



**American  
Registry of  
Professional  
Animal  
Scientists**

# NEWSLETTER

**December 2004**

**News and Updates -**

**Change - ARPAS Mid-Year Governing Council Conference Call:**

Due to a scheduling conflict with the upcoming PAACO board meeting, the ARPAS Governing Council Mid-Year conference call has been changed from Friday, January 21, 2005 to Friday, January 28, 2005. The time will remain 2 P.M. Eastern.

**2005 Governing Council Meeting Scheduled:**

As previously announced, the Governing Council is planning to meet again next year in connection with the ADSA/ASAS Joint Meeting in Cincinnati, OH. The Governing Council is currently scheduled to meet on Sunday, July 24, 2005. The exact location and times will be announced at a later date. The Business Meeting will also be scheduled to take place at the Cincinnati meeting. Times will be announced at a later time.

**Certification as a NRCS Technical Service Provider:**

ARPAS and NRCS have established a Memorandum of Understanding that provides an opportunity for qualified ARPAS members to become Technical Service Providers for NRCS programs in the category of Feed Management. You may learn more about the requirements of being an NRCS Technical Service Provider from the web site: [www.techreg.usda.gov](http://www.techreg.usda.gov), and under Technical Service Providers click on "details". You may also enter through the NRCS web site: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

Certification by NRCS as a Technical Service Provider will involve a two stage process. ARPAS will recommend interested and qualified ARPAS members to NRCS. To gain final approval by NRCS, each person will need to complete a Technical Service Agreement with NRCS.

ARPAS is required to establish and maintain a registry of qualified ARPAS members who are recommended to NRCS as Technical Service Providers. This Registry must contain certain information that will be collected from you on the application form available on the ARPAS web site ([www.arpas.org](http://www.arpas.org)).

If you believe you meet the requirements and are interested in becoming approved as a NRCS Technical Service Provider, please complete and submit the application form to Lisa Hamilton at ARPAS Headquarters ([lisah@assochq.org](mailto:lisah@assochq.org)).

### **Professional Liability Insurance:**

An important insurance coverage for practicing animal scientists, particularly those who professionally work as consultants, is a professional liability insurance commonly known as “errors and omissions”. Many ARPAS members have encountered difficulty locating a carrier for this kind of insurance. Because this type of insurance coverage tends to be expensive, many of you have suggested that ARPAS seek a group policy. We have attempted to do this over the past few years without success.

The California ARPAS Chapter has located a carrier that provides this coverage on an individual basis. However, the Brokerage Agency they are working with can only sell in California.

We have been advised that individuals in other states may be successful in gaining access to such coverage. Those interested should contact their insurance broker and ask them to seek out a Surplus Lines Broker to obtain a quote on premiums. The particular carrier being used in California is Colony Insurance Company. It may be this company or some other company(s) in your state. Good luck for those in need of this insurance coverage.

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### **Notes From The President:**

**Larry E. Chase, Ph.D., PAS**

In late October, I had the opportunity to represent ARPAS at the Continuing Education Conference organized by the California ARPAS chapter. I had heard a lot of excellent remarks about previous meetings organized by this chapter. The 2004 meeting was another excellent meeting and provided excellent technical material and networking opportunities for the participants. The overall theme was rumen acidosis and the presentations provided some good material and ideas that could be applied in daily nutrition and management consulting with producers. There were about 125 people in attendance at this meeting. At their business meeting, the California chapter presented 2 awards to current graduate students. I feel the California group

needs to be commended for their efforts to encourage and support the next generation of our profession. Special thanks go to Marit Arana and Nick Ohanesian for their assistance and hospitality during my trip. If you ever have a chance to attend this meeting, I'm confident that you will find it an excellent use of your time.

Dick Frahm has a short article in this newsletter regarding the MOU between ARPAS and NRCS. I have had a number of questions from ARPAS members regarding the opportunity to be a Technical Service provider under this MOU. The most common question regarding when the NRCS feed management program will be implemented. The actual implementation date will be determined at the state level. I don't believe that any state has yet implemented this program. You should contact your state NRCS office to ascertain how they are approaching this program. As we get more information, we will forward it to you.

