

NSIP Meeting

Thursday – March 12, 2026

7 p.m. CST

Minutes submitted by Lisa Paris Weeks

Attendees: Justin Benz, Kristen Bieber, Gavin Blonquist, Lynn Fahrmeier, Cody Hiemke, Amanda Houser, Dylan Laverell, Zach Meinders, Matt Nolt, Devin Peterson, Brenda Reau, Curt Stanley, Todd Taylor, Robert Walker, Andrew Weaver, Lisa Weeks

Agenda:

- Curt Stanley called meeting to order and presented the agenda (attached)
 - Brenda Reau moved to approve, seconded by Andrew Weaver. Motion passed.
- Secretary Report
 - Gavin Blonquist moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting, seconded by Dylan Laverell. Motion passed.
- Treasurer Report
 - Presented by Cody Hiemke
 - At the end of February, we had a balance of \$22,000. There are two outstanding invoices totaling ~\$13,000 from Neogen that predate October 2025. This is earmarked to pay in March.
 - Accounts receivable (AR) is not fully understood in respect to Data Fee payments. We know that very few invoices were sent for 2024/2025 Data Runs to the membership. Cody has been working with QuickBooks since February 13 to get complete access. Once obtained, Cody will coordinate invoicing to the appropriate parties.
 - The new options for online membership through the website seem to be working well. We have thirty-six paid members to date through this method.
 - Dylan Laverell asked if Breed Reps could or should reach out to their members to remind them to pay their dues. Robert and Cody are compiling a report that can be circulated to the board to allow for this collaborative effort.
 - Dylan Laverell moved to accept the report, seconded by Todd Taylor. Motion passed.
- Technical Report
 - Tom Murphy could not attend. Report is tabled for the next meeting.
- Sale Committee Report – Todd Taylor
 - Two NSIP sales scheduled for 2026.
 - Online Sale – July 8, 2026, held through PL Auctions
 - Center of the Nation Sale (CON) – July 24-25, held in Spencer, IA.
 - Sale Committee is working to define standard rules for the CON sale. Brett Oelke as the Sale Manager is heading this effort.
 - Brenda Reau is working on the meal for Friday night. Superior Farms will donate the lamb.
 - Andrew Weaver will coordinate efforts to plan an educational program for Friday afternoon.
- Database Transition

- We are close to getting a new contract established between LambPlan and NSIP. Included in this effort will be contracting with Helical in New Zealand to transfer our data to a cloud format that LambPlan can use.
 - LambPlan will contract with Helical.
 - LambPlan will invoice NSIP on a defined payment plan that is projected to total \$40,000.
- More to come for the membership's role in this transition. It will most likely require each flock to submit a file to Helical prior to GO Live so the new database can be loaded. The protocol of execution after the database goes live is yet to be defined.
- Committee Restructuring – Curt Stanley
 - Executive – no change
 - Technical – no change
 - Genomics Subcommittee – Dr. Burke will chair this committee. More discussion on this committee planned for the next meeting.
 - Explore options for genomic testing through New Zealand. Potential for significant cost savings to membership.
 - Sales – Todd Taylor is Chair
 - Education – Brenda Reau is Chair
 - Work with Regional Groups to utilize existing information and educational material rather than duplicating.
 - Ultrasound – Chris Schauer Chair
 - By-Laws
 - Last Review occurred in the 2014/2015 timeframe.
 - Once database transition is more defined a By-Law review becomes more necessary
 - Nominating – appointed by Board Chair each year.
 - Website – Robert Walker is Chair
 - Strategic Planning – need to form committee.
 - New Member Mentoring – Gavin Blonquist is Chair
 - All breed reps should be part of the committee.
 - Discussions on how to notify Breed Reps of new members and how those reps can provide the service needed to support the new member.
 - Robert Walker can create an auto-response tied to the membership form detailing either all breed reps or a specific breed rep. He is going to evaluate some options.
 - Matt Nolt described how the Katahdin association has developed a similar program. Perhaps NSIP can model aspects of their efforts.
 - Need to define the process of assigning a flock ID to new members.
 - The committee needs to develop a task list of what they want to accomplish as a committee and report at the next meeting.
 - Old Business
 - Lisa Weeks requested the Board pass a formal motion accepting the new Terms and Conditions that are included in the 2026 Membership Form.
 - The sections that changed were the Confidentiality and the Publication of EBV Data and Genetic Conditions. (attached)
 - Gavin Blonquist moved to accept the new Terms and Conditions, seconded by Robert Walker. Motion passed.

- New Business
 - Cody Hiemke discussed the Searchable Database in relation to accuracies. If a flock or animal falls below a certain accuracy threshold, the EBV data will not be available in the Searchable Database. This affects members who only have in-flock data.
 - Discussion is tabled for a future meeting.
- Next Meeting will be April 9, 2026, at 7 p.m. CST.
 - Board requested more frequent meetings
- Gavin Blonquist moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Robert Walker. Motion passed.

Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

Sec Report – Lisa

 Addition to membership form

Treasurer Report - Cody

 Current status of QB, Online membership renewals, status of A/R

Technical Committee – Tom M

Sale Committee – Todd T

Committee Reports

 Database Transition – Curt/Cody

Reorg of Standing Committees

 Priorities

Former List

 Sales

 Education

 Technical

 Genomics

 Ultrasound

 By-Law

 Nominating

 Website

Proposed List

 Executive - Same

 Technical - Same

 Genomics Sub Committee

 Sales - Same

Education – This one needs work

Ultrasound - Same

By-Laws – will need to look at new stuff from database transition

Nominating

Website

Strategic Planning

New Member Mentoring

Old Business

New Business

Next Mtg/Taskers

Adjourn

Terms and Conditions

Confidentiality: NSIP agrees to hold individual flock data (both “raw” performance and “raw” genotype data from various genotyping platforms) in confidence. NSIP has the right to approve the release of individual flock data to researchers for purposes that promote the interest of NSIP as determined by the NSIP Executive Committee. In the event that individual flock data used for research purposes is required to be made publicly available by scientific journals or granting agencies, individual flock data will be edited in a way that removes personally identifiable information of the breeder. In all other cases, NSIP agrees to not divulge, make public or sell individual flock data.

Publication of EBV Data and Genetic Conditions: NSIP may publish EBV, indexes, and genetic condition status of animals via the online searchable database. An individual animal’s genotype for genetic conditions is generated from submitted DNA samples used to generate “genomic-enhanced” EBV. Currently available genetic conditions include Ovine Progressive Pneumonia and Scrapie susceptibilities, double muscling (Myostatin), Callipyge, and Booroola FecB. This list may be amended as new genetic conditions test become available in the future.