new committee.
- 3.2 How to Increase Alpaca Registrations: discussion deferred.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 840 Microchip Issue: see discussion above.

5.0 Approval of Minutes: Pat made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/13/23; second by Derrick. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be on 5/8/2023.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm EDT.