Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES February 13, 2023

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Derrick Letsinger
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen (absent)
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: Discussing how best to update information management technology. Talking to ARF about collaboration. 840 USDA tag requirements appear to include camelids, including premise ID and tags for transport. Some states already have 840 tag requirements. Considering a show rule change to require 840 tags by 2024. Per Pat, last farm bill did not include alpacas in definition of livestock for interstate transport. Per Mike, camelids are included. Need premise ID to order 840 tags/chips. Ear tags are less expensive than microchips. Working on national show which will be in March in Denver. Annual audit underway. National Fleece Conference will be in Burlington Kentucky. New member orientation is a concept being tried.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Nothing specific to alpacas. Avian influenza still a big problem. Antibiotic use in livestock still a concern.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Website education review:
  - Derrick reviewed alpacas and genetics and breeding. Information on website would benefit from better organization so it is more streamlined. There is a lot of information on EPDs but the information is not dated, so not sure how up to date it is. Some great videos on EPD and COI and breeding. Recommend reaching out to Dr Enns to see if information needs to be updated. Some new videos are being recorded to replace some of the older videos.
  - Chris will be reviewing farm management.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 How to Increase Alpaca Registrations: Many believe registration is too expensive. Registration with microchip identifier in system might help with identification of alpacas during a disaster, or if an alpaca is stolen. Should there be different levels? You have to be a paid member to register your alpacas and to transfer them. Registration fee for gelding or non-breeders is less than for others. How well known is that? Would there be value in having a database of unregistered alpacas with some sort of identifier? Could call them *listed* vs *registered*. There might be a cost for programming the system so may have to charge a fee. How do we reach out to people, especially those who are not members of AOA.

5.0 Approval of Minutes: Pat made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/9/23; second by Derrick. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.

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- 6.2 The next meeting date will be on 3/13/2023.

- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm EDT.