



Newsletter



April 2004

Greetings! As we head into Spring we would like to update you on current ARPAS business.

ARPAS Exams Updated: This month the ARPAS exams were updated. If you have any exams dated before April 2004, please send them back to the ARPAS Business office, or contact arpas@assochq.org. If you need a copy of a new exam, please contact the business office.

2004 Renewal Reminder: There are still some members who have not yet paid dues for 2004. If you haven't already, please send in your 2004 membership renewal. If you need an invoice, please contact the ARPAS business office at arpas@assochq.org. If you have paid your dues for 2004, thank you very much for your support! Encourage your colleagues to become certified ARPAS members!

Continuing Education Credits (CEUs): ARPAS requires each member to carry 16 credits per year. A current list of meetings is always available on the website, www.arpas.org under "Calendar of Events". You can request an exam be given at your meeting by contacting the business office. CEU balance notifications will be sent out shortly. If you have any questions regarding a meeting, please feel free to contact Lorraine Halderman (lorrainemh@assochq.org) or Richard Frahm (rrfrahm@adelphia.net) directly.

2004 ASAS/ADSA/PSA Joint Annual Meeting: This year's annual meeting will be held on July 25-29 in St. Louis, Missouri. We hope to see you there. The website for the annual meeting is: <http://www.fass.org/2004/>. The schedule of ARPAS meetings are as follows:

Saturday, July 24, 2004	7:30 am -9 pm	Executive Committee Mtg (Adam's Mark)
Sunday, July 25, 2004	8 am - 5 pm	Governing Board Mtg (Adam's Mark)
Tuesday, July 27, 2004	12 Noon – 1 pm	Annual Business Mtg (America's Center)

ARPAS Exams will be administered at the following times in the America's Center (room numbers to be announced).

Monday, July 26, 2004	10 am - 12 Noon
Tuesday, July 27, 2004	1 pm - 3 pm
Wednesday, July 28, 2004	1 pm - 3 pm

Please check website for updated information and room assignments.

Minutes of ARPAS Meetings: The minutes of the ARPAS meetings are available for viewing on the website, www.arpas.org. The minutes of the Governing Council Teleconference on January 16, 2004 are now on the web.

ARPAS Booth at ASAS Section Meetings: The ARPAS booth was displayed and examination sessions conducted at the ASAS Southern Section Meeting, February 15-17, 2004 in Tulsa, OK and at the ASAS/ADSA Midwest Section Meeting, March 15-17, 2004 in Des Moines, IA. This is the first time in several years that the ARPAS booth was displayed at the Southern Section Meeting. There was considerable interest from people visiting the booth. ARPAS gained 13 new members and one renewal at the Southern Section Meeting and 5 new members at the Midwest Section Meeting. The booth will be on display at the ASAS/ADSA/PSA Convention in St. Louis July 26-29, 2004. Three different exam times have been scheduled.

2004/2005 Nominee Vote: Ballots were sent to the ARPAS membership last month to vote for new officers. The results were very close. We want to thank everyone who took time to vote. Congratulations to the winners:

President-Elect:

William Seymour

Northeast Section Director:

William Price

Western Section Director:

Carl Hunt

2004 Bylaw Change Vote: Proposed changes to the ARPAS bylaws were also sent out to the membership. The results of the vote are:

Yes 420

No 16



Message From The President Kenneth Cummings, Dipl. ACAN

The American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) is growing, is in good financial condition and is initiating new programs and opportunities for its members. I could stop with that fully accurate statement. For those of you who want more details, please read on.

We are about to complete our 20th year as an organization. According to our Historian, Wayne Perry, ARPAS was established as a registry in 1984. Many of you were charter members of ARPAS and you may have had doubts as to whether it would survive. ARPAS has not only survived, but grown into an organization of almost 1400 members, recognized by other entities as **the** certification organization for professional animal scientists.

This recognition has evolved into discussions and eventual business relationships with other organizations. In 2003, we reached an agreement with United Egg Producers to provide auditors for their member facilities. Also in 2003, we entered into discussions with the National Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) regarding new opportunities for professional animal scientist in nutrient management. We have recently been informed by NCRS that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is imminent. If this happens, ARPAS will be involved in certification of the animal scientist required to develop and implement the animal components of these nutrient management plans. This will provide opportunities for our current members and provide a vehicle for growth of our membership. Dick Frahm, your Executive-VP, will cover the proposed formation of Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization, Inc. (PAACO) in his portion of this newsletter.

ARPAS is in a healthy financial condition. We are building some reserves while continuing to spend development dollars on new programs such as those mentioned in the above paragraph. The financial impact of the sponsors program, initiated by Bill Baumgardt, has made a great deal of difference in your dues structure while allowing us to invest in these future endeavors.

Your Governing Council met (by phone) in January for our regularly scheduled mid-year meeting. The minutes of this meeting are posted on the website and I encourage you to read them for additional details of ARPAS business.

As I write this newsletter, I am awaiting the results of the ballot you recently received for election of President-Elect, Western Section Representative and changes to the by-laws. This organization runs well because of people who care. I encourage you to get involved. Committee assignments will soon be made by your President-Elect, Larry Chase and you can help him by volunteering in advance for one of these assignments.

Another important position that will be filled by mid-year is that of Historian. Dr. Wayne Perry has resigned, effective at the conclusion of our annual meeting in St. Louis (July 27). Wayne has been Historian for the past eleven years. He has been on the Governing Council in some capacity since the founding of ARPAS. We can never fully replace Wayne but I am receptive to hearing from those willing to be considered for ARPAS Historian.

We look forward to seeing each of you at the annual meeting. Thanks for allowing me to serve as your president.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Richard R. Frahm; Ph.D., PAS, Dipl. ACAG

I will use this space to bring you up to date on the involvement of ARPAS in the rapidly developing interest in third party animal welfare audits of animal production units. There appears to be a growing interest and concern by the public in being assured that the animal products they are purchasing have been produced under appropriate conditions for the welfare of the animals. This is being manifest in many ways. Major corporations are putting specific requirements on their suppliers. For example, McDonalds had a major impact by requiring their suppliers to follow recommended procedures regarding the "humane slaughter of animals". Other corporations in the restaurant and retail industry, individually and collectively, are requiring their suppliers to place emphasis on animal welfare guidelines in their animal production units. Consequently, most of the major animal producer organizations have developed some guidelines regarding appropriate care and management of animals that considers the welfare of the animals. It is very important that these guidelines as they continue to evolve and develop, be science based and also have appropriate consideration given to economic realities.

It appears that producers of animal products are increasingly becoming aware of the need to give appropriate attention to animal welfare, and are generally accepting the reality that on-farm animal care audits are inevitable. The process by which on-farm animal welfare auditors are qualified, trained and certified is certainly an open question. There are several groups that are interested in making sure that the emerging animal welfare auditors have appropriate professional expertise and training to objectively apply science based standards in conducting the audits. Two professions, Animal Scientists and Veterinarians, are highly qualified regarding the scientific basis for appropriate care and management of animals. Animal Scientists and Veterinarians, who receive additional training regarding auditing principles and procedures and species specific animal welfare guidelines, should be exceptionally well qualified animal welfare auditors.

Discussions were initiated in Phoenix last June involving ARPAS, Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS), American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV), and American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP). Dr. John McGlone, Texas Tech University, was heavily involved in facilitating this discussion. Also involved with later discussions was John Miller, a DVM with AAALAC International. After numerous discussion it was proposed that these four organizations jointly form a not for profit organization called the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization, Inc. (PAACO).

The mission statement of PAACO is: The purpose of this organization is to promote the humane treatment of animals through education and certification of animal auditors, and to promote the profession of animal auditors. PAACO will be governed by its own Board of Directors, which will be appointed by the four founding members. Each member will appoint 3 Directors to serve a three year term. Directors will be staggered so one-third are replaced each year. PAACO will operate under the oversight of the four founding members. The Governing Council approved ARPAS involvement with forming PAACO at its January 16, 2004 mid-year teleconference. Bylaws have been developed for PAACO and the application for incorporation as a not for profit corporation has been filed in the state of Illinois.

Procedural and operational details of PAACO will be developed by its Board of Directors. The primary reason that ARPAS was approached to become a part of this concept was to be the

certification body. As discussions proceeded, some argued that PAACO should be the certification body. The ARPAS position was that it was appropriate for ARPAS to be the certification body, and everyone certified by ARPAS would also be a member of ARPAS. This position was not acceptable to AASV and AABP. As a compromise it was agreed that ARPAS would administer and grade the animal welfare auditor certification exam. For an Animal Scientist to become certified as an animal welfare auditor, they must be an ARPAS member with specialization in the species for which auditor certification is requested, take the required training, and pass the auditor certification exam. Successful Animal Scientist applicants will be certified animal welfare auditors by both ARPAS and PAACO. Of course, a Veterinarian may also choose this path to become an animal welfare auditor. A Veterinarian, who chooses not to become a member of ARPAS, may apply for certification as an animal welfare auditor. This person would have to provide evidence of their professional expertise with the species being applied for (guidelines for this will be developed by the PAACO Board). These applicants will take the same training and exam as the Animal Scientist applicants. The exam will be administered and graded by ARPAS for a fee (to be negotiated). Those who pass will be certified as an animal welfare auditor by PAACO.

PAACO, if successful, represents a broad based approach that facilitates the involvement of Animal Scientists and Veterinarians in providing appropriate professional expertise for conducting on-farm animal welfare audits that will be respected by both the public and animal producers. This should represent a viable alternative for dealing with this complex societal issue.

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**From President-Elect
Larry E. Chase, Ph.D., PAS**

The Future of Board Certification in ARPAS

One benefit of ARPAS membership is the opportunity to become Board Certified in a specific discipline. Currently, there are 5 colleges that offer this certification. These are applied animal behavior science, food science, genetics, nutrition and physiology. Current membership in these colleges ranges from about 5 to 200.