I will repeat my challenge from the last newsletter relative to increasing ARPAS membership. Can we have a membership of 2005 by our 2005 annual meeting? To do this, each ARPAS member would need to help us sign up 0.5 new members. We all should know at least 1 individual who should be an ARPAS member. Can we encourage these individuals to become ARPAS members?

It is my pleasure to be your president. Please contact me ([lec7@cornell.edu](mailto:lec7@cornell.edu)) or any other officers with any thoughts, questions or concerns. Your suggestions for how ARPAS can better serve its members would be especially appreciated.

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### **From the Executive Vice President:**

**Richard R. Frahm; Ph.D., PAS, Dipl. Animal Genetics**

Over the past few months I have been doing some follow-up contacts with ARPAS members who had not renewed their membership for the current year. The most common reason given for not renewing ARPAS membership was the perceived difficulty of meeting the Continuing Education requirements. So, I have chosen to address this topic in this article.

The mark of a true professional is that they strive to maintain their professional competency by keeping themselves updated on the rapid influx of new information in their profession. As stated in the ARPAS Bylaws: "Continued training and education is required of professionals to keep abreast of rapidly changing technology in their field. Therefore, to ensure validity and integrity of registration, each member must submit evidence of continuing education to maintain registration status. Registration will be granted on the basis of the registrant's continuing education activities to maintain professional competency in the specialty area(s) for which the member is registered. Registrants will be expected to participate in conferences, meetings, schools, or programs that contribute to their professional competency."

An active professional should find ample opportunities during the year to obtain the 16 Continuing Education Units (CEU) required each year. One CEU is earned for each full hour of

a qualifying educational event. All of the national and sectional society meetings of the animal sciences have been pre-approved by the Governing Council to qualify for CEU. ARPAS members are assumed to have high professional integrity and follow the ARPAS Professional Code of Ethics. So, we operate on the honor system. An ARPAS member attending any of these meetings can claim (and submit) 1 CEU for each full hour of relevant presentations they attend during these meetings. In addition there are numerous university and industry sponsored educational events that have content that would qualify for ARPAS CEU. Many of these (and we would encourage all to do so) have been pre-approved for up to some maximum number of CEU for an individual attending the entire program. An ARPAS member should claim the number of CEU based on the presentations actually attended. A calendar of events is maintained on the ARPAS web site ([www.arpas.org](http://www.arpas.org)) of meetings that we know about that have relevance to the animal sciences. Those pre-approved for ARPAS CEU are identified with an asterisk. Most, if not all, of the others have content that would qualify for ARPAS CEU. The burden simply rests with the ARPAS member to retain a copy of the program to substantiate the claim for CEU credit. Any educational event that the ARPAS member believes is relevant and enhances their professional competency can most likely be claimed for CEU credit. However, the ARPAS member needs to retain a copy of the program to support this claim. **The point is: any active animal science professional should find ample opportunity through the normal activities as a practicing professional to meet the required 16 CEU each year.** All qualifying CEU should be reported each year because you may carry up to 16 CEU not needed for the current year's requirement forward into future years.

Perhaps it would be helpful to have more educational events pre-approved for ARPAS CEU and have more events listed on the ARPAS web site. You may send information on relevant meetings intended for state-wide, regional or national audiences for listing on the web site directly to me ([rrfrahm@adelphia.net](mailto:rrfrahm@adelphia.net)). To have a meeting pre-approved for CEU, you may send a detailed program preferably to ARPAS Headquarters ([arpas@assoqhq.org](mailto:arpas@assoqhq.org)) or directly to me. The program will be evaluated and you will be notified in a timely manner the maximum number of CEU the program is approved for.

The criteria used in this evaluation are that the topics on the agenda are deemed relevant to the animal sciences and are being presented by qualified professionals. One CEU is granted for each full hour of presentation. Partial credits are not awarded. Discussion time, coffee breaks and lunch breaks are not included. Demonstrations, field trips and tours do not qualify. Requests sent to ARPAS Headquarters are evaluated by the ARPAS Administrative Assistant, Lisa Hamilton. I evaluate those sent to me and I copy my response to Lisa. If Lisa has any questions, she consults with me. If you do not agree with any assessment for CEU credit, you may appeal directly to me.

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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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