



April Newsletter

APRIL 19, 2006

APRIL 2006

News & Updates

2005-2006 ARPAS Governing Council

President:
Will Seymour

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Wayne Greene

Exec Vice-President:
Dick Frahm

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Larry Chase

Secretary:
Randy Shaver

Treasurer:
Keith Lusby

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Lowell Wilson

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Harold Radloff

Midwest Director:
Dwain Bunting

Northeast Director:
Bill Price

Southern Director:
Darrell Johnson

Western Director:
Carl Hunt

CA Chapter Rep:
Nick Ohanesian

2006 ARPAS Governing Council Meeting:

The 2006 Governing Council Meeting will be held on July 9, 2006 from 8-5 in conjunction with the ADSA/ASAS Joint Meeting in Minneapolis, MN.

2006 ARPAS Business Meeting:

The 2006 ARPAS Business Meeting will be held Tuesday, July 11, 2006 from 12:30-2 in Room 101-J of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

2006 ARPAS Symposium:

The ARPAS Symposium, "Assessment and Management of Feedstuff Variation in Dairy Nutrition," is schedule for Wednesday, July 12 at 10:30 AM in room 101 H-I of the Minneapolis Convention Center. Please see the Joint ADSA/ASAS Meeting Program for symposium details.

2006 Governing Council Mid-year Conference Call Minutes:

The minutes from the 2006 Governing Council conference call are available on the web at http://www.arpas.org/2006_Mid-Year_Minutes.pdf

2006 Governing Council Elections:

The ballots for the 2006 Governing Council Elections went out the week of April 10. Ballots must be postmarked by May 12, 2006 to have your vote counted. The nominees this year are:

President-Elect:

- Mich Etchebarne
- Darrell Johnson

Midwest Director:

- Bill Braman
- Dave Casper

Southern Director:

- Rich Bennek
- Warren Gill

Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Information:

You can now enter your User ID and name on www.arpas.org and view the balance of your CEUs. Once you have logged in, you will see a message about "Current CEUs". The number listed is the most current CEU balance and will update when the Business Office enters CEUs in the

database. Please contact Lisa Hamilton (lisah@assoqh.org or 217-356-5390) with questions.

Have you visited the approved meetings list yet on the ARPAS website? Visit http://www.arpas.org/member.asp?view=ceu_meetings to view a list of meetings with CEU approval. The list continues to grow, so be sure to check back.

Having Trouble Getting ARPAS CEU Credits?

L. E. Chase – Cornell University

Each year ARPAS members are required to obtain a minimum of 16 continuing education credits to maintain certification. There have been reports that some members have trouble obtaining these credits. A key reason for this may be attending meetings that should qualify for ARPAS CEU credits but the organizers didn't submit the program to ARPAS for prior approval.

There are a number of ways that you can assist in resolving this issue. The first step is to go to the ARPAS web page (www.arpas.org) and look at the approved meetings listed under Membership Services. Check the meetings you have attended to see if they are on the list. As you look at this list, note the types of meetings included. These include nutrition conferences but also many other types of meetings. The second step is to encourage meeting organizers to submit the program for approval of CEU credits prior to the actual event. The detailed program (speakers, topics, times) should be sent to Lisa Hamilton (lisah@assoqh.org) or Dick Frahm (rrfrahm@adelphia.net) for approval.

Some meeting organizers may not be aware of the procedure to be followed in obtaining approval to provide ARPAS CEUs. They may appreciate your input and guidance on this aspect of the meeting planning process. If we all work together on this, I feel most ARPAS members will have adequate opportunities to obtain their certification credits each year.

Did You Know?

Complementary subscriptions to the Professional Animal Scientist Journal are offered to academic departments focused on any aspect of animal science. Currently 45 departments throughout the country are participating in this program – are you? If you aren't participating and would like to, the complimentary subscription request form is available on the ARPAS web site.

Horse Protection Act Information

Don Henneke, Ph.D., PAS brings to the attention of the ARPAS membership that the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce committee is being pressured to take up consideration on Congressman John Sweeney's H.R. 503, to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the processing of horses. Persons who want to comment on this bill should contact Crystal Bryant at cbryant@texascattleraisers.org or call (817) 332-7064.

Message from the Publications Committee:

The Publications Committee, with the help of Lisa Hamilton and Dick Frahm, have put this newsletter together and hope it provides important and interesting information on ARPAS activities and the accomplishment of ARPAS members. We are continually looking for short articles on member accomplishments and activities ARPAS members should know about. If you would like to contribute, please contact Bill Price at bill.price@fda.hhs.gov, any of the committee members listed below, or Lisa Hamilton (lisah@assochq.org). We are still looking for ARPAS members to serve on the Publications Committee, particularly from the Southeast and Midwest regions. If you are interested, please let Will Seymour or Bill Price know.

Publications Committee Members:

Bill Price, Dipl. ACAN, NE Director & Chair (bill.price@fda.hhs.gov)

Barbara Barton, Dipl. ACAN (barbara.barton@monsanto.com)

Karin Bump, PAS (kbump@cazenovia.edu)

Kris Johnson, PAS (johnsoka@wsu.edu)

Lawson Spicer, Dipl. ACAN (lsphd7940@aol.com)

Message from the ARPAS President:

Will Seymour, Dipl. ACAN

The 2005-2006 ARPAS year continues to present us with opportunities to strengthen the organization and its value to members. I appreciate the many contributions of our officers, our regional and committee directors, Dick Frahm, Lisa Hamilton and all of the members who have been willing to serve ARPAS in some capacity this year. As with any professional organization, our strength is our membership. We need to continue to work toward growing our membership and increasing the sense of belonging and participation by individual ARPAS members. Regional ARPAS chapters, conferences and activities are a great means to this end. Please take part in regional ARPAS continuing education events and if your region does not sponsor any, think seriously about getting together with a 2-3 other members and starting something.

The governing council had a productive mid-year telephone conference call the minutes of which will be available to members on the web site and at the annual business meeting in July at the ADSA/ASAS meetings. While I will not review the entire conference call a few topics and happenings are well worth noting.

Membership

There has been a successful membership renewal drive led by our ED Dick Frahm and Lisa Hamilton with support from the executive committee. A targeted letter campaign was launched early this year aimed at lapsed members. This year, in addition to members with unpaid renewals, letters have gone out to members who have failed to report the required number of annual CEU over the past 1-3 years. This is essential to maintaining our professional integrity as 16 hours of CEU credit are a requirement for continued PAS certification. Continuing education is an essential element of all professional certification organizations and is to be taken seriously.

FASS

We are continuing to work with Dr. Jerry Baker, FASS CEO, in strengthening our relationship with FASS, who provide ARPAS with professional management services including the publication of the Professional Animal Scientist (PAS) journal, one of our true success stories. With Dr. Baker's help, we are making good progress in this area. A new memorandum of understanding was signed between ARPAS and FASS in February.

Article in Feedstuffs

The Ethics Committee, and specifically Dr. Dwain Bunting, have published an excellent article in Feedstuffs on the role of professional ethics in agricultural consulting as it relates to ARPAS membership and certification. Thanks Dwain!

ARPAS Colleges Reorganization

The governing council has been deliberating over the last two years on future policy and organization of the ARPAS Colleges. Several of the colleges lack a critical mass of membership to make them viable as separate entities within ARPAS. Dr. Ken Cummings, past president and one of the founders of the College of Animal Nutrition has volunteered to lead a committee that is evaluating the options for reorganizing the colleges. Decisions are expected to be made at our annual meeting in July. Please send Ken any ideas or thoughts that you may have on this important issue.

PAACO

ARPAS continues its founding membership in PAACO (Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization). The PAACO board met in January and achieved some progress in establishing standards for animal welfare audits and auditors. PAACO sponsored an auditor training program for beef and swine processing plant auditors in February under the leadership of Dr. Temple Grandin with participation by Dr. Angela Baysinger of PAACO and other industry professionals. While PAACO certification is aimed primarily at on-farm audits of animal welfare, participation in this training program gave the organization some visibility in the industry and is seen as a lead in toward training programs for on-farm auditors. PAACO has received founding donations from Pfizer and Elanco who will play an advisory role. Additional financial support is being solicited from the industry. Members of PAACO include ARPAS, FASS, AABP, AASV and AAAP (American Association of Avian Pathologists).

NRCS National Feed Management Education Program

ARPAS will continue to work with this multi-state program which is led by Dr. Joe Harrison of Washington State University and funded by NRCS. We are working with the project team to develop an educational program and certifying exam for the feeding management component of Certified Nutrient Management Plans. ARPAS would manage the exam and certification portion and PAS status would presumably be required in order to qualify to receive the feeding management certification.

ARPAS Business Meeting and ARPAS Symposium at 2006 ADSA/ASAS Meeting

Please plan to attend the ARPAS annual business meeting and the ARPAS Symposium during the 2006 ADSA/ASAS meetings July 9-13 in Minneapolis, MN. The business meeting is planned for Tuesday July 11 from 12:30 am to 1 pm and the ARPAS Symposium, "Assessment and Management of Feedstuff Variation in Dairy Nutrition" will be held Wednesday morning July 12 from 10:30 am to 12:50 pm. Please plan to

attend.

From the Executive Vice President:
Richard R. Frahm, PhD, PAS, Dipl Animal Genetics

Board Certification is an important program of ARPAS. However, it has not realized its full potential. Board Certification is the highest level of recognition for professional competency and expertise awarded by ARPAS. Board Certification is awarded to qualified professionals in five disciplines: Behavioral Science, Food Science, Genetics, Nutrition, and Physiology. Full members of ARPAS who have completed a M. S. or higher degree in one of the Animal Sciences with emphasis on the appropriate discipline are eligible to apply for Board Certification. The Board Certification program is administered through independent Colleges that were established for the respective disciplines. Each College established criteria, approved by the Governing Council, to be Board Certified in that discipline.

Unlike ARPAS membership, the number of ARPAS members that are Board Certified has been declining. There are currently 262 Board Certified members as follows: Behavioral Science, 5; Food Science, 13; Genetics, 15; Nutrition, 185; and Physiology, 21. Clearly, the only discipline that has been successful under the independent College organizational structure has been the College of Nutrition. We congratulate the College of Nutrition on its leadership and success. However, even in the successful College of Nutrition, the number of members is declining. Membership in the College of Nutrition has been as high as 238, as compared with its current membership of 185.

During the past few years there has been growing concern among members of the Governing Council by the gradual erosion of the Board Certification program. Ad hoc committees have been investigating the situation the past two years. The most recent committee, co-chaired by Kenneth Cummings and Bob Wettemann, suggested to the Governing Council at last summers meeting that consideration should be given to restructuring the Board Certification program. They also recommended that the five Colleges be consolidated into a single administrative entity. No action was taken by the Governing Council at that time.

A few months ago an inquiry was received from a university faculty member that was interested in becoming Board Certified. We did not have any record in ARPAS Headquarters as to who should be contacted to administer this application. A few inquiries failed to reveal the current leadership for that College. A letter was sent to all members of that College to learn who had an application form and exam. There were no responses to this inquiry! This shocking result clearly emphasized there are indeed serious problems with the Board Certification program, and there is considerable urgency in finding ways to revitalize the program.

Kenneth Cummings and Bob Wettemann formed a committee with representation from each of the Colleges. The issues were discussed in a conference call earlier this spring. Unanimous agreement was reached that indeed there was an urgent need to restructure the program. General agreement was reached that the five Colleges should be merged into a single administrative unit that is more closely aligned with the Governing Council. Bob Wettemann and Dale Hill volunteered to prepare a detailed proposal to submit to the committee for further consideration. The committee fully expects to submit a detailed plan to restructure the Board Certification program for consideration by the Governing Council at this summer's meeting in Minneapolis. Anyone with suggestions or comments is encouraged to submit them to the committee. We certainly appreciate the leadership being provided by Kenneth Cummings (Ken.Cummings@churchdwright), Bob Wettemann (rpw@okstate.edu) and Dale Hill (dale_hill@admworld.com) on this issue.

The restructuring being envisioned will certainly make the program more efficient and effective to administer. A successful revitalization of the Board Certification program will also require a renewed commitment by the ARPAS membership. Collectively, we need to market this program to ARPAS members as well as the public we serve. Board Certification in a discipline should be a valued and

recognized academic credential. All qualified ARPAS members should seriously consider applying for this recognition. Employers should prefer to hire employees that are Board Certified.

Board Certification is an important ARPAS program that is in critical need of being revitalized. With the committed support of the ARPAS Governing Council and membership it can be achieved. Failure to do so would not be good for ARPAS.

Use of ARPAS Species Exams as an Assessment Tool for Undergraduate Students:

Carl W. Hunt, PAS, Professor & Interim Dept Head, Univ of ID.

As a means of assessing our undergraduate teaching performance, The Animal and Veterinary Science Department at the University of Idaho began administering ARPAS species exams to graduating seniors in 1999. While other assessment tools were not (and still are not) readily available, we considered the ARPAS exams to be an excellent assessment tool to measure the potential for our students to succeed in animal agricultural career positions. Specifically, we appreciated the species exams as we felt that all students should acquire some level of competence in at least one species of their choosing. Also, we appreciate the fact that the exam is an external exam, comprised of questions submitted largely by industry professionals; we were not interested in testing the success of our students against our own exam questions. Consequently, we are in our seventh year of administering ARPAS exams to our graduating seniors with plans to continue this participation.

At some point during each semester I ask for time during our "Senior Seminar" course to educate students on ARPAS, particularly the importance of receiving certification for an area of expertise. Later in the semester I contact all seniors on the graduation list and arrange a time to take the test of their chosen specie. I indicate that taking the test is a "graduation requirement", but in reality it is optional as it is not a requirement of a course. As a result we now administer 15 to 20 exams per semester which represents approximately 75 percent of our graduating seniors. The Department pays the exam fee of \$25 per exam, but it is the responsibility of the student to submit their academic transcripts if they pass the exam and wish to follow through to become certified. ARPAS subsequently informs us of which students passed and which students failed the exam.

As an assessment tool, the ARPAS exam has provided the department with important information. First, we have become assured that our students are generally well prepared at the completion of their undergraduate education. Students who do not pass the exam are almost always those who have struggled in our courses. Averaged across individual semesters, our students' passing rate has ranged from just less than 50 percent to greater than 85 percent. Furthermore, passing rate of exams for our "signature species" (beef and dairy) is usually greater than 80 percent but it is much lower for other species, namely sheep and horse. The passing rate was rather low for our students taking the sheep exam over three consecutive testing periods. This gave the instructor of our senior-level sheep production course cause to realign the type of information presented in the course. Initial indications are that this realignment has resulted in improved performance on the sheep exam. This is an excellent example of how the ARPAS exam can be used to assess and improve the undergraduate curriculum.

Inherent deficiencies of the exams as an assessment tool result from the need for confidentiality. The ARPAS office can only provide our department with the names of who passed and who failed. We are not given actual scores for individual students and we do not know the score that was required to pass the test. Therefore, the difference between pass and fail might only have been the difference of a single right or wrong answer, however that information is not available to us. Further, there is a general lack of benchmarks for the exams as the national average pass rate for each exam is not made public. Despite these deficiencies, we regard the ARPAS exams as an excellent assessment tool and we

plan to continue to participate in the program.

As a side benefit I feel the ARPAS exam provides a method to expose the undergraduate student to the world of professional animal agriculture. When I scan the national ARPAS membership list, I see names of some of our students who have maintained their membership. This has provided me with a sense of pride and accomplishment. You are welcome to contact me at chunt@uidaho.edu if you have questions or comments.

The Value of Professional Certification:
A View from the Academic Field
Karin D. Bump, PAS

I still clearly remember Dr. Gary Potter addressing the members of the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society (ENPS – now known as the Equine Science Society or ESS) during a long past symposium meeting regarding the newly formed ARPAS association and the value of our group joining forces with it. His message seemed clear - beyond the personal value of professional certification was another value - one that provided an external audience with some sort of 'proof' of professional expertise. While some might feel that this is the role of college degrees and other university based accolades, society has now accepted a notion that more is needed. Perhaps this is because college education that was once reserved for the elite is now for the masses. College degrees no longer serve the kind of professional stratification vehicle they once did. College degrees are more common, and the rate of achieving advanced degrees continues to excel in the United States. What else can professionals due then to stand out in some way as having achieved something 'above and beyond' that which might now be commonly found in a field? Professional certification is one way to achieve this.

Colleges and universities today more frequently turn to external certification through accreditation vehicles than in the past. Certainly it has long been recognized that quality institutions of higher education are 'accredited' by some nationally recognized body. In more recent times, many academic disciplines have created academic based accrediting organizations that serve a similar role. And, in the case of ARPAS, more and more professional fields are creating accreditation vehicles through professional certification. All of these have at least one common purpose - to share with the world that a college, an academic program, or an individual has achieved a high level of competence and is worthy of that being acknowledge by someone, or some organization, on 'the outside'. As an elected member of my home institutions rank and tenure committee and a past participant in program evaluation committees, the questions of accreditation and certification are now commonly raised. Is the program a faculty member teaches in accredited by an outside agency? Is the individual a member of a professional organization that grants certification? Does this faculty member hold any professional certifications or licenses? It is expected that a new faculty member will have the appropriate degrees for hiring purposes; seeking and receiving ARPAS certification is a way of demonstrating that a faculty member has gone a step beyond this.

Certainly it would be remiss to not point out that external certifying and accrediting bodies have often faced a host of accusations and disgruntled comments. These often revolve around a concern of quality within an accrediting organization. Some organizations are seen as being more interested in generating dollars than enhancing professional development.

Some are viewed as nothing more than 'old boy's networks'. And, some are seen as simply granting accreditation rather than requiring that some real form of professional evaluation be held. I think we can all take much pride that ARPAS does not bring with it these concerns. This is an organization based on sound principles of professional expertise and ethics. There are real evaluations and not everyone passes the ARPAS examination - even if they stand ready to pay the membership fee to join. And, once you earn certification you must be committed to professional development and earn CEU credits in an ongoing manner.

As we encounter our colleagues in the academic field, APRAS accreditation and membership is something we can share as a vehicle for professional development and recognition. Not everyone knows of us and graduate students, new faculty, and long serving faculty can benefit from learning about us and considering sitting for an examination to become part of this association. I anticipate that the weight of professional certification and accreditation will continue to rise across our campuses and ARPAS can serve as important balance in providing credit for recognition of professional competence by an 'outside' organization.

The Center for Feed Industry Research and Education:

Bill Price, Dipl. ACAN

The Center for Feed Industry Research and Education (CFIRE) was established at Texas Tech University in 1996 with a mission to serve as a linkage for research, education, and public service for the animal feed industry in Texas and the nation. The primary goal of CFIRE is to provide a center of excellence for addressing research and continuing education needs in feed related areas and to better prepare undergraduate and graduate students for careers in this industry. Professor C. Reed Richardson, the Center's Director, though not an ARPAS member himself, has promoted professionalism for animal scientists and encouraged his students to join ARPAS. Some M.S. and Ph. D. students who have worked with CFIRE and are ARPAS members include Tyler C. Bramble, Bradley S. Clyburn, Alioune Gueye, Dennis L. Holthaus, Melissa A. Johnson, Jeffery H. Mikus, Gregory V. Pollard, Greg B. Salyer, Kelly J. Sanders, Steve M. Swift and Kenneth F. Wilson.

2006 High Plains Dairy Conference Review:

Barbara Barton, Dipl. ACAN

The 2006 High Plains Dairy Conference was held March 16-17, 2006 in Albuquerque, NM. The conference focused on issues of interest to High Plains dairy producers and the industries that support them. The geographic area covered dairies in the states of Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Arizona, and Colorado. The meeting web site is www.highplainsdairy.org. The site lists the 2006 conference agenda, conferences resources, and a link to the complete proceedings from this year's conference.

