

NSIP Meeting

Thursday – March 14, 2019

7 p.m. CST

Minutes submitted by Lisa Paris Weeks

Attendees: Matt Benz, Rusty Burgett, John Carlson, Lynn Fahrmeier, Cody Hiemke, Tom Hodgeman, Ron Lewis, Jim Morgan, Brenda Reau, Bill Shultz, Kathy Soder, Lisa Surber, Todd Taylor, Jake Thorne, Lisa Weeks

Agenda:

- New Board Member Introductions
 - Lynn welcomed Jake Thorne (Dorper) and Tom Hodgeman (Katahdin) to the board.
 - Vance Broadbent (Commercial) and Brady Campbell (Texel) were unable to attend.
- Secretary Report
 - The minutes for the membership meeting at the ASI Convention were circulated to the board. If anyone has additions or corrections please send to Lisa.
- Treasurer Report
 - Bill Shultz reported some “observations and opinions” on the financial stability of NSIP.
 - Our core input is our membership which needs to be strengthened and expanded.
 - The successful and timely collection of Australia data fees has a direct impact on the NSIP budget.
 - Long term financial sustainability of NSIP is a priority.
 - Report attached.
- Executive Committee report
 - Presented by Rusty Burgett
 - A part time office manager is being sought to help Rusty with the clerical aspects of the NSIP office. Ideally this person should be near to the current office, but this is not an absolute requirement.
- Program Director Report
 - Presented by Rusty Burgett (full report attached)
 - Bill Shultz and Rusty Burgett have been working on the budget and revitalizing the Finance Committee.
 - Bill Shultz
 - Brenda Reau
 - Lynn Fahrmeier
 - Rusty Burgett
 - Rusty will be generating membership contact lists for each Breed Group and circulating to their respective Director.
 - Continuing to work with ASI and ALB on funding strategies.
 - Planning for the 2019 Center of the Nation NSIP Sale is in progress. Rusty is working with Courtney Sales, LLC to assume a larger role in the management of the sale. Exactly what those responsibilities will be should be finalized soon.
 - Planning for the 2019 Eastern NSIP Sale is in progress. The sale committee is exploring the option of an online-only sale which could expand the sale to nationwide not just the Eastern region. Cody, Tom, Matt, and John will work with Rusty to research options and their logistical impact.
 - Rusty has also circulated three job descriptions for the board to review and provide feedback.

- Rusty would like to encourage the Breed Group Directors to be more engaged with their members. Aligning with this request, Brenda Reau told of a survey she sent to the Suffolk breeders to gain knowledge of needs and expectations. Lynn requested Brenda to share this survey with the board if possible.
- Technical Committee
 - Presented by Ron Lewis (report attached)
 - The NSIP EBV Notebook is up to date and available on the NSIP website.
 - One of the tasks for the technical committee is how will genomics be integrated into the future of NSIP? How will the cost of testing be controlled?
 - Rusty, with help from Ron Lewis and Brenda Murdoch, is working on publishing a one page fact sheet on genomics.
 - At the 2019 ASI Convention, the Technical Committee presented the draft on a Genomics Survey. The final edit has been submitted to Ron for approval. Hopefully the survey will be circulated to the industry soon.
- New Business
 - Revitalizing the NSIP presence through Social Media needs to become a priority.
 - Facebook posts and 5-10 minute Facebook Live videos are being requested. Contact any of the individuals below to request a post to the page or marketplace.
 - NSIP Marketplace
 - Administrator – Rusty Burgett
 - Editors – Lisa Surber, Alison Crane, Cody Hiemke, Brenda Reau
 - NSIP Page
 - Administrators – Rusty Burgett and Reid Redden
 - Editors – Lisa Surber, Alison Crane, Cody Hiemke, Brenda Reau
- Next meeting will be May 9 at 7 p.m. CST.
- Meeting adjourned.

NSIP Board Treasurer Report

March 7, 2019

Board Members

I am glad to be acting as the Treasurer for NSIP for the coming year. Rusty has been a great help in getting me up-to-speed on the financial aspect of our organization.

The following are some of my observations and opinions from the time spent so far.

The core financial component of NSIP is our paid membership and that component needs to be strengthened and expanded. In 2018 we had around 170 paid members generating about \$33,000 income or about \$200 per member. Through the 1st half of February 2019 we have had 78 renewal memberships averaging \$230 per member or about \$18,000. We also have had about 15 new members enroll in 2019. Rusty has since reported that over \$2,000 has been received for renewals and a new member added since my last itemized report.

Data fees to Australia are a proxy for number of sheep records processed and reflects the impact NSIP is having on genetic change within the industry but those fees also need to be monitored for delinquency, credit card fees, and wire transfers which has a direct effect on the NSIP budget. Rusty and I are exploring ways to better understand and capture this information in order to make sound changes.

Long term financial sustainability of NSIP is a priority for both Rusty and I. In my opinion relying on single year grants from three different funding organizations with their ever changing and unpredictable board membership is not sustainable. Hopefully this group can discuss and identify alternatives that can lead to a stable financial future.

The second quarter financial reports will be published after the 1st April. I will forward them to board members with brief remarks.

Looking forward to learning and sharing ideas.

Bill

NSIP Program Director's Report
March 14, 2019

2019 has been off to a great start. We have 18 new members already and I've been working with most of them on getting data submitted already. Membership renewals have been a little slow so I am in the process of sending out reminders to get those in. We historically don't invoice for enrollment fees but next year I'd like to send out hardcopies of the enrollment form renewal as some have mentioned they did not receive or overlooked my email reminders. I will reach out to all of our new members starting in April just to follow up and encourage participation and utilizing the technology. I will also send updated contact lists to all breed representatives so you all know who the current members are and I'd encourage you to reach out as well if you know someone in need of some help.

I am continuing the conversation with the American Lamb Board and American Sheep Industry Association about future, long-term support of NSIP. Both organizations have voiced their desire to develop a plan for efficiently providing our technology to the sheep industry.

I have also begun planning the 2019 Center of the Nation NSIP Sale and the Eastern NSIP Sale. The auction company, Courtney Sales, LLC, has expressed interest in taking on a larger role of the sale management for the Spencer sale. I've been watching them fairly closely over the past year planning dairy sales throughout the region and I've been very impressed at their growth and progression so I am optimistic they will handle the Spencer sale professionally. We are still discussing exactly what responsibilities they will take on but should have plans finalized in the next few weeks. We already have DV Auction scheduled to broadcast the sale and I'm excited the United Suffolk Sheep Association will be hosting an educational event in conjunction with the sale.

The Eastern Sale committee is beginning to doubt if Wooster is the best location for that sale. In talking to several consignors and board members, I am looking into the option of an online-only sale. While we would be giving up an opportunity for in-person educational sessions and networking, an online sale may spread our reach geographically and increase participation. This would also minimize biosecurity concerns that several consignors and buyers have voiced over the past 2 years. I will continue to explore the best possible options for an online sale and we can determine that is the most efficient route for that sale.

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Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to moving NSIP forward. Welcome to Brady and Jake to the board of directors. If anyone ever has any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Rusty Burgett

NSIP Technical Advisory Committee Report
March 2019

NSIP EBV Notebook update

Working closely with Dave Notter, and with input from the Technical Advisory Committee, the NSIP EBV Notebook has been updated to capture the current definitions of EBV and indexes that are available through NSIP. The revised document is available on the NSIP website (<http://nsip.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NSIP-EBV-Descriptions-Update-16-Dec-2018.pdf>), and is included as an Appendix to this Report.

A focus on sheep genomics

The recent focus of the Technical Advisory Committee has been to consider opportunities and strategies for incorporating genomic technologies into NSIP. This has entailed two main areas of activity:

Technical meetings

Two technical meetings—one at the ASI Annual Convention in New Orleans (Jan. 23, 2019) and another as a teleconference (Feb. 28, 2019)—were held to (i) consider recommendations for DNA sampling methods, (ii) collect final input on a draft industry genomics survey, and (iii) provide updates on NSIP-aligned genomics research projects.

As a brief overview of those discussions, two approaches for DNA sample collection were considered good options: tissue sampling units and blood cards. Even more important than the collection method used, encouraging NSIP members to continue to collect DNA samples on their animals was identified as paramount. The availability of a large reservoir of DNA on performance recorded sheep was judged as essential for moving forward with incorporating genomics into the NSIP genetic evaluation. Further input on the content of the industry genomics survey was collected. Key aims were avoiding an overly lengthy yet sufficiently comprehensive survey. It was agreed that the final survey should be circulated electronically to attract wide participation from the sheep industry. Updates on five ongoing genomics projects in sheep, each aligned with NSIP, were discussed. The importance of Let's Grow in funding several of the projects was highlighted. Coordinating the outcomes of these projects to ensure their greatest benefit to the sheep industry and to leverage future funding for larger research efforts were deemed priorities.

Fostering communications with genomics companies. The cost of genotyping remains a constraint for routine use of genomics in the U.S. sheep industry. Therefore an ongoing dialogue with several service providers—Eurofins BioDiagnostis, Neogen/GeneSeek, Superior Farms, and Zoetis—is underway to foster the availability of cost-effective genotyping products. The ambition is for those products to allow parentage information, identification of genetic conditions, and, in due course, genome-enhanced EBV for a broader set of traits.

Ron Lewis
March 13, 2019