The addition of the colleges to ARPAS was a move in the right direction. This process was initiated in 1995. Thus, this seems to be a good time to examine how this process has worked and how it can be enhanced in the future. A subcommittee consisting of Larry Chase and the college presidents has been formed to look into this situation. The goal is to have a report from this committee at the annual meeting in St. Louis. Our goal, as an organization, should be to find ways to assist in the continued development and growth of these colleges. There may also be additional disciplines defined which could be come a college.

Your input to this process is encouraged. Your response to the following questions would be appreciated:

- Are you a member of one of the current colleges?
- If so, which college?
- If not, why have you not considered becoming a member of one of the colleges?
- Do you have suggestions as to how we can strengthen and improve the college structure within ARPAS?

Any additional comments or input would be welcome. Please send any responses to Dr. Larry E. Chase at lec7@cornell.edu.

Thanks for your help!

**From the *Professional Animal Scientist* Editor
Lowell L. Wilson, Ph.D., PAS**

We continue to enjoy submission of an increasing number of manuscripts. Although we emphasize manuscripts that review important contemporary problems of our industry, we welcome original research, case study, and technical note manuscripts. We can receive manuscripts as hard copies or electronically (llw@psu.edu).

We are also requesting suggestions for changes in the Instructions for Contributors (Style and Form); please forward any questions or suggestions regarding PASJ style and format to me (llw@psu.edu).

We are requesting volunteers to serve on the PASJ Editorial Board. Persons interested in serving on the Editorial Board are asked to submit resumes and complete address, phone, and email information. Most members of the Editorial Board are requested to review 3 to 6 manuscripts annually, with a 30-day review period. We have been very fortunate that most members of our Editorial Board review and return manuscripts in a timely and thorough manner. Again, we thank the authors, reviewers, PASJ Governing Council, and the PASJ/FASS staff for their respective roles in the improvements in the *Professional Animal Scientist*.

From Kenneth E. Olson, Ph.D., PAS
ARPAS – UEP Audit Update

Last year was the first year that ARPAS served as a Coordinator to the United Egg Producers (UEP) Animal Care Certified audit program. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service was the other organization authorized by UEP to provide auditors for their program.

During the past year a total of seventeen (17) ARPAS members were certified to serve as “Animal Welfare Auditor-Poultry.” Our auditors represented a combination of individuals who already were ARPAS members and others who joined to take advantage of this new opportunity.

The UEP program is going quite well, with companies who produce over 80% of the shell eggs in the country signed up to be a part of the program. You can find egg cartons that carry the “Animal Care Certified” logo in stores all over the country. Last year ARPAS provided audit service for 21 companies. We would certainly like to have done more, but USDA has better name recognition that we do. ARPAS auditors did an excellent job last year and this word does get around within the industry. We do know of several additional companies who plan to request ARPAS services for this round of audits. We are asked not to advertise directly with the companies, but ARPAS members are certainly encouraged to help make layer companies aware of our services if you have an opportunity to interact with them. We do have a brochure posted on the website that you can use for this purpose. You can find it if you click on **UEP Audit – Company – Brochure**. We distributed this at the International Poultry Expo in Atlanta and through the UEP meetings, but your help in further distribution would be appreciated.

Changes for 2004

Companies participating in the UEP Animal Care Certified program are required to have a yearly third-party audit to verify their compliance with the UEP Animal Care Guidelines. There were a few changes to this year’s program that resulted in delaying the start of the audits until May.

The following are some of the changes that are incorporated into this year’s program:

- Increase in minimum space per bird. As a part of the phase in of the space requirements, white egg layers hatched after October 1, 2003 are required to have 59 sq. in per bird and brown egg layers 66 sq. in. These values are up from 56 and 63 sq. in for birds hatched after April 1, 2002. The space figures continue to be on a “house average” basis.
- Last year all facilities of a company were to be visited as a part of the audit. Since all of these facilities were found to be in compliance at that time, we will now randomly select 50% of a company’s facilities to be included in this year’s audits, with a minimum of two facilities for a company.
- Working with USDA a statistically valid sampling process has been developed to verify that a facility is truly meeting the space requirement at the 90% confidence level.
- Ammonia and light monitoring are more clearly defined.
- “Certificates of Conformance” for custom services are being used that provides more documentation of what has been done.
- Additional checks have been established for shell eggs purchased from “non-certified” companies to assure that all egg packaged as “Animal Care Certified” in fact are.

In addition to these program changes, participating companies are required to participate in a public relations program to inform consumers of what the industry is doing.

In preparation for the upcoming audits we have been updating forms and developing additional training material for new auditors. We will have a limited number of new auditors. Training sessions on animal care, the auditing process and the UEP program are being scheduled. Presentations that focus on the program changes have been developed for our experienced auditors. These will be covered in upcoming conference call training sessions that will have us set to go with this round of audits.

I did mention that the program has been well received. Other species have taken note of this and are expressing interest in having auditors with the credibility offered by ARPAS working with programs that they are developing. The demand for audits, for a variety of purposes, is expected to continue to increase. ARPAS may want to continue to explore the role the organization wished to play in this arena.

As always, we appreciate hearing from members, whether it be questions, concerns, or suggestions. Please let us know if we can be of assistance to you.

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Co-Editor

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