Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES November 11, 2024

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

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Mike is back on the AOA board as he replaced a member who resigned, so he is our Board Liaison again. Bonnie reported that Tom Peterson has scheduling conflicts and resigned from GirCom so we will need to put out a call for new committee members. Membership renewals begin on December 1st. Membership and alpaca numbers peaked in 2005-6 and have declined since then. Starting a social media campaign. Considering options that will get members to register their alpacas. Alpacas Magazine is very expensive to produce, and it is difficult to get quality articles, so looking at options. Show fee will be increasing for the first time is many years

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - We are at the tail end of vector borne diseases as the weather is getting colder. CWD is hitting Elk in MT and is a transmissible disease.
  - USAHA Conference: Was a great opportunity to learn and to network on behalf of the alpaca industry. Report will be sent to committee members. HPAI was a big discussion. Many sheep producers expect to be leaving the business. AOA should stay engaged in the policy discussions.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Avian influenza: seems to be under control in dairies but may see an uptick in cases with bird migration.

- 3.2 BVD information. Dan reported that DDC is willing to write an article. Signe can't find anyone in the US doing research. There are some articles from 2018 -19 that might be worth posting. Bonnie reported that Pat Long reviewed his article and thought it was current. Should keep it on the website and note that the article was reviewed.

- **3.3** Traceability Regulations/Premises and Location Identification Draft eBlast: Bonnie emailed a draft eBlast to members, but not all have had time to review. There are plans for a website Interstate.livestock.com to post all information on transportation in one place, but alpacas are not currently on the list.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 Signe reported that there is a shortage of veterinarians, and some are considering a Vet PA to assist in the shortage. They would be small animal only and would not help alpaca owners as only licensed veterinarians can dispense off-label drugs. How they would be supervised has not been defined. There are many concerns with the idea.

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5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 9/09/2024: Derrick made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Signe. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be held on 12/9/2024.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter