

NSIP Meeting

Thursday – November 12, 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
 - Matt Benz moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Jake Thorne. Motion passed.
- Treasurer Report
 - Presented by Bill Shultz (report attached)
 - Compared to 2019, enrollment up by ~20%
 - Perhaps we are beginning to see some membership stabilization. The income from membership fees still may not be at a sustainable level.
 - Producers will be charged \$3.50 for data fees in 2021.
 - Brenda Reau shared that the Suffolk Association passes credit card fees to the membership. Bill Shultz recommended eliminating the 1st year free program.
 - John Carlson moved to accept the Treasurer Report, seconded by Jim Morgan. Motion passed.
- Program Director Report
 - Presented by Rusty Burgett (report attached)
 - Online Searchable Database – The Index & Percentile Reports are now resolved. The non-linked animals needed to be removed from the index calculation itself.
 - For Breeds with no linkages, the within flock EBVs will be turned on so the animals don't reflect EBVs of zero.
 - Invoices for sale entries were mailed the week of November 2.
- Technical Committee
 - Presented by Ron Lewis (report attached)
 - One of the challenges for the Genomics aspect is to keep it feasible for the producer to routinely sample animals.
 - Cody Hiemke requested that the Genomics Committee be kept in the loop with the Ad Hoc Committee.
- New Business
 - Ben Lehfeldt updated us on the Sheep Genetics USA status. All presentations are completed and work will begin soon on defining the ByLaws.
 - The ASI Convention will be offered virtually on January 28-29, 2021.
 - For the NSIP Annual Meeting content is still to be decided. Hopefully we will have pre-recorded videos, live Q&A, elections, Genomics, Sheep Genetics USA, current progress of NSIP, Committee Updates, and possibly polling functions through Zoom.

- The nominating committee (Cody Hiemke and Bill Shultz) will be creating a ballot for NSIP board elections.
- Bill Shultz moved to eliminate the 1st year free program for new members. Matt Benz seconded the motion and motion passed.
- Per Rusty options for fundraising are being developed and the 2021 dues and fees will be the same as 2020 with no changes with the exception of the data fee which will increase \$0.45.
 - Dues - \$100/flock
 - Ewe Fee - \$3.50 / ewe (\$500 cap)
 - Data Fee - \$3.50 / lamb
- Brenda Reau reported on the successful adoption of the new Suffolk Breed Standard. The twelve-member committee from diverse backgrounds worked for 10 months to develop the standard. Added to the standard is a new section that describes using Suffolk rams as terminal sires for commercial breeders, required genetic testing for scrapie and spider, and performance data including record keeping and the use of EBVs.
- Rusty reported that he was contacted by the KY Sheep & Goat Assn to cover the genetics portion of their Sheep for Profit School. Rusty would prepare 2 – 2 hour videos at a recommended cost of \$150/hr. Matt Benz was concerned if this is really an NSIP function. Would Rusty's time be better spent working to contact members to reduce the AR collections and those members that haven't submitted data to Sheep Genetics. Matt Benz requested to negotiate for \$300/hr for 10-20 hours of work maximum. Ben Lehfeldt moved to proceed as ammended. Cody Hiemke seconded the motion.
- John Carlson moved to adjourn seconded by Cody Hiemke.

NSIP Treasure's Report

November 12, 2020

Bill Shultz

NSIP Fiscal Year ended September 31 and those financial reports are attached.

Larry Kincaid with ASI does our financials and those final numbers were provided October 29th. I view Larry's work as exceptional and we are lucky to have his services provided by ASI.

A couple of significant numbers in the report are a drop in total equity of NSIP \$4,415 in 2020 and an increase of enrollment income of \$6,170 for 2020. The increased enrollment income was due to an approximate 10% increase in both number of members and revenue per member. Australia also processed and billed 19,108 records with an average cost of \$3.05 per record in FY 2020.

Even with an increase of revenue generated through membership and data fees in FY 2020 NSIP was not able to meet our overhead costs of labor, insurance, uncollectable invoices and bank charges without external support. That outside support may not be sustainable as we move into future years.

NSIP Program Director's Report
November 2020

My recent activities have included working on promotion and outreach activities as well as producer support. The NSIP has been part of a NESARE grant in partnership with University of Rhode Island, Virginia Tech, Penn State and the USMARC to promote the use of NSIP throughout New England and the Northeastern United States. We are planning a series of virtual workshops to take place January and February of 2021 and will be recording those sessions for future use. I've also been participating in weekly zoom meetings with the NSIP Genomics Ad Hoc Committee and we have been making great strides in developing some recommended systems for NSIP to incorporate genomic information into the evaluation.

The Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development office has asked if I would help develop some educational programming for their constituents through a series of online classes and events. They have some grant funding to compensate NSIP for my time and have requested that the NSIP BOD come up with an hourly rate that we should charge for that time.

I still receive regular calls/emails from members (approximately 2-3 per week) dealing with Pedigree Master issues. Among other issues, there seems to be some conflict between the recent PM updates and Windows updates. I have a meeting scheduled with LambPlan personnel and we will be discussing if there are ways to improve the program along with several other topics.

Recently I worked with Bill Shultz and Larry Kincaid to close out the books for FY2020, which Bill will present. All data fees have been invoiced to members through the October data runs and we currently have total Accounts Receivables balance of \$33,986.40. Of that amount, \$8,637.70 was just invoiced within the last 30 days for September and October 2020 data fees. There is a total of \$25,476.20 of A/R that is less than 365 days old and \$8,510.20 that is over 365 days old. Prior to invoicing for October data fees, I printed off and mailed hard copy invoices to all open accounts so I assume we will reconcile a large portion of those outstanding balances in the coming weeks.

In the next few days, I'd like to mail out a copy of the 2021 membership renewal forms to all members. If we'd like to mail out invitations to the annual meeting and/or ballots, that would be a great time to do it.

Thanks to everyone for all your efforts to promoting NSIP!

NSIP Technical Advisory Committee Report

Nov 2020

NSIP Genomics Ad Hoc Committee

Over the past weeks, the focus of the Technical Committee has been assisting an Ad Hoc Committee within NSIP to establish strategies for incorporating genomics into the NSIP genetic evaluation. Our opportunity is to combine genotype information with pedigree and performance data collected on NSIP flocks to generate genomic-enhanced Estimated Breeding Values. The outcome would be more accurate EBV becoming available in animals at younger ages, allowing for more reliable selection decisions.

The Ad Hoc Committee's primary aims has been: i) to define approaches and priorities to identify animals to sample and genotype; and ii) to devise a financial model for such genotyping to become pragmatic and, hopefully, routine.

- As part of i), a subcommittee within the NSIP Technical Committee, with input from scientific experts in the beef cattle community, is drafting recommendations and guidelines that will be presented to the NSIP Executive and Board on genotyping strategies.
- As part of ii) discussions are well underway with a commercial vendor (Neogen GeneSeek) on platforms and products, and their associated costs, that could be made available to the U.S. sheep industry. Those products combine parentage information, genetic conditions (e.g., Ovine progressive pneumonia virus (OPPV) susceptibility; Scrapie susceptibility; Spider lamb; Myostatin), and the additional genetic markers (single nucleotide polymorphisms or SNP) that are needed to obtain genomic-enhanced Estimated Breeding Values. Discussions are also underway with MLA Sheep Genetics on costs for incorporating the genomic information collected into the routine genetic evaluation provided to NSIP.

Ron Lewis
NSIP Technical Committee Chair
Nov. 12, 2020