Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES September 9, 2024

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Dr. Signe Balch
Derrick Letsinger
Mike Livingston
Tom Petersen (absent)
Chris Sturgeon (absent)

Board Liaison: Mike Walsh

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: The office is gearing up for NAFD with 66 farms registered, which is low for the time period. GirCom minutes have been posted on the website.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts/Conference
  - Seeing more cases of EEE and WNV in several states, but so far no reports in alpacas.
  - Avian influenza continues to be a problem, and it has been found in dairy cows in at least 13 states. Some dairy and poultry workers have been affected, and one human with no known animal exposure. No new cases in alpacas.
  - USAHA Conference will be Oct 10-16 in TN. Dan will work with Signe to be sure she is listed as our representative in USAHA.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Avian influenza: reviewed prior eBlasts that have been sent to members. No need for another one at this time.

- 3.2 BVD information. There are three articles on the AOA website. Diagnostic Testing by GeneSeek may be accurate, but DDC is our vendor for BVD testing. We should ask for an article from DDC and perhaps consider adding something about pooled specimens for testing. Controlling the Spread by Dr. Pat Long appears accurate but we should ask Pat to review to see if he thinks an update is necessary. Bonnie will check with Pat. BVD Virus – A Newly Recognized Health Problem by Nancy Carr MD and Susy Carmen DVM. This was published in Alpacas Magazine in Summer 2005. It seems to be good information, but it is old. There is not much research going on that we are aware of or more recent published articles per Signe. Signe will check with her colleagues to see if anyone knows of research going on. In Australia they are seeing BVD transmitted from cattle to alpacas.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 Traceability Regulations/Premises and Location Identification and Microchip Requirements: Colorado requires Premises ID if you have livestock, which includes alpacas, and they require 840 microchips or 840 RFID tags for alpacas to be imported. Wisconsin was the first state to mandate livestock premises registration for anyone keeping livestock, which included alpacas. Different states have different requirements, and New Mexico is willing to grandfather old microchips if you call. Premise ID is usually easy to get, and 840 chips require a premise ID. Bonnie will draft an eblast for review and discussion so that our members are informed, and will include that you can add microchip number to the ARI certificate at any time.

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5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 8/12/2024: Signe made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Derrick. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be held on 10/14/2024.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter