

Small Ruminant Committee Report

2015 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, March 24, 2015



The Small Ruminant Committee met on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the 2015 NIAA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, with approximately 5 people present. Ms. Eileen Kuhlmann and Mr. Paul Rodgers served as Co-Chairs.

The Small Ruminant Committee session focused on Water. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to consumer confidence and water-friendly production system

Jim Logan, DVM, State Veterinarian, Wyoming Livestock Board, presented "Sheep Quality Assurance Program." The Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program Level 1 training is on-line and therefore after completing the training persons have to request a certificate. It is believed that more producers have completed the level. The SSQA will be used to increase consumer confidence in the products produced. Need to get it out to producers via extension agents, 4H and FFA.

Bret Taylor, DVM, Animal Research Scientist, USDA, ARS, US Sheep Experiment Station, presented "Small Ruminant Grazing: A Water-Friendly Production System." Small ruminants are complimentary and beneficial to water and water quality on rangelands. Small ruminants have lower water requirements than large ruminants. Their needs for fresh water are less frequent.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1 new resolution accepted (Funding for research small ruminant research in the area of animal production, infectious diseases, forage/rangelands, and environment). By consensus all other resolutions are still appropriate.
- The small ruminant committee wants a letter sent to the Indiana Soybean Alliance for appreciation for funding their committee meeting and report.
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) Small ruminants are complimentary and beneficial to water availability and water quality on rangelands.

General Discussion: none

Small Ruminant Committee Session adjourned at 12:15 pm.