



American
Registry of
Professional
Animal
Scientists

April Newsletter

APRIL 13, 2007

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2006-2007 ARPAS Governing Council

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News & Updates

2007 ARPAS Governing Council Meeting:

The Governing Council has decided to meet again in conjunction with the Joint Meeting of ADSA, ASAS, PSA and AMPA. The 2007 Joint Meeting will be held July 8-12 in San Antonio, TX. The Governing Council meeting is set for Sunday, July 8, 2006 from 8-5.

2007 ARPAS Business Meeting:

The 2007 ARPAS Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10 from 12:30 – 2:00 at the Harry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in downtown San Antonio, TX. If you will be at the meetings, please plan on attending. Check the program for specific room assignments.

Updated Exams:

Someone in your office not an ARPAS member? Encourage them to take the ARPAS certification exam. Any current ARPAS member can administer exams. Exams are updated bi-annually. The next update is scheduled for April 2007. Please contact the business office at (217) 356-5390 or arpas@assochoq.org with exam requests and questions.

2007 Elections:

Ballots and Biographies for the 2007 Governing Council election will be mailed out shortly. Up for election this year are President-Elect, Northeast Director and Western Director. Please take a few moments to read over the bios provided and cast your vote. Ballots must be postmarked by May 18, 2007.

CEU Approval:

As we enter another busy meeting season, we want to encourage you to start thinking about the 2007 CEU requirement. All Associate, Board Certified and Full members are required to turn in a minimum of 16 CEUs per year. Meetings that have been submitted for pre-approval can be found on the ARPAS website. Not seeing a meeting you will be attending? Submit a copy of the agenda to the [Business Office](#) or [Dr. Frahm](#) for approval.

Call for Nominations - ARPAS Examination Board Chairman:

Background: The American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) provides certification of animal scientists through examination, continuing education, and commitment to a code of ethics. Becoming certified as a member of the Registry requires training in Animal Sciences and the successful completion of a comprehensive examination in the area of certification. Areas of certification

available to ARPAS members are dairy, beef, swine, meats, sheep and goats, dairy foods processing, companion animals, poultry, poultry processing, equine, aquaculture, laboratory animals, and nutrition.

Position: ARPAS Examination Board Chairman

Qualifications: The ARPAS Examination Board Chairman must be a current member of ARPAS in good standing.

Responsibilities: The ARPAS Examination Board Chairman will chair the ARPAS Examination Board. The Chairman will work with the ARPAS Governing Council and Executive Committee in the establishment and organization of the Examination Board. The Examination Board will consist of current ARPAS members in good standing representing all the areas of certification recognized by ARPAS. The examination board led by the Chairman will meet via conference calls and face-to-face as deemed necessary by the Chairman to conduct business of the Board. The Board, led by the chairman, will be responsible for the continued development and updating of examination materials. The Examination Board will be responsible for the development and maintenance of study guides that are made available to potential ARPAS members for their preparation in becoming ARPAS members.

Funding: The ARPAS Examination Board Chairman will receive an annual stipend of \$5,000 and provided required travel funds to fulfill the requirements of the position. In addition, funding for office expenses associated with the duties of the Examination Board will be provided.

Application: Current ARPAS members should submit a letter of interest to [Dr. Wayne Greene](#) prior to May 1, 2007. Qualified candidates will be asked to provide additional information for review by the ARPAS Executive Committee.

Webcast Series Offers CEUs in Your Office

ARPAS members seeking continuing education units (CEUs) can obtain credits without leaving home. The National Livestock and Poultry Environmental (LPE) Learning Center has partnered with ARPAS to provide CEU credits by viewing monthly webcasts, 1 hour in length, on a variety of animal manure management issues.

The LPE Learning Center, funded through the USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES), is a project dedicated to the vision that livestock advisors and the producers they serve should have timely access to the nation's best science. Animal industry advisors are connected to national experts on animal manure issues through monthly live and archived webcast seminars, a national website that highlights our best tools, and a monthly newsletter summarizing key resources. The education center has adopted a customer-driven approach. The customer advisory team, with representatives from ag organizations, commodity groups, regulatory agencies, and professional organizations, selects high priority topic areas to be the focus of the LPE Learning Center.

Expert teams in the areas of pathogens and integrated nutrient management have hosted webcasts during the months of November 2006 through March 2007, assembled answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), and compiled a "best of the best" list of recommended reading. Additional teams are assembling similar resources on the value of manure, alternative technologies for manure treatment, odor, and air quality with more teams expected to begin work in the near future. These expert teams are multidisciplinary groups drawn from US EPA, NRCS, USGS, ARS, Environmental Defense, and land grant universities across the nation.

