

Alberta Lamb Producers Board Meeting Minutes
April 16-17, Airdrie, Alberta

Present: Norine Moore (Chair); John Haarman; Kathy Parker; Irene Rutledge; Ronald den Broeder; Phil Kolodychuk
Regrets: Bryanna Kumpula
Staff: Margaret Cook

Friday April 16th

1. Additions to **agenda**: CSF biosecurity committee; Ag & Food Council membership; update on scrapie prevalence project.

Motion: to approve the agenda as amended. John Haarman, 2nd Kathy Parker. Carried.

2. Financial Report

A budget v actual financial report was presented. It was decided that there is no need to revise the current budget at this stage.

Motion: to approve the financial report as presented. John Haarman, 2nd Irene Rutledge. Carried

3. Zone meetings 2010

Zone 1 – Monday, November 1

Zone 2 – Saturday, October 30 (Norine will attend tbc)

Zone 3 – Saturday, October 23 – Airdrie

Zone 4 – w/c October 25 with Battle River Research Seminar

Zone 5 –

Zone 6 –

Zone 7 – Saturday, October 23 tbc (Norine will attend)

Action: All zone directors will select a topic for a speaker or educational session at the zone meeting. Zone advisory groups may be consulted re meeting location and topic.

Action: Directors will provide the confirmed date, location and time to the office by May 6th. Session details as soon after that as possible.

2009 Zone Resolutions

The responses will be in the newsletter and also posted on the Alberta Lamb Producers website

Zone 1 - None

Zone 2

Motion: Every director writes a letter to explain the return of check-off and the negative role it would have on ALP. Jerry van Braak 2nd Jack Braat. Carried.

Response: *Alberta Lamb Producers has a campaign in place to advise producers of the value of their check off and the potential impact of refunds. It is important that there is a consistent message.*

Action: *Campaign will be reviewed at the board strategic planning workshop in June.*

Motion: ALP office staff and directors pursue with the government that we get a fair or proportional share of the community pastures and grazing options. Evert Tanis 2nd Paul Preston. Carried.

Response: *this topic was included in the recent round table with the Minister of Agriculture, lobbying is on-going.*

Action: Alberta Lamb Producers will write to Alberta Sustainable Resources with this request, cc Minister and Deputy Minister.

Action: Those producers wanting access to grazing reserves should contact their local grazing associations.

Motion: A CD-DVD copy of the video be made available to 4-H, Ag Offices and Agricultural schools and links to YouTube. Paul Preston 2nd Jerry van Braak. Carried.

Response: DVD's have already been widely circulated, including 4-H and colleges. A newsletter encouraged producers to offer copies to their local Ag Societies, Ag Service Boards etc. We have set up a YouTube account and are working on uploading the content.

Action: Encourage producers again to request provision of the DVD to their local contacts. Industry promotion targeted to the right person, by 2000 stakeholders will produce greater results.

Motion: ALP implement a Cost of Production study, and provide a link, printed out for Ag-Expo and other Ag shows, to simplify decision making. Need a generic cost and work sheet to fill out. Jan Willem van Garderen 2nd Darlene Bolwyn. Carried.

Response: As advised in earlier communications, cost of production templates are available on Canadian Sheep Federation website www.cansheep.ca and Eweplanner is on www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca. Alberta Lamb Producers is currently developing an education plan for the province; producers are encouraged to submit their requests for topics to be included.

Zone 3 - None

Zone 4

Motion: Recommended booking booth at Agri-Trade 1 year prior. Kathy Raines 2nd Claude Delisle.

Response: Booking already made

Motion: ALP Board request a meeting with the Minister to relay that producers are unhappy that check-off has become refundable. Jeremy Percival 2nd Albert Schermers. Carried.

Response: Alberta Lamb Producers has already extensively communicated this position to the Minister and senior staff as well as Marketing Council, the changes are already legislated.

Action: we will continue dialogue with regard to further amendments.

Action: producers are encouraged to write personal letters to the Minister and their MLA's to express their views. A template will be created and posted on the website. www.ablamb.ca

Motion: ALP be involved in the process of getting "Shepherd" on the list for immigration & employment (labor market order). Bill Gibson 2nd Edith Williams. Carried.

Response: The letters already submitted to government should be forwarded to Alberta Lamb Producers and we will send a letter of support.

Action: Irene will request these letters be sent to ALP.

Zone 5

Proposal not voted on: Have ALP provide a list of available veterinarians and/or nutritionist with an interest in lamb/goats.

