

Aquatic Livestock Committee Report

2019 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 9, 2019



The Aquatic Livestock Committee met on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the 2019 NIAA Annual Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, with approximately 11 people present. Mr. Todd Low served as Chair.

The Aquatic Livestock Committee session focused on seafood sustainability and traceability. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the relationship between sustainability and traceability:

Leo Obaldo, PhD – Acting Branch Manager, Livestock Support Service, Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture, presented on “Innovative Method of Converting Food Wastes for Aquaculture and Livestock Feeds”

Dr. Obaldo highlighted the opportunity to use black soldier flies as a source of protein in animal feeds. The soldier flies have the physical characteristics to replace fish meal or other traditional protein sources. This topic is timely as the Hawaii Department of Agriculture is standing up a small commercial feed mill focused on converting agriculture and food waste into animal feed.

Timothy Kniffen, DVM, MS – Technical Service Veterinarian, Merck Animal Health, presented on “The Care 365 Platform: An Innovative and Practical Approach to Advancing Animal Care and Welfare”

Dr. Kniffen provided an overview of Merck’s AquaCare365 program focusing on salmon operations. Animal welfare is a timely topic for the livestock industry and the focus has moved to aquaculture, especially in British Columbia and the Northwest for the salmon industry.

Mr. Matt A. Smith – Program Director, Aquaculture Extension, The Ohio State University, presented on “A New Aquaculture Coop in Ohio”

Matt Smith provided background on a grassroots effort to create a cooperative organization for aquaculture in Ohio. They have followed a plan established by other OSU staff on the creating a sustainable co-op. The initial focus will be on consolidating feed purchases and may expand to equipment and marketing.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

General Discussion:

Aquatic Livestock Committee Session adjourned at 3pm.