The webcast series is available as a live presentation on the third Friday of each month. In addition, the presentations are recorded and archived for on-demand viewing at <http://lpe.unl.edu/archive2.html>. Recent webcast seminars have presented information on proposed changes to EPA's CAFO regulations, pathogens

in animal manure, nitrogen availability from organic sources, integrated nutrient management, and manure application to legumes.

Future webcast topics include value of manure in land application and value added processing of manure, among others. A schedule of upcoming webcasts is available at <http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast.html>. The April 20, 2007 webcast will address "Lessons Learned from North Carolina's Experience with the Smithfield Food Project". An extensive evaluation of manure treatment technologies was conducted by a team led by North Carolina researchers. The environmental performance and economic feasibility of the evaluated technologies will be presented.

To stay in touch with activities of the LPE Learning Center, we encourage interested individuals to sign up for a free, monthly two-page newsletter. The newsletter will highlight upcoming webcast seminars and new resources from land grant universities and our partnering organizations. To subscribe, go to <http://lpe.unl.edu/subscribe.html>.

If you interact with animal producers on manure management issues, the LPE Learning Center provides you the opportunity to stay in touch with the latest science and resources for this critical industry issue.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The University of Nebraska is seeking candidates for a Feedlot Nutrition/Management Specialist and Assistant Professor. This is a 12-month, tenure-leading position (50% research, 50% extension) in the Department of Animal Science and located at the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research & Extension Center. For a complete position announcement, visit our website at <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/>. Review of applications will begin June 15, 2007, and continue until the position is filled or the search is closed. Complete application materials including a detailed curriculum vita of education including transcripts of education, experience, qualifications, and publications; and the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of three references should be sent to: Dr. Don Beermann, Head, Department of Animal Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, PO Box 830908, C203 Animal Sciences, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908, Telephone: 402/472-3571, Fax: 402/472-6362, or E-mail: dbeermann2@unl.edu. The University of Nebraska is committed to a pluralistic campus community through affirmative action and equal opportunity and is responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We assure reasonable accommodation under the Americans With Disabilities Act. Contact Dr. Beermann at 402/472-3571 for assistance.

Message from the ARPAS President: **Wayne Greene, PAS**

The ARPAS Executive Committee continues to have monthly phone conferences to discuss and conduct ARPAS programs. We are beginning to make preparations for the annual Board of Directors Meeting to be held in conjunction with the Joint ASAS, ADSA, and our Mexican Animal Science Society partners in San Antonio this summer. As part of the business the Executive Committee has conducted this Spring, a position description was generated for an Examination Board Chairman. Certification being a key founding principle of ARPAS membership, our examinations is the foundation of our Registry. The Governing Board has approved the development of an Examination Board to oversee all ARPAS Examinations as well as to develop and maintain a study guide for the preparation of potential future ARPAS members. During my years with ARPAS, many have indicated that they would like to become members, but have 'test anxiety', especially after being away from the classroom for a number of years. An Examination Board and their development and maintenance of up-to-date study materials will be an asset in reaching out to our potential members as they prepare to become ARPAS certified in a particular area.

ARPAS, along with three other professional animal related societies, sponsored the development of the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization, PAACO, about three years ago. PAACO has been working hard since its development to provide training for animal professionals to conduct animal audits for harvest facilities and farms. This is a service that is growing in popularity as consumers of animal products continue to make demands that proper animal handling and welfare is followed in production. This organization has accomplished much in the short time of its existence with the potential to set the 'gold' standard for animal auditing in the future. It is important for animal agriculture professionals to be active in this area; otherwise, the non-professionals (with an agenda) will do it for us. ARPAS provides three members to the PAACO Board of Directors and we recently met in Kansas City to conduct the business of this organization. We will be identifying an individual to begin a 3-year term on the PAACO board to represent ARPAS as decisions are made within PAACO. If you have an interest in serving ARPAS in this capacity, you can contact me directly. More information about PAACO and their programs can be found at <http://www.animalauditor.org/paaco/>.

The nomination committee has been working hard the past couple of months to identify a slate of officers and directors for your upcoming vote. Please evaluate these candidates and vote for your choice when the ballots are received. In our organization, the Governing Council is where a major portion of the business is conducted and your representation there is important.

As a final note in my report, it is with regret that I inform ARPAS membership that our liaison staff member from FASS, Ms. Lisa Hamilton, has accepted another position and will be leaving FASS in mid-April. This news was especially disturbing to me because on numerous occasions during the past year, I have phoned Lisa without having a clue on particular issues and after a short conversation become knowledgeable. She has answered questions, made calls, maintained communications, and provided information that allows the leadership of ARPAS to serve you. We will all miss her and wish her well in her new endeavors.

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

A key component of qualifying for membership in ARPAS is passing a comprehensive examination in a species or product area of specialization. Currently ARPAS offers qualifying exams in 12 species or product areas: aquaculture, beef cattle, companion animals, dairy cattle, horses, laboratory animals, poultry, sheep and goats, swine, meat science, dairy product science, and poultry products. Each exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions that represent a random draw from a data bank of questions for that area of specialization.

