Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES January 13, 2025

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

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston (absent)

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley and Robin Gifford

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Membership renewal is underway and the audit has started.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is still a concern, with an increase due to migratory patterns. A new strain has been detected. Resources are being directed towards the poultry and dairy industries. Testing for alpacas will not be available unless there is a suspected herd outbreak with deaths. There is some concern about raw food being fed to pets with detection of disease in cats.
  - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is being discussed and may become a bigger issue.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Avian influenza: member expressed concern about the possibility of exposure to HPAI at shows and asked what AOA is doing about it. Recent eBlast discussed biosecurity measures that should be taken with show animals and Bonnie will write an updated eBlast with mention of bird flu. Alpacas should be reminded to re-evaluate animals before loading, especially if CVI is near end of 30 days. Exhibitors should be remined to quarantine any alpaca that appears sick before or during a show. Vet Check must be done on trailers.

- 3.2 BVD information. DDC is willing to write an article based on what we want. Bonnie will review and report back.

- **3.3** Traceability Regulations/Premises and Location Identification Draft eBlast: Bonnie has received Signe's feedback and eBlast was approved at our last meeting once Signe's input received. There is sometimes a problem with chips when two are inserted and are close together. Members should be reminded of the value in recording microchip information in the database which may assist in the identification of an alpaca.

- **3.4** Diarrhea eBlast follow up. Bonnie followed up with owner that had questions. At least one alpaca tested positive for coronavirus.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1: None.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 12/9/2024: Derrick made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Signe. Motion carried.

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6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be held on 2/10/2025.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter