

ALP Directors Meeting – Friday & Saturday, August 28 & 29, 2009

Present: Norine Moore (Chair), John Haarman, Kathy Parker, Irene Rutledge, Phil Kolodychuk
Staff: Margaret Cook

Friday August 28, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 8.10a.m.

1. Motion: to approve the agenda as presented. Irene Rutledge 2nd John Haarman Carried

2. a. Grazing – no response from the government.

Action: Add to January agenda re grazing 2010

b. Shearing course – took place June 2009 near Sangudo. Joe Milne was the instructor of 6 participants, all reports good. Slightly better than breakeven on income/expenses.

Action: Larry to advise the farms who may be interested in hosting a future course.

Action: Article for the newsletter – “A shearer’s perspective”, invite Joe Milne to provide input. (Janine)

Action: Phil may consider hosting a course; ask for zone 7 interest in the Sept newsletter (Margaret)

c. AEPA alternate – Phil Kolodychuk

Action: Advise Diana at Alberta Elk (Margaret)

d. Newsletter contributions –

Action: all directors are requested to submit a message for their producers by September 14th to include encouragement for them to attend their zone meeting.

Other articles to include: alternative feedstuffs in a drought year; encourage feed testing; buying breeding stock; On Farm Food Safety; Growing Forward funding. (Margaret)

e. Pembina Symposium – It is important that Alberta Lamb Producers have a presence when sheep producers meet, especially when refundable check-off is coming. Florence is not sure she can attend, John will consider attending.

Action: Margaret to find out from Carla how many are registered and possibly offer to sponsor a coffee break.

f. **Action:** Margaret will try to arrange for an Agriculture & Rural Development staff person to be available for questions and advice on drought-related feeding issues.

3. Financial Report & Proposed 2009/10 Budget

a. The draft budget was carefully reviewed and no changes proposed.

b. A decision on participation in the Red Meat Reception was deferred until budget review in February when there may be more info re Alberta Beef Producers and Alberta Pork involvement.

c. A proposal to move the Alberta Lamb Producers board meeting around the province to allow for an open, producer evening session was briefly discussed. It was felt that Airdrie, Edmonton and possibly Lethbridge were the only feasible locations.

d. Sheep & Goat Management in Alberta – reprinting plans when current supplies are exhausted

Motion: that ALP retains proceeds from sales of SGMA to allow for reprint, amount to cover original printing costs + 10%. Kathy Parker 2nd Phil Kolodychuk. Carried.

4. Marketing Council guests: Maryann Urbanowski, Dave Burdek and Bruce Beattie

Bill 43 – Alberta Lamb Producers is required to amend its Regulations to make service charge (check-off) refundable to reflect the amendment to Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAPA). Marketing Council will assist in restructuring the Regulations and oversee the producer consultation involved. The check-off will become refundable on September 1st, 2010, the Regulations need to be in place early in 2010.

MAPA requires all producers to pay the check-off initially, so all will be regarded as “eligible producers”. The Minister of Agriculture has stated that all producers must receive a basic service, whether or not they request a refund of check-off, it is likely that the definition of “basic service” will be limited to: Alberta Lamb Producers’ financial audit cost; holding zone meetings and the cost of collecting and refunding the check off. MAPA allows for the collection of levies and service charges. It is proposed that a portion of the \$1.50 collected (likely less than 10%) becomes a non-refundable levy; the balance will be a refundable service charge. Alberta Lamb Producers may choose to operate some activities based on fee for service for producers who take the refund.

Action: decide on proposal for Regulation changes in the best long-term interests of the industry and the organisation. (Alberta Lamb Producers Board)

Action: Decision on acceptance of Marketing Council invitation for Alberta Lamb Producers to attend a full Council meeting in Calgary on September 24th to provide industry information and general discussion.

5. Zone meetings

Due to personal commitments, Larry Fesyk has tendered his resignation as zone 5 director. There will be elections in zones 3, 5 and 6. Norine will attend zone 6, Irene zone 5 and John zone 3. The following options are proposed:

- a. Alberta Lamb Producers video and details of Phase 3 Alberta Lamb Producers development
- b. free draw for a binder copy of Sheep and Goat Management in Alberta at each zone meeting and an additional 3 copies will be available for sale.
- c. information on feeding in drought conditions should be available
- d. presentation on traceability/update on Alberta Livestock & Meat Agency
- e. Growing Forward funding available to producers

Action: If you want to add additional items, please let Margaret know by **Tues, Sept.8th**.

Action: Confirm that Larry will be completing arrangements and attending zone 5 meeting. (Margaret)

6. Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF)

- a. The new directors for CSF are decided at this meeting, so that they may attend the AGM and meet fellow board members. Succession planning is important for this major committee.

The board thanked John for his 4 years’ service as CSF representative from Alberta.

Kathy Parker nominated Irene Rutledge - declined

Phil Kolodychuk nominated Norine Moore

Irene Rutledge nominated Phil Kolodychuk

Norine Moore called for nominations three more times. Irene Rutledge called for nominations to cease.

Norine Moore and Phil Kolodychuk are elected as Alberta’s CSF representatives with immediate effect.

Action: Norine will advise CSF of this change and forward material to bring Phil up to speed.

Action: Norine will request an ALP board log in to the CSF website.

b. The CSF budget was reviewed and feedback provided to Norine and Phil.

Action: Any further comments must be forwarded to Norine and Phil by September 4th.

c. **Motion: to offer to host the 2010 Canadian Sheep Federation AGM in Alberta subject to minimal resource commitment.** Phil Kolodychuk 2nd John Haarman Carried.

Action: Norine will confirm Alberta Lamb Producers responsibilities and make the offer if appropriate.

d. Master Shepherd Course proposal – Alberta Lamb Producers supports this project with a recommendation that the material is suitable for use right across Canada. If this project proceeds, we will investigate using this instead of creating our own materials and workshops as identified in the business plan.

7. Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy revision

A revision of Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy was released this month. A “voluntary information exchange system” includes “verified” On Farm Food Safety, Biosecurity, Animal Care, Environmental Stewardship and Brand/attribute certification. This appears to replace the Livestock Identification System of Alberta (LISA).

a. On Farm Food Safety – include “how to enroll”; comments on program and record keeping and Growing Forward funding information in Sept. newsletter. Ask if there is interest in more workshops.

Action: Norine will ask CSF for an update on their role in the future and on the provision of auditors

Action: If there is funding for an On Farm Food Safety meeting in conjunction with the CSF AGM, Kathy will attend.

b. Biosecurity – Alberta Lamb Producers was asked to provide some biosecurity recommendations to mitigate production risks for inclusion in the Animal Health Act Regulations.

Action: Norine and Kathy will request more information as to the purpose of these recommendations.

c. The Diversified Livestock Advisory committee will meet again in early October. A replacement will be needed after Florence’s term ends in late October.

8. Funded projects update

a. Illegal Lamb Trade – “Alberta project is well underway, with assessments of the provincial abattoir industry being conducted. Several factors are being investigated to identify processing challenges, general awareness of small hobby producers and processors regarding meat regulations, and quantifying the volumes of uninspected sales. Several processors and producers are eager to discuss their marketing of lamb products “off the record”, with several suggestions for regulatory exemptions, improved processing techniques, and waste disposal”. (From contractor Chris Giffen)

b. Phase 3 Implementation of Business Plan is planned and poised to begin. Details will be provided to producers at the Alberta Sheep Symposium and at zone meetings.

Action: circulate a provisional list of events for ALP participation

c. Traceability Pilot (Diversified Livestock Fund of Alberta) contractors are preparing for year three and analyzing production data collected from the first two years.

d. Alberta Livestock & Meat Agency have not yet approved the application for year three funding of the Lamb Traceability Pilot

e. Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy advised approval today of \$15,000 funding application, \$9,000 for Symposium speakers etc and \$6,000 for Alberta Lamb Producers board development on Oct 23rd.

9. Alberta Sheep Symposium October 23-25th

- a. Alberta Lamb Producers board will have a development session on Friday October 23rd in Leduc. Directors will also be requested to attend the Alberta Lamb Producers Forum on Saturday from 1.30 – 2.30pm. If attending both days, 2 per diem plus mileage, travel time and Thurs/Fri hotel will be paid. Please note each director is responsible for his own registration.

Motion: to offer Alberta Sheep Breeders Association the opportunity to join the Alberta Lamb Producers board for the Friday morning development session. John Haarman, 2nd Irene Rutledge. Carried.

Action: Circulate some ideas for content of that session. (Margaret)

- b. Proposal: the Forum will begin with an introduction by the Chair, the short Alberta Lamb Producers video and then the directors will each take a group for discussion on industry issues and the activities of Alberta Lamb Producers. The purpose is two-way dialogue: to provide information to producers and also to obtain thoughts, suggestions and feedback from producers. Fifteen minutes before the end of the session, a representative from each group will provide a short review of their discussion and any recommendations they have agreed upon. A list of topics has been suggested if required to stimulate discussion. The Chair will end the session by thanking everyone for their input, encouraging regular dialogue with Alberta Lamb Producers and attendance at zone meetings.
- c. Alberta Lamb Producers' application to Alberta Livestock & Meat Agency for \$15,000 has been approved. \$10,000 is to support speakers, advertising and other symposium expenses; \$5000 is for ALP board development.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.40pm

Saturday August 29th

7.30am - The board met to conduct Margaret's annual performance appraisal. Norine Moore will complete and discuss with Margaret.

