

Newsletter

April 11, 2002

To: All ARPAS members

From: Bill Baumgardt, Executive Vice President (Reply to [bbaum@gte.net](mailto:bbaum@gte.net))

HEADLINES:

- Election for President-elect and Secretary (1)
- Education and certification program for ag animals in research setting (2)
- FASS-ARPAS Project with Animal Agriculture Alliance (AAA) (3)
- On-Farm Environmental Assessments (4)
- Minutes of meetings on the web (5)
- ARPAS and the AFIA Nutrition Council (6)
- PowerPoint presentations about ARPAS available on web (7)
- Update on new "Nutrition" category as add-on to PAS and RAS (8)
- New opportunities for ARPAS - especially in animal care (9)
- Committee developing 5-year Business Plan (10)
- Membership Committee update (11)
- PAS Journal growing and improving (12)
- Corporate Sponsor Program (13)
- Financial picture sound (14)
- Enhancing Chapters and Colleges (15)
- Summer Meetings (16)

(1) VOTE!!! Included in the mailing with this Newsletter is a ballot and biographical summaries on candidates for President-Elect and Secretary. Please exercise your responsibility and VOTE!

(2) FASS-ARPAS joint program for education and voluntary certification program for animal care workers in the *research farm* setting is moving forward under the leadership of Janice Swanson. Information on the FASS produced educational videos can be found on the FASS website. Information on the ARPAS training and certification component will soon be on the ARPAS website ([www.arpas.org](http://www.arpas.org)).

(3) ARPAS and FASS have been awarded a grant from the Animal Agriculture Alliance, AAA (re-engineered from AIF) for a single, specific project. The purpose is to **develop criteria** for the evaluation of species specific farm-animal well-being guidelines to assess their compliance with the AAA Animal Care Principles that are based on the best science available. An implied goal for this project is to develop a program that would enhance public/buyer confidence and lead to a single set of standards for each species rather than the fragmented approach that is coming to be in the fast food businesses.

Ken Olson is leading this project. A two step process is being used. Initially a steering committee, comprised of individuals with scientific backgrounds related to the species being evaluated, as well as others with expertise in animal behavior, veterinary medicine, engineering, transportation and handling, ethics, and consumer interests, developed an umbrella set of criteria for use with all species. Next, species specific subcommittees, comprised of individuals with expertise in each of the species, identified science based numeric ranges and other measures appropriate for assessing care within their species. The species reports are reviewed by the

steering committee to provide the greatest consistency possible. Initial species included beef, broilers, dairy, layers, pork, sheep, turkeys and ducks. Species programs will be submitted for review and recognition of compliance. This process assures consumers that all species are being evaluated in a similar manner, buyers that there will be consistency in assessments by different individuals, and producers that the evaluations are based on the best science available. SEE THE PROJECT OVERVIEW AT END OF THIS NEWSLETTER!

(4) Opportunities for ARPAS members to become engaged as “assessors” for voluntary on-farm environmental assessment programs. The first program was with DQA for dairy cattle only. More recently cooperation has been made available from EMS, LLC in Des Moines, IA, for other farm animal species. Information on the EMS program is available on the ARPAS website. (See “Related Announcements”)

(5) The minutes from the summer annual Membership meetings, as well as Governing Council (GC) meetings are posted on the ARPAS webpage. Newsletters are also available on the website. You will need your ARPAS number (on your membership card or available by contacting Jennifer Gavel at ARPAS office 217-356-5390). The GC greatly appreciates receiving input from Chapters and individual members.

(6) The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) has again (after a lapse of several years) accepted ARPAS to have a representative on the Nutrition Council. The credentials of Bill Baumgardt have been accepted to be the representative as of this date. Please let me know of any issues you would suggest bringing to the attention of AFIA Nutrition Council.

(7) PowerPoint (PP) Presentations about ARPAS are available. President David Meisinger has developed an excellent PowerPoint presentation about ARPAS that can be used at Chapter meetings or other situations where you may have an opportunity to talk about ARPAS. That PP presentation can either be viewed or downloaded from the ARPAS website on the opening page under “NEW!”. I also have a PowerPoint presentation that I used at the 4-State Applied Nutrition and Management Conference in La Crosse, WI, in July 2001. Let me know if you would like a copy of that document sent to you as an attachment to an email. The paper can be viewed and downloaded from the web. Click on “Related Announcements” (NEWS & EVENTS on opening page) and then on “ARPAS-Building on Strength & Growing for New Opportunities.”

(8) A new category for “Nutrition” is being developed by a Committee headed by Jim Aldrich (Treasurer of ARPAS). The concept is to offer (voluntary) an opportunity for a PAS (and perhaps RAS) members in a species to take an additional *nutrition emphasis exam* to earn the certification. Dairy is to be developed first followed by Beef. This would allow one to have a ‘label’ such as “PAS-Dairy Nutrition.” Input can be provided to Jim Aldrich (jaldrich@akey.com) and/or Ray Hinders who is a member of the Committee.

(9) New Opportunities to serve. ARPAS is being invited, and in some cases urged, to develop new programs to serve animal agriculture. A particularly hot topic is “on-farm animal care certification.” Until now ARPAS has operated programs for certifying/registering *people*. There is an immediate and urgent demand for conducting and managing the actual *on-farm assessment and audit programs* for the animal care, operation and facility.

(10) A new committee composed of the Executive Committee plus Gary Lane is charged to develop a Business Plan for Growth. Immediate Past President Keith Lusby is chairing this committee. The product should have a major impact on future leadership and mission for ARPAS.

(11) Membership continues to grow at an increasing rate. L. Wayne Greene is Chair of the Membership Committee and the Committee is developing an action plan to implement the strategies which have been developed to enhance membership and better serve members. Strategies include ways of enhancing membership and increasing the number of Chapters. Chapters are encouraged to share their By-Laws so that a "model set" can be developed and shared. Many companies are adopting the "register all" concept. Examinations have been revised and questions are now in a database whereby fresh exams can be generated at any time. Michael Galyean is the current Chair of the Examining Board.

(12) The PAS journal is flourishing under the leadership of Editor Lowell Wilson. Due to improved financial picture it has been possible to enhance the quality of the cover on the printed version. (The \$30 added fee for printed journal has been an accurate cost.) Editor Wilson is especially eager to receive manuscripts that are Review, Case Studies, and covering information on all species. An agreement is now in place with the EN&PS which should enhance the number of equine papers. The number of poultry papers and companion animal papers needs to be increased.

(13) The Corporate Sponsorship program is essential to the future of ARPAS. The program has grown from four companies (about \$5,000 per year) in 1998 to 27 companies (over \$40,000 per year). Corporate Sponsors are listed on the website, in the PAS journal, and featured in the ARPAS booth at major events. Please remember to say "thank you" to Sponsor representatives.

(14) The financial picture for ARPAS is much improved and the GC has accurate and up-to-date data to utilize in organizational management. The PAS journal is accurately budgeted. ARPAS has gone from a large negative cash picture in 1998 and 1999 to a positive situation. A cash reserve is being re-built. New program opportunities are being investigated.

(15) Chapters and "Colleges" are important components of overall ARPAS. With input from representatives of the Chapters and Colleges, information about them can be placed on the ARPAS website. You are encouraged to provide information on programs and current officers to Jennifer Gavel at 217-356-5390 or <[arpas@assoqh.org](mailto:arpas@assoqh.org)> .

(16) Summer meetings for ARPAS will be held in conjunction with joint ADSA-ASAS-CSAS meeting in Quebec, Canada, July 20-25, 2002. Details of the joint meeting can be found on web at ([www.fass.org/quebec02](http://www.fass.org/quebec02)) Some ARPAS specific meetings include:

Executive Committee: Saturday evening July 20

Governing Council meeting: Sunday July 21, 8 am to 5 pm

ARPAS Membership Business Meeting: Tuesday July 23, 11 am

There will be a Symposium on certification programs for animal care.

Best wishes,

Bill Baumgardt

## **The FASS / ARPAS Animal Care Project for AAA**

### **Who are the Players?**

◆ **The Animal Agriculture Alliance (AAA)**

The AAA is a new not for profit corporation located in the Washington DC area that has evolved from the Animal Industry Foundation (AIF). AAA is seeking to become a broader based coalition representing all of animal agriculture. Membership includes both associations and corporations. Its' stated mission is to "support and promote animal agriculture practices that provide for farm animal well-being through sound science and public education."

◆ **The Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS)**

Founded January 1, 1998 by the American Dairy Science Association, American Society of Animal Science and the Poultry Science Association, FASS provides its member societies with a unified voice for animal agriculture; supports common interests, and is an effective advocate for scientific perspectives to the general public. FASS has a track record of excellence in evaluating, interpreting and authoring care guidelines for farm animals.