Topics covered at the meeting included:

Dairy facilities in the High Plains,
Heat stress audits of dairy cows,
Milking center procedures, mastitis control, and high quality milk,
Producer panel discussed managing dry lots for inclement weather,
Rumen microbial protein production

Silage density measurements
Feedlot consultant perspective on feeding and milling,
Feed efficiency for dairies,
Maximizing bull calf value,
Systematic breeding programs,
Management strategies to improve fertility
Cow behavior and implications for housing and management
Salmonella and Hemorrhagic Bowel Syndrome,
Water resources and water quality and nutrition
Role of nutrition in udder health

The meeting is planned to be held on an every other year format – next in 2008. This year's meeting had 270 registered participants. Dr. John Smith, Co-chair of the planning committee, welcomed any input from participants on future conference location, speakers, etc.

Southwest Nutrition and Management Conference Review **Lawson Spicer, Dipl. ACAN**

The 21st annual conference held in Tempe Arizona, emphasized protein (amino acids) with a pre-conference by Degussa Corporation. Other topics covered were on air quality, silages, corn milling co-products and heat stress. Most of protein and amino acid presentations were on dairy with some beef cattle information.

Alan Bell from Cornell discussed amino acid metabolism. He stated that it is difficult to determine amino acid requirements for optimal muscle deposition due to the problems in predicting the quality and composition of absorbed amino acids.

Clint Loest from New Mexico State University stated that diets are formulated to supply protein amounts that may exceed specific amino acid requirements for production. Although additional protein supplementation may improve production, it is neither cost effective nor environmentally friendly. Methods may be developed to balance diets that supply optimal amino acid profiles such that inefficient protein utilization is minimized.

Keith Bolsen, professor emeritus from Kansas State University, discussed possible causes and solutions for 10 common silage problems. One problem is increased runoff from wet silage. The seepage runoff has a high biochemical oxygen demand and should be contained near the point of origin.

Paul Kononoff from the University of Nebraska discussed the differences in corn gluten feed and corn distillers. Corn gluten feed may range from 16% to 25% crude protein (CP) and 100% - 108% the energy value of dry rolled corn. With greater nutritional values, corn distillers ranges from 25% to 35% Cp and 120% - 150% energy value of dry rolled corn.

Andy Cole from the USDA, Busland Texas station updated recent protein research in beef diets and the dietary impact on ammonia emissions. The research work suggests the protein requirement for optimum gain is about 13%. Decreasing protein decreased ammonia losses by 30% but also decreased gain by 3.5%.

Brent Auvermann from the Texas agricultural experiment station in Amarillo discussed recent developments in air quality from dairies and feed-yards. Two major airborne constituents of regulatory concern nationwide are ammonia (NH₃) and particulate matter. Of concern in California are reactive volatile organic compounds (RVOC). Innovative measures to reduce emission rates and downwind concentrations of particulate matter and gasses from feed yards and dairies have been proposed, but broad implementation will require financial incentives and will increase the use of scarce water and fuel resources.

Meeting Review: PDHGA Tenth National Conference

Barbara Barton, Dipl. ACAN

The Tenth National Dairy Calf and Heifer Conference sponsored by the Professional Dairy Heifer Growers Association (PDHGA) was held in Visalia, CA on March 22-24, 2006. The meeting involved a pre-conference forum on March 21st entitled: **A Proactive Dairy Industry**. It included presentations on issues related to environmental assessments and audits, farm animal welfare audits, practical applications for identification and management of biological risks, and a calf rancher's perspective on bio-security and animal ID. There was a separate proceedings for this section of the conference.

The main conference was held March 22 – 23 and featured presentations on: marketing the dairy industry in the 21st century, business and employee management, media relations, the current status of immigration reform, new technologies (embryo transplant, gender-enriched semen, and new uses for immune proteins), feeding and management of the new born and transition calf, heifer management and breeding, diagnostics for calf diseases, colostrum management and on farm pasteurizing of milk. The last day of the meeting involved tours of local dairy operations. There was also an extensive trade show along with the meeting, with approximately 70 exhibitors.

The proceedings can be ordered at the www.pdhga.org. The PDHGA can also be contacted at: *Professional Dairy Heifer Growers Association*, 16020 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 300, Chesterfield, MO 63017, Ph. (636) 449-5077, Fax (636) 449-5051. The conference was approved for up to 17 continuing education credits for ARPAS members.

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We're on the Web!

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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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