Motion: to give Margaret Cook a pay raise of \$1.00 per hour. Phil Kolodychuk 2nd John Haarman. Carried.

8.am the meeting resumed – attendees as 28th

10. Alberta Lamb Producers Business Plan Review – see spreadsheet for Aug 09 update.

Since the Business Plan was created a number of new imposed projects and situations require Alberta Lamb Producers resources. These have been added to the business plan principally at 2.4 and 3.4 – consequently some activities and timelines have been changed. A board retreat is being planned under Phase 3 for June 25/26, 2010.

Recommendation: that the Chair should not have specific functions in the business plan due to workload and responsibility for generally overseeing the process.

Action: Each director is requested to consider the criteria to be used to revise zone boundaries.

3.1 Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy revision document – clarify the definition and intention of “verified” relating to industry programs (Margaret)

3.4 Traceability

Motion: that Canadian Co-operative Woolgrowers are not required at this time to collect Premises Identification # from producers when they sell tags. John Haarman 2nd Irene Rutledge. Carried

Action: Ensure that all parties understand that CCWG's contract to sell tags and collect check-off is with Alberta Lamb Producers and that all communications must be through Alberta Lamb Producers to avoid confusion and mixed messages. (Sept 17th meeting)

7.3 H-K – Directors to send further input to Irene as soon as possible. Bring forward to November agenda.

11. a Cysticercus ovis update

Dr Kathy Parker (acting in veterinarian capacity not Alberta Lamb Producers director) has advised a small number of Alberta producers of *C. ovis* carcass condemnations from tag traceback. All were very receptive and eager to put measures in place to solve this problem. None wished to participate in the CSF survey.

Action: Kathy will provide a newsletter article by September 14th to include worming when no lambs are on the property and in confined operations.

b. Use of Zinc Sulphate as footbath

Canadian standards for a footbath solution of zinc sulphate require a 20% concentration.

Currently a liquid form of zinc sulphate is available which does not meet this concentration requirement and Alberta Lamb Producers has been unable to obtain verification of its efficacy.

Action: that Alberta Lamb Producers recommends the use of zinc sulphate as a footbath in accordance with Canadian standards. Zinc Sulphate powder is available to mix with water and obtain the 20% concentration. Distribute article in newsletter and advise veterinarians.

12. Genotyping program proposal

Guelph is the only Canadian laboratory approved by CFIA for genotyping, Ontario producers receive a special resident rate for this service. In order to discourage the breeding of QQ rams, a subsidized program is proposed for genotyping of all ram lambs while still below slaughter weight – all QQ types could be directed for market lambs.

Action: Review this proposal when there is more clarity regarding the involvement of scrapie and purpose of the biosecurity protocols.

13. Approval of 2009/10 Alberta Lamb Producers budget

Motion: to approve the Alberta Lamb Producers budget for 2009/10 as presented John Haarman 2nd Irene Rutledge. Carried.

14. Proposal for Alberta Lamb Producers Regulations to reflect changes to MAPA

It is proposed that:

- a. a refund request must be received by Alberta Lamb Producers by the 25th of the month following purchase, eg if tags are purchased in January, the refund request must be received by Alberta Lamb Producers postmarked or fax-dated no later than February 25th – the same date the remittance is received from CCWG. No extenuating circumstances will be considered.
- b. all refund requests must be submitted on a form provided by Alberta Lamb Producers and made available on www.ablamb.ca or from the office on request.
Action: Clarify if two signatures are needed on a refund request when the tag purchase has been recorded in 2 names and how we confirm the signatory is a bone fide representative of a colony or corporation. Does Alberta Lamb Producers have any liability in these cases?
- c. Alberta Lamb Producers will refund the service charge to the producer annually prior to the Alberta Lamb Producers year end in order to minimize administration costs
- d. each producer will have the option of requesting a refund of the entire service charge or only a part of it
- e. producers who request a refund of the service charge will still be eligible to attend and vote at zone meetings and hold office as a director or zone advisor
- f. Alberta Lamb Producers identifies a proportion of the service charge to be designated as a levy to cover basic services; the levy would be non-refundable. Basic services need to

be determined but it would include at minimum Alberta Lamb Producers costs for financial audit; holding annual meetings and collecting and refunding service charges (including CCWG's 2% admin fee).

Action: create and submit a financial statement to Marketing Council showing the proposed "levy costs". (Margaret)

15. Committee Descriptions for 2009/10

Action: Margaret will circulate committee list and template for completion by each committee chair/representative. These should be supplied to the office by September 30th.

Alberta Lamb Producers board development Friday October 23rd 9am
Alberta Lamb Producers Forum, Saturday October 24th 1.30pm

Date of next board meeting November 27th and 28th, 2009.

John Haarman proposed adjournment at 2.09pm