◆ **The American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS)**

ARPAS is the organization that provides certification of animal scientists through examination, continuing education, and commitment to a code of ethics. ARPAS members represent the following groups:

- Consultants
- Companies providing products and services
- Producers, commodity organizations, and related food industries
- University, extension, and government staff
- Professional societies and related organizations

### **The Animal Care Project**

Purpose: To develop criteria and a process for the evaluation of species specific farm-animal well-being guidelines to assess their compliance with the AAA Animal Care Principles that are based on the best science available.

# Animal Agriculture Alliance

## Animal Care Principles

To promote animal wellbeing and produce animal food products of the highest quality, the Animal Agriculture Alliance (A3) recommends adherence to the animal care principles that follow. These principles are the essential building blocks for professional animal care. Owners and managers of animal operations are committed to these principles.

The health and wellbeing of animals raised for food may be judged using science-based behavioral, physiological, biochemical, pathological criteria, and other characteristics. These criteria are all used to assess wellbeing; all have shortcomings when used individually. A combination of these criteria generally provides the best assessment of animal wellbeing.

- **Food and Water**  
Provide access to good quality water and nutritionally balanced diets as appropriate for the species
- **Health and Veterinary Care**  
Implement science-based animal health programs, including prudent product use, and provide appropriate veterinary care when required.
- **Environment**  
Provide living conditions sufficient to meet the wellbeing needs of the animal as appropriate to each species
- **Husbandry Practices**  
Implement science-based husbandry practices appropriate to the species
- **Handling**  
Ensure proper handling practices throughout the life of the animal as appropriate to each species
- **Transportation**  
Provide transportation that avoids undue stress as appropriate to each species

## The Process to be Used

**Step one** – Identification of quantifiable measures that can be used to assess compliance with each of the animal care principles.

Steering Committee: A steering committee comprised of individuals with a scientific background related to each of the species for which guidelines are being developed, as well as individuals with training in animal behavior, veterinary medicine, engineering and handling/transportation has been established. An ethicist, a representative of consumer interests and a representative of animal protection interests are also working with the committee. While not officially part of the steering committee, we will seek to assure that the project meets the needs and expectations of the food industry.

Expected Output: The output of this group will be an umbrella set of criteria that will provide consistency in the evaluation of animal care programs between species. It will provide the common framework for use by Species Subcommittees in further refining the criteria by providing science-based ranges of values that are deemed acceptable for the quantifiable measures for their species. The Steering Committee will also provide input relative to evaluation of those more subjective or qualitative items that may be needed to evaluate care. Species subcommittees will define measures that are appropriate for their specific species.

**Step two** – Identification of science-based numeric ranges and other measures that are appropriate for each of the criteria to be used for assessing the care and handling of animals at the farm or ranch.

Subcommittee make-up: Subcommittees will be made up of three to five individuals with expertise in a specific species. A range of expertise such as that included on the Steering Committee will be utilized. Representation from the Steering Committee will be included on the Species Subcommittees through the project coordinator, and other individuals where possible, to provide consistency in the process. Species reports will be shared with the Steering Committee for their review.

Species included: Specific criteria will be developed for:

Beef	Layers	Turkeys
Broilers	Pork	Ducks
Dairy	Sheep	

**Time Frame** – The “Umbrella Criteria” developed by the Steering Committee are to be completed by April 1, 2002. Species reports are due by June 30, 2002. Ducks were added later and this report will be completed by July 30, 2002.

### **What do we expect to have?**

An umbrella process that covers all species in a similar manner. This assures:

- ◆ **Consumers** that we are evaluating the care of all species in a comparable manner.
- ◆ **Buyers** of the identification of quantifiable measures so that there will be consistency in assessments by different individuals.
- ◆ **Producers** that measures used in evaluations are based on the best science currently available and also based on knowledge of current production systems.

### **What we are not doing:**

- ◆ We are not writing species guidelines.
- ◆ We are not evaluating specific guidelines or practices at this time.
- ◆ We are not developing on-farm assessment tools.

### **Where does it go?**

- ◆ Umbrella criteria and species specific criteria will be delivered to AAA.
- ◆ The criteria will be used to evaluate species guidelines submitted to AAA for compliance with the AAA Animal Care Principles. (We have suggested the use of the FASS/ARPAS species subcommittees for this review.)
- ◆ FASS retains ownership of the intellectual property.
- ◆ The next step??? This was not part of the RFP.

### **How does the program fit with other efforts?**

- ◆ It will provide a common framework for evaluating programs for all species.
- ◆ The focus is on assuring the “proper” care of all species rather than focusing on real or perceived problem areas.
- ◆ It has the potential to evolve to cover animals from birth to death/slaughter.

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