Response: For information, producers are recommended to view modules on nutrition, health and reproduction in "Sheep & Goat Management in Alberta" on www.ablamb.ca or by

CD or hard copy available from the office. A government nutritionist is available by contacting the Ag-Info Centre on 310-FARM. Alberta Lamb Producers has a list of veterinarians who have had additional sheep training on page 77 of the Western Canadian Flock Health Program, it is available on www.ablamb.ca/producer_mgmt/flock_health or from the office. This program provides information on sheep health and protocols.

Zone 6

Motion: That ALP looks into getting regulations changed to allow rendering trucks to take sheep offal Pat Lyster. 2nd Kathy Playdon. Carried.

Response: rendering trucks will take sheep offal so long as it is in a Specified Risk Material (SRM) bin. Most processors already have these bins for disposal of bovine SRM, so should be able to dispose of sheep offal without problem. They may include a charge to as SRM disposal is more costly than other disposal.

Proposed changes to the Animal Health Act Regulations in Alberta may not permit any waste products of processing to be returned to the farm.

Action: Producers and processors will be advised of procedure for disposal of sheep offal.

Zone 7 – None

Bryanna Kumpula – zone 5 director

Marketing Council has approved the appointment of Bryanna as zone 5 director until the next zone meeting where an election will be held. By election, Bryanna will be eligible for election for two full 3 year terms

4. C. Ovis condemnations and trace-back

Condemnations of lamb condemned due to C. Ovis in Ontario are confidentially traced by CSF. Dr. Kathy Parker, speaking as a veterinarian, reported on her conversations (no names) with Alberta producers when advising them of their carcasses being condemned. She provides education as to how this problem can be eliminated.

Action: Request the provincial inspectors also advise of condemned carcasses due to C. Ovis, so that trace-back and education can take place. Determine if further training is required for inspectors on level of infection requiring condemnation and on difference between C. Ovis and Echinococcus. (Kathy/Margaret)

Action: Find out the regulations regarding reporting and condemnations of carcasses due to C Ovis in Ontario (Margaret)

Action: If we can obtain the necessary information, we request that CSF extends the tracing of C. Ovis to those with lesions but not condemned.

5. Canadian Sheep Federation – report by Norine Moore

- CSF now has representatives from every province except Newfoundland.
- CSF Executive composed of Chair (Dwayne SK), Vice Chair (Andrew ON) and 2 elected directors (Norine AB and Andre QC)
- Plans are being made for the CSF AGM in Calgary and suggestions are invited for topics for the Round Table and also for seminar speakers. Round Table topic suggested by CSF is impact of shortage of lamb on value chain. Another suggestion will be made to consider how to address the shortage of lamb i.e. to address the problem rather than the results.
- Bluetongue insurance is available again in 2010 – this may be the last year unless uptake increases.

- The national RFID project is underway
- Extensive revisions are being made to OFFS; the program will go to CFIA for review in May. Alberta will make the recommendation that OFFS concentrates on food safety issues rather than providing a general management program.
- CSF representatives were provided with feedback on the replacement tag policy and the protocol for approval of CSIP tags proposal.

Action: When CSF board minutes are approved, Margaret will circulate to the Alberta Lamb Producers board members.

6. Illegal trade

Contractor Chris Giffen presented his communications plan.

We need to create materials initially in English but understand that ideally many languages should be available - Cargill translate their materials into 19 different languages. Extensive information is already available but we need to target meat processors and the Muslim retail population. A simple risk management strategy is suggested for adoption by Alberta Lamb Producers.

Next steps:

- Arrange a meeting with other livestock groups to discuss risk management and to determine if collaboration on communication is possible
- Determine the activities to be undertaken with the budget left in the project

7. Alberta Lamb Producers Regulation Amendments

Motion: to approve the Alberta Lamb Producers Amendment Regulation, the Alberta Lamb Producers Authorisation Amendment Regulation and the Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Amendment Regulation as presented. John Haarman, 2nd Irene Rutledge. Carried.

Action: Complete the Regulations formalities as required (Margaret)

Action: Effect the proposed clarification and article relating to eligible producers as circulated in the board briefing. (Margaret)

8. Alberta Health Act Regulations

Kathy Parker was provided with feedback on the proposed AHA Regs

- Production Animal Medicine Regulations
- Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation
- Livestock Markets Licensing & Inspection Regulation
- Animal Health (General) Regulation
- Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Amendment Regulation

Action: Kathy will continue dialogue with the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian and attend a meeting if required.

Action: Once disposal of deadstock options are determined, Alberta Lamb Producers will create and distribute a factsheet.

Action: Info describing Alberta Lamb Producers input to AHA Regs on behalf of producers to be included in the newsletter.

9. Michael Bouma - Area Manager South, Meat Inspection

A discussion provided greater understanding both of the challenges industry faces in processing lambs and also the functions of the meat inspectors. Michael explained the additional responsibilities on meat inspectors now the food safety specialists are no longer in place. All requests for additional functions, including information on C. ovis

condemned/infected carcasses, should be addressed to Dr. Bob Holowaychuk, Branch Head.

