

NSIP Meeting

Thursday – September 29, 2020

7 p.m. CST

Minutes submitted by Lisa Paris Weeks

Attendees: Matt Benz, Rusty Burgett, Brady Campbell, John Carlson, Lynn Fahrmeier, Cody Hiemke, Tom Hodgman, Ben Lehfeldt, Ron Lewis, Jim Morgan, Brenda Reau, Reid Redden, Mark Roembke, Bill Shultz, Todd Taylor, Jake Thorne, Lisa Weeks

Agenda:

- Secretary Report
 - Cody Hiemke moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by John Carlson. Motion passed.
- Treasurer Report
 - Presented by Bill Shultz (report attached)
 - Estimated income for FY 2021: \$64,000 to \$82,000
 - Estimated expenses for FY 2021: \$65,000
 - Hard-copy invoices of all outstanding database fees for FY2020 have been mailed to the membership.
- Program Director Report
 - Presented by Rusty Burgett (report attached)
 - The Database updates are ready to launch.
 - Toggle for Registered vs. Non-registered which requires the producer to enter the registration number in Pedigree Master. If field is blank it is assumed non-registered.
 - Within the Searchable Database a user can type in the registration number rather than the NSIP ID for inquiries on an animal.
 - The SRC Index is being reviewed for which breeds are eligible.
 - NSIP has been asked to collaborate with KHSI on a grant proposal for an industry-wide educational initiative in regards to genomics as well as developing a physical DNA repository and organizational system.
 - NSIP is collaborating with the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office to develop the genetics portion of their online training programs and Small Ruminant for Profit school.
- Technical Committee
 - Presented by Ron Lewis (report attached)
 - The NSIP Technical Committee has added two new members: Dr. Joan Burke from the USDA, Agricultural Research Service and Dr. Chris Posbergh who is the Assistant Professor of Sheep Production at Montana State University-Bozeman.
- New Business
 - Ben Lehfeldt introduced two guest speakers: Tom Boyer and Brad Boner from the ASI Executive Committee.
 - Tom Boyer gave a presentation on a new initiative called Sheep Genetics USA whose mission will be the advancing of the US Sheep Industry through genetic technology. The

- vision of Sheep Genetics USA is a proactive and collaborative initiative focused on improving genetic tools to enhance profitability through measurable goals leading to long-term success. NSIP would become a committee of this initiative. This initiative is industry-wide and for profit. This initiative will have the following mile posts:
- September – Draft Plan rollout for key stakeholders
 - Early November – Team Zoom meeting to review, evaluate and incorporate feedback
 - Late November – Team Face to Face meeting to create Bylaws and Corporate Resolution
 - Late January – Rollout at Convention
- Specifics Comments after presentation:
 - Biggest benefit is the research opportunities, takes us to next step (Rusty)
 - Need to add acknowledgement of Universities as a stakeholder (Jim)
 - Where is promotion to user and producer? The end user needs a reason to use genetics. Need to promote positive stories as incentive. (Matt)
 - Genomically enhanced EBVs are close to being available for the Katahdin breed which provides the framework for all other breeds. (Jim)
 - The Michel Project proved the data worked yet no ads promoting that NSIP works. (Matt)
 - We need to be strategic in how we educate: producers and ambassadors whose mission is to get the word out. (Brenda)
 - How to overcome apathy in producers? (Cody)
 - Who votes to create the board members? Who nominates members to the board? (Cody)
 - How has this been received by the industry? (Reid)
 - Outsource a marketing firm to study the industry. (Reid)
 - Additional feedback from the NSIP Board should be sent to Rusty Burgett, Tom Boyer, or Brad Boner. Comment on this initiative should be kept within the NSIP Board and presenters during this Draft Phase.
- Next meeting will be November 19 at 7 p.m. CST.
 - Reid Redden moved to adjourn, seconded by Jim Morgan.

NSIP Treasures Report

9/29/2020

Bill Shultz

The following report is not to replace a NSIP budget for FY 2021 but rather my best estimation of income and expenses for the upcoming year.

Estimated Income FY 2021:

Membership: \$30,000 to \$32,000 (we had an increase of about 20% in membership revenue in FY 2020 due to an increase of 10% in number of paid members {108 vs 120} and 10% increase in amount paid per member {\$235 vs \$264}.

Data Fees: \$4,000 to \$5,000 (We were able to make about \$.25 on each record processed and billed by Australia after subtracting out un-collectables, credit card charges and wire fees. We had about 18,000 in billable records processed in FY 2020)

Grants \$10,000; (we hope to collect the last portion of the Sheep Center grant that was submitted a couple of years ago)

NSIP current equity \$35,000 to \$40,000 (Made up of cash on hand and accounts receivable. We presently have \$4,700 in accounts receivable which are over 365 days old which may be uncollectable)

Total working dollars for FY 2021 somewhere between \$64,000 and \$82,000

Estimated NSIP expenses FY 2021

Rusty's contract \$54,000

Insurance \$6,000

Office, travel and meeting expense \$5,000

Total estimated expenses FY 2021 \$65,000 (note; We were able to pay Ron Lewis contract for two years with Let's Grow funds in 2020 and thus not included in 2021 expenses.

NSIP Program Director's Report
September 2020

It has been a busy end to the fiscal year with lots of different projects in the works. I've been working with several different organizations lately on projects that include NSIP and I think their desire to collaborate with us shows the industry wants to get more involved. One major collaboration is with the NSIP committee of KHSI with a grant proposal for an industry-wide educational initiative in regards to genomics as well as developing a physical DNA repository and organizational system. The DNA repository will be critical moving forward with genomics as we amass a large volume of samples that need to be organized and easily accessed as needed.

I have also been working with the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office to develop the genetics portion of their online training programs and Small Ruminant for Profit school. Additionally, I've been asked to provide several written pieces to have a quarterly section in their HoofPrint magazine. This partnership was the result of a webinar I was asked to perform last month. We are also working with a group in New England on a SARE project to increase the use of NSIP and genetic selection for parasite resistance and will be performing a series of online training opportunities throughout this fall.

In closing out the fiscal year, I have printed off hard-copy invoices of all outstanding balances for database fees. Those were mailed out this week and should be arriving to members in the next few days, which should reduce the A/R balance going into FY2021.

There are a lot of exciting opportunities for NSIP going on this fall and beyond. We continue to get new members signing up and it is very promising that so many groups want to partner with NSIP on these projects.

NSIP Technical Advisory Committee Report

Sept 2020

NSIP Technical Committee Expanded

As existing news, the NSIP Technical Committee has been expanded to include two new members broadening its expertise in sheep production systems and in genetics and genomics.

Dr. Joan Burke is a Research Animal Scientist with the USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center in Booneville, Arkansas. She received a Ph.D. in reproductive biology at Oregon State University, a master's in animal science from the University of Maine, and a bachelor's degree from Cornell University. Dr. Burke has been with ARS since 1999 where she has conducted research on the control of gastrointestinal nematodes in sheep and goats. Her program focuses on addressing problems of small and mid-size farmers including organic and grass-fed production systems for ruminant livestock, and alternatives to synthetic anthelmintics including specialty forages. Dr. Burke also leads research developing techniques in quantitative genetics and genomics to select for parasite resistant animals.

Dr. Chris Posbergh is an Assistant Professor of Sheep Production at Montana State University-Bozeman. He began his faculty position in August 2020. Dr. Posbergh completed his bachelor's and doctoral degrees at Cornell University, both in animal science. His graduate research focused on increasing the efficiency of sheep production by reducing maintenance costs associated with large size and increasing the productivity of ewes through year-round lambing. His work focused on identifying DNA markers associated with mature body size and out-of-season lambing. A New Jersey native, his first exposure to the sheep industry came when his dad brought home a bottle lamb from work. Dr. Posbergh went on to show sheep through 4-H and has counted Dorset and Romneys in his personal flock.

With these valuable additions, the NSIP Technical Committee's membership is:

- Dr. Luiz Brito, Assistant Professor, Animal Sciences, Purdue University
- Dr. Daniel Brown, Principal Scientist, Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit, University of New England, NSW, Australia
- Dr. Joan Burke, Research Animal Scientist, USDA ARS Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center
- Dr. Ron Lewis (Chair), Professor, Animal Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Dr. Brenda Murdoch, Associate Professor, Animal, Veterinary and Food Sciences, University of Idaho
- Dr. Tom Murphy, Research Geneticist, USDA ARS Roman L. Hruska Meat Animal Research Center
- Dr. Dave Notter, Emeritus Professor, Animal and Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech
- Dr. Chris Posbergh, Assistant Professor, Animal and Range Sciences, Montana State University-Bozeman