It is imperative that the exams offered by ARPAS be appropriate and valid for adequately determining a high level of professional expertise in that area of specialization. The challenge for ARPAS is to keep the exams updated to properly reflect the ever-increasing new knowledge being generated in the animal sciences.

Recognizing the critical importance of the ARPAS exams, the Governing Council has determined that an increase in the activity and effort of the Examining Board is warranted. The Governing Council wishes to facilitate a more intense and deliberate effort to critically review, evaluate, and update the various exams in a timely manner. In addition it is deemed worthy for the Examining Board to develop study guides for the exams to aid prospective members in preparing for the qualifying exam. The most common question I receive from potential applicants is regarding the availability of a study guide and advice on how to prepare for the exam. A study guide should provide a useful resource for potential members. It will provide some indication of what topics should be reviewed in preparation for the exam. This should also help reduce some of the inherent anxiety people might have about taking an exam. It is very common for certification programs to make study guides available. It seems the time has come for ARPAS to do likewise.

The amount of time and effort required to lead this expanded level of activity by the Examining Board seems more than should reasonably be expected on purely a volunteer basis. Thus, the Examining Board has approved making the Chair of the Examining Board a compensated position. The Chair of the Examining Board will receive a stipend of \$5000 per year plus travel expenses to attend the annual Governing Council meeting. The Chair will work with the President of ARPAS to recruit ARPAS members, representing the various areas of expertise, to serve on the Examining Board. The Examining Board under the leadership of the Chair will be responsible for (1) the continued development and updating of the examination materials, and (2) to develop study guides for each exam for use by prospective members to aid their preparation for taking the exam. The expectation will be that the exam materials will be critically reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

ARPAS is actively seeking a special ARPAS member with appropriate experience and interest in this exciting possibility. If you are interested in this position or wish to nominate someone, please contact Wayne Greene (wgreene@auburn.edu) or me (rrfrahm@comcast.net).

Meeting Review: ASAS Southern Section **Betsy Wagner, PhD, PAS**

The Southern Section, American Society of Animal Science meeting was held February 3-7, 2007 in Mobile, Alabama. Several groups convened during the annual meeting, including information exchange groups for reproduction, forages and small ruminants. Oral presentations extended over two days, with 129 abstracts presented. First place in the Undergraduate Student Competition went to L. Starkey of Arkansas, and Paige Williams of Texas A&M Kingsville won the Graduate Student Competition. The Auburn University, Department of Animal Sciences hosted the regional Academic Quadrathlon events in Auburn and Mobile. Eleven teams participated, with the team from Texas A&M winning top honors. Hayden Brown of the University of Arkansas was honored with the 2007 Distinguished Service Award. Dale Coleman was awarded the President's Service plaque recognition of his service as President of the Southern Section ASAS.

Officers for 2007-2008 are President Chad Chase, President-Elect Beth Kegley, Secretary/Treasurer David Morrison and Secretary/Treasurer Elect Matt Poore. The 2008 annual meeting of the Southern Section will be held February 2-6 in Dallas, Texas.

Equine Information **Karin Bump, PAS**

The Twentieth ***Equine Science Society*** Meeting will be held June 5th – 9th in Hunt Valley Maryland. The University of Maryland is hosting the meeting this year. Information on conference registration can be found at: <http://www.equinescience.org/>

New educational material now available on unwanted horses:

Debate continues on the issue of horse slaughter with supporters of a bill to end the slaughter of horses and opponents who raise concern that horse slaughter is a symptom of a larger problem of unwanted horses. In that vein, a number of equine organizations joined with the American horse council to form the Unwanted Horse Coalition. After two years of dedicated work the Unwanted Horse Coalition has produced a set of educational materials to help individuals understand the problem of the unwanted horse, and the problems associated with unwanted horses in the United States. This material can be found on line at www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org. The site includes background on the problem of unwanted horses as well as a helpful question and answer section with information ranging from what to consider before buying a horse to questions owners should consider when they are no longer able to take care of their own horse. In addition

to options such as selling, leasing, and donating a horse; information regarding euthanasia including it's' costs as well as the costs of carcass disposal are discussed. This is a site well worth a visit and one to recommend to others. .

The American Quarter Horse Association also has an education pamphlet that individuals can request in order to gain a better understanding of the issues associated with the unwanted horses. Titled "Understanding Your Options for the Unwanted or Unusable Horse" you can contact the AQHA at 806-376-4811 for copies. This pamphlet has been out for a few years now, but it is still a timely educational piece and for individuals interested in having additional information on the topic, it is one more resource to add.