Action: Michael will investigate current training and reporting protocols re C.Ovis and will advise the outcome to Margaret.

Action: we will provide details of current CSIP tags to be circulated to inspectors (Margaret).

Saturday April 17th 8am

10. Strategic Planning Workshop & Business Plan

Norine provided her input document for the workshop.

Action: All others must be at the office by Monday 26th April.

Margaret provided an April updated spreadsheet for business plan activities.

Action: All directors are asked to review and advise of any other updates.

Margaret circulated a document on the industry expansion campaign. This requires strategic direction from the board for the next steps.

Action: Supply feedback by Monday 26th April – directors.

Action: Make a spreadsheet with items still to be done, ie excludes all completed activities. (Margaret)

11. Zone Boundaries Review

There is current inequity between zones and boundaries will be reviewed. Any proposed changes need to include producer consultation and will require Regulation amendment.

Janine McMillan (on contract) presented her analysis of distribution of Alberta sheep producers and numbers of tags purchased by zone and county/MD/special area.

Action: Directors are asked to provide information on their zone local business centres/principal travel routes to the office by Thurs April 22nd.

Action: Janine was requested to suggest some boundaries which would create seven approx equal geographic zones and their projected producer and tag numbers. To be available by end May for retreat in June.

Action: Janine was requested to suggest some boundaries which would create nine approx equal geographic zones and their projected producer and tag numbers. Margaret will provide the financial implications of increasing from seven to nine zones. To be available by end May for retreat in June.

12. Minister of Agriculture Round Table

A number of Alberta sheep producers received an invitation to attend this round table in late March. The Minister appeared to be very engaged and interested in hearing about sheep industry opportunities and challenges. Discussion notes from this event are available.

Action: A briefing concerning trade barriers was requested. As this is not a major issue to the sheep industry, we will include that in a briefing containing information on other important concerns. Margaret.

13. Genovis proposal

Genovis is a performance recording and genetic evaluation program operated in Quebec by CEPOQ. A proposal has been received for a project proposed by CEPOQ to offer Genovis across the country. It has been suggested that this funding application should be joint between CEPOQ, CSBA and CSF as well as receive support from other provincial organisations.

The proposal is only available at this time in French. Alberta cannot support a proposal without clear understanding of what is involved and confidence that it meets industry needs in a sustainable way. A further briefing is being prepared by CSF.

14. National Electronic Framework

As we move towards national traceability, the sheep industry needs some form of national electronic framework which can link different programs as well as provide information to producers. Sheep Central has been created by the Alberta Traceability Pilot project to perform some of these functions; ATQ provides traceability for the sheep industry in Quebec and other systems may be available. Preliminary discussions between OSMA, SSDB, ALP & CSF have resulted in a proposal.

Motion: for Alberta Lamb Producers to participate in the investigation of an electronic framework for the Canadian Sheep Industry. John Haarman, 2nd Irene Rutledge. Carried.

Action: Margaret will continue dialogue with this group and assist in developing a plan, governance structure, funding etc.

15. Alberta Lamb Producers logo

There are no guidelines in place with regard to the use of the Alberta Lamb Producers logo.

Motion: to investigate registering or trade-marking the Alberta Lamb Producers logo and/or creating a member ALP logo. John Haarman, 2nd Phil Kolodychuk. Carried.

Action: As Bryanna has interest and experience in this area, ask if she would undertake the research and recommendation.

Action: Provide Jannette's (PSCI) comments when received.

16. Any other Business

a. Agriculture and Food Council –

Motion: to purchase a membership of Ag & Food Council at a cost of \$200 per year. Phil Kolodychuk, 2nd John Haarman. Carried

Action: ask Bryanna if she would accept responsibility for this and attend the AGM

b. Proposed Alberta Scrapie Prevalence Program

Kathy provided an update and the group made suggestions as solutions to the current obstacles.

Action: Kathy will continue dialogue with Agriculture & Rural Development.

c. CSF Biosecurity Advisory Committee

CSF is requesting provincial representatives for a national biosecurity committee to oversee development of national standards for the sheep industry.

Action: Norine is interested and will ask for further information from Jenn.

d. New Alberta Lamb Producers

When soliciting new directors in the newsletter etc., ensure that date of the first meeting is reported (Nov 5th, 2010) so candidates can try to be available

e. Canadian Sheep Federation AGM, Calgary November 2-4, 2010

CSF will arrange an industry round table and a seminar as well as their AGM in Calgary. Directors and producers are encouraged to attend as many of the sessions as possible.

17. Adjournment – proposed by Ronald den Broeder at 2.40pm