



OHIO LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS BOARD

Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2011

Chairman Zehringer called the meeting to order in Auditorium A of the Bromfield Administration Building at 1:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chairman Jim Zehringer, Dr. Jerry Lahmers, Harold Dates, Jeff Wuebker, Bill Moody, Dr. Tony Forshey, Dr. Bobby Moser, Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Dominic Marchese Robert Cole and Stacey Atherton.

Board members absent: Dr. Jeff LeJeune, Dr. Leon Weaver

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the Feb. 8 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by a vote of 10-0. This vote occurred before the arrival of one board member.

Next, Chairman Zehringer provided the Chairman's Report to the board. He stated that he spent last week in Washington, D.C. at NASDA's meeting. Over 30 other directors of agriculture were in attendance, and there was a high level of interest in what is currently happening in Ohio.

Mike Bailey provided the board with a subcommittee update. Since the Feb. 8 board meeting, the TRAC met with the Beef Subcommittee on Feb. 18. Before the next board meeting, the Alpaca & Llama Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Feb. 28.

Chief Legal Counsel Bill Hopper provided a JCARR filing update. The board's proposed "General Considerations" (901:12-3) and "Disabled Livestock" (901:12-4) chapters have been filed with JCARR, and the public hearing will be held at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Seminar Room B (Room 133) on Mar. 17 at 8:30 a.m. The likely hearing date before JCARR will be on Mar. 28.

Mike Bailey informed the board that all comments that have been received via E-notification since Feb. 8 on the proposed swine (901:12-8), layers (901:12-9), broilers (901:12-10) and turkeys (901:12-10) standards have been provided to the board.

Based on the comments that have been received, Dr. Glauer recommended the following changes to the swine standards: adding "excessive" to 901:12-8-02 (B)(1); replacing "prevent" with "minimize" in 901:12-8-02 (E)(2); and adding "indoor" to 901:12-8-02 (G).

Next, Dr. Glauer led a review of draft Livestock Care Standards document, last revised on Feb. 20, beginning with section 901:12-6 "Bovine-Dairy." In the review, significant board discussion focused on the tail docking provisions of section of 901:12-6-02 (A) (3) and (4). As chair of the Dairy Subcommittee, Mr. Charles Lausin took part in the board's discussions.



During the tail docking discussion, a board member expressed concern as to whether an eventual ban of tail docking would mean that an Ohio dairy farmer was out of compliance if they purchased cattle from out of state that already had their tails docked. ODA's legal counsel responded that the care standards, as written, only pertain to the performance of the procedure of tail docking, not to possession of animals with docked tails.

Concern was also expressed over the use of the term "clean" in 901:12-6-02 (B).

Following the review of 901:12-6, Dr. Glauer next led a review of section 901:12-7 "Bovine-Beef." The Chair of the board's Beef Subcommittee, Louis Rorimer, took part in the board's discussions. Significant board discussion focused on section 901:12-7-02 (B)(2), and whether any beef producer could provide absolute protection from predators. The board also discussed whether section 901:12-7-02 (D)(2) was requiring shade at all times for cattle.

At 2:30 p.m. the board held its public comment period

Dr. Steve Boyles, a member of the Beef Subcommittee, suggested that, in section 901:12-7-02 (B)(2), the need to provide applicable "shade" for cattle is already included under the requirement that protection be offered from "adverse weather," and therefore "shade" could be removed from the section.

Ms. Lisa Daris, a consumer from Columbus, commented on the board's discussions of the dairy and beef chapters with regard of the need to provide livestock with the opportunity for exercise. She suggested the current requirement is too open-ended, and needs to be better defined. She also expressed concern with the space allowances for veal calves and layers.

Mr. Bob Cochrell, a veal producer from Wayne County and member of the Veal Subcommittee, presented the board with signed affidavits from veal farmers, which state that the farmers will exit the veal industry if the currently proposed veal standards are adopted by the board.

Mr. Jack Advent, Executive Director of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, stated that both the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association opposed the practice of tail-docking of dairy cattle.

No other public comment was provided.

Upon completion of the public comment period, the board recessed for a break. Chairman Zehringer called the board back to order at 2:51 p.m. At this time, the board continued its review of the proposed beef standards in section 901:12-7-02 (D)(2), and recommended the removal of the term "shade."

Following the review of the beef standards, the board reviewed Chapter 901:12-12 "Ovine-Sheep." The same changes that were made by the board to the beef sections 901:12-7-02 (B)(2) and 901:12-7-02 (D)(2) were made to sheep sections 901:12-12-02 (C)(2) and (F)(2). Mr. Sam Wiford, on behalf of the Sheep Subcommittee, took part in the board's discussions.



As the final review of the day, the board reviewed section 901:12-13 “Caprine-Goat.” Ms. Pat Cornell, chair of the Goat Subcommittee, took part in the board’s discussions. In the board’s review, the same changes that were made by the board to the sheep sections 901:12-12-02 (C)(2) and (F)(2) were made to the goat sections 901:12-13-02 (C)(2) and (F)(2).

By a vote of 11-0, the board requested that sections 901:12-6 (Bovine-Dairy), 901:12-7 (Bovine-Beef), 901:12-12 (Ovine-Sheep) and 901:12-13 (Caprine-Goat), as amended, move forward to the e-notification process to solicit public comment.

As the next agenda item, Mike Bailey updated the board that the next scheduled meeting will occur on Mar.1 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The agenda will focus on reviewing those e-notification comments that come in to date on sections 901:12-6, 901:12-7, 901:12-12 and 901:12-13. Also, the board will be reviewing the proposed veal standards (901:12-5) in rule form.

In preparation for that meeting, Dr. Glauer asked the board members to review where they last left off on the veal discussion at the board meeting on Nov. 2 and Nov. 16.

During members’ minute, Lisa Hamler-Fugitt thanked the various subcommittee members for really moving the process along with their hard work, and encouraged everyone to bear in mind the impact of rising food costs. Jeff Wuebker asked that copies be provided to the board of the affidavits submitted to Chairman Zehringer, and he requested that the word “draft” be removed from the euthanasia and civil penalty standards on the board’s web site. He also asked that an agenda item be discussing what the communication plan is for getting the word out on the standards.

Dominic Marchese stated that the veal subcommittee is not on board with the proposed veal standards, and that he does not want to be responsible for putting farms out of business. Harold Dates thanked the members of the Beef Subcommittee and Dairy Subcommittee for the content they put into drafting their respective sections of standards. Dr. Jerry Lahmers shared that OSU Extension has created a new position to explain the documents being created to producer groups.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