Educational material on "Animal Research Saves Animals Too"

The Foundation for Biomedical Research has several marketing posters of various sizes that they will send to organizations upon request to help get the word out that "animal research saves animal lives too". One poster features the racehorse Personal Ensign while another features four 'ordinary' horses whose lives were enhanced through veterinary products produced through animal research. The posters are eye appealing and the message is subtle yet powerful. For more information visit www.horsefacts.org and the Foundation for Biomedical Research.

Meeting Review: 2007 Pennsylvania Dairy Summit **Lisa Holden, PAS**

Nearly 600 people attended this year's Dairy Summit held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Professional Dairy Manager's of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders hosted the conference. Penn State University's Dairy Alliance and the Center for Dairy Excellence were both conference supporters. The conference provided dairy producers and agribusiness professionals the opportunity to hear nationally known speakers on a variety of topics and to participate in smaller break out sessions about current issues and hot topics in the dairy industry.

Logan Bower, PDMP president, opened the conference with Dr. Mark Stephenson from Cornell University providing the outlook for the Northeast dairy industry. Charlie Arnot from the Animal Agricultural Alliance and Donna Berry from Dairy and Food Communications, Inc. both provided the audience with interesting information about the public's view of the dairy industry and trends in consumer preferences. Colorado dairy producer, Gary Hendrickson shared innovations from his dairy operation, Bella Holsteins. Dr. Ron Hanson's presentation labeled, "Talking to Fence Posts" had many in the audience laughing and shaking their heads while he talked about typical communication issues seen in many family farm businesses. The final speaker of the conference was Gary Sipiorski from Citizens State Bank as he took the audience on a pictorial journey from dairy's rich heritage to its very bright future.

Numerous breakout sessions allowed participants the opportunity to customize their educational experience by choosing the ones that best met their needs. Current issues covered in breakout sessions included: precision feeding, robotic milking and rbST free milk. Dairy producers along side of industry professionals made up panel discussions that allowed for much audience interaction and questions. Additional break out sessions like "Labor Management 101" with Dr. Rich Stup and "Smoothing the Transition" with Dr. Gabriella Varga, both from Penn State gave producers the opportunity to learn new strategies for success at their dairies. Keynote speakers, Gary Sipiorski offered a session entitled, "Know your Numbers" and Gary Hendrickson provided additional details Nutrient Management at his dairy. Panels with industry and producer presenters about genetic marketing, risk management and milk quality rounded out the breakout sessions with a strong listing of choices for attendees. On a lighter note, the famous cowboy poet, Baxter Black offered up his amusing tales and a bit of creative poetry to keep the after dinner crowd laughing into the evening.

Thirty-two students and other young dairy employees were offered scholarships through the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association and the Pennsylvania Dairy

Stakeholders, allowing them to take advantage of this education event. These young dairy leaders participated fully in the conference, taking advantage of the opportunity to network and learn. The Center for Dairy Excellence also offered partial scholarships for producers who had never attended the event before, leading to many new faces in the audience.

A complete trade show with an extensive array of exhibitors allowed the attendees to talk one on one with their service providers and suppliers. The cost of the conference registration was able to be kept to a reasonable level due to the generosity of numerous sponsors and the large number of exhibitors in the trade show arena. A top notch educational program and tremendous networking opportunities were two of the reasons cited by many attendees as benefits of attendance. "There was something for everyone." I learned new ideas about feeding my cows to managing my employees and my farm accounts. It was well worth the trip, " stated one Pennsylvania dairy producer who had traveled more than two hours to attend the conference. When asked if he would be back again next year, his reply was "Absolutely." The dates for the 2008 Pennsylvania Dairy Summit are February 6-7, 2008. For more information about the Dairy Summit, contact the Professional Dairy Managers at 877-326-5993 or info@pdmp.org.

Message from the Publications Committee:

The Publications Committee continues to be active, with the help of Lisa Hamilton and Dick Frahm in putting the Newsletters together. We hope the Newsletter provides important and interesting information on ARPAS actives and short interest stories. We are sad to be losing Lisa Hamilton to the banking world, but feel very fortunate to have had her services for as long we have. Not only has she taken material our committee and ARPAS Officers have given her and converted it into a very respectable newsletter, but she sought out articles on her own and edited them into publishable form. She will be truly missed.

Lawson Spicer has notified the Publications Committee that he will no longer be able to serve on the committee. Lawson has been an excellent contributor and committee member. We are looking for a replacement for Lawson and if anyone is interested in serving on the Publications Committee please let Bill Price or Wayne Greene know. Also, we are continually looking for news and short interest stories about our members and encourage members to come forward either with articles or with ideas for the Committee to write articles. If you would like to contribute, please contact Bill Price at bill.price@fda.hhs.gov, or any of the committee members

Committee Members: Barbara Barton, Karin Bump, Lisa Holden, Luis Solórzano, Betsy Wagner and Bill Price, Chair.

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