Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES May 13, 2024

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

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Mike received a concern from one farm wondering if we should continue to require BVD testing since there have been no recent cases. We did have problems many years ago, but Bonnie said that Dr. Long attributes our success in keeping our herds free of BVD to the fact that we do require testing. Dr. Balch agrees, and said that exposure will continue as there is nothing being done to get rid of it in cattle. She recommends that we continue to require testing. It does cost to get testing done, but some farms use pooled blood to test large numbers at a smaller cost. It is the recommendation of GirCom that testing continue to be required for alpaca shows. They are working on the AOA show system software so that results can be uploaded. Mike requested that we review the statement on the website and update if indicated. Bonnie will send the language to Dr. Balch for review. The office is working on the Fleece Conference being held in Kentucky. Dan mentioned that voting for new board members is open and will remain open until May 30th.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts/Conference
  - Nothing specific to alpacas.
  - Avian influenza continues to be a problem and it has been found in dairy cows in several states. It can be transmitted in body fluids, such as milk, so if doing cria supplementation with cows milk or goat milk, it should be pasteurized. It has been seen in other species so we should keep an eye on it.
  - A few cases of Equine Herpes virus in horses continue to be reported in several states.
  - EEE has been seen in Florida.
  - As some areas had a mild winter, tick borne illness, such as tick paralysis, may occur.
  - Chronic Wasting Disease has been seen in deer, but not in alpacas.
  - There is a new antibiotic available for cattle, but there are strict regulations for using it.
  - We should put out an eblast on how to reduce risk and discussing potential vaccines with your veterinarian. Bonnie will draft an eBlast for review.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 None.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 Disaster Preparedness eBlast: it is time to send out an eBlast.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

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- 5.1 Minutes of 4/6/2024: Derrick made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Signe. Motion carried.
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6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be 6/10/2024.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter