



# Newsletter

## Newsletter



**November 2003**

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

**ARPAS Exams Updated:** In October 2003 the ARPAS exams were updated. If you need a copy of a new exam, please contact the business office at [arpas@assochq.org](mailto:arpas@assochq.org). A current list of meetings is always available on the website, [www.arpas.org](http://www.arpas.org) under "Calendar of Events". You can request an exam be given at your meeting by contacting the business office.

**2004 Renewals:** The first round of renewals has been mailed out. If you haven't already, please send in your 2004 membership renewal. Second notices will be sent out in the following weeks. If you need an invoice, please contact the ARPAS business office at [arpas@assochq.org](mailto: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!

**Membership Survey:** Attached to this newsletter is an ARPAS membership survey put together by the Publications Committee. We respectfully request that you take a few minutes to fill this out. Please complete and return to the ARPAS business office either by email, mail, or fax by **December 1, 2003**. Mailing address, fax # and email address listed at the end of the newsletter.

**2004 ARPAS Governing Council Mid-Year Teleconference:** The ARPAS Governing Council Mid-Year Teleconference is scheduled for Friday, January 16, 2004 at 1:00 PM Central Time.

**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. Professional Members can register early by using your Joint Renewal form or go to the website for more information: <http://www.fass.org/2004/>. The ARPAS Governing Council Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004 from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

**ARPAS MEMBER POLL:** We are researching the cost of putting together a CD of current and back issues of the *Professional Animal Scientist*, starting with the years 1997 – 2003 and adding each year prior until we have all issues from the beginning in 1985. We would like your opinion on whether this would be an item of interest for ARPAS members and non-members alike.

We would like to know:

1. If you would be interested in purchasing a copy of the CD for PAS, and
2. What would be the most you would pay for a CD for years 1997 – 2003?

Please send your comments to [lorrainemh@assochq.org](mailto:lorrainemh@assochq.org).

## **Message From The President Kenneth Cummings, Dipl. ACAN**

Our ARPAS year is off to a good start with most of the issues small and generally positive for our organization. The management team is in place and functioning well and committee assignments are almost complete.

We (the membership) have recently passed the following change in our bylaws to allow for chapter representation on the Governing Council.

*New Section 4.*

*Any state or regional affiliate chapter that has membership equal to or greater than 50 regular members in the national organization shall be entitled to one (1) representative on the Governing Council. The chapter will designate a representative to serve a three-year term and notify the President of ARPAS of the representative at least 30 days prior to the ARPAS Annual Business Meeting. The term will commence with the close of the annual meeting first following their appointment.*

*If a chapter membership drops below 50, there will be a two-year grace period. The chapter will maintain their Governing Council seat for two years. If during the two-year period the chapter membership reaches 50 the chapter will then again be entitled to a Governing Council representative.*

At this time, only the California chapter meets the membership requirement but a couple of other chapters are not far behind. This positive change will allow more direct member input into our ARPAS governing structure and into the activities of ARPAS.

Your executive committee is engaged in drafting additional proposed changes to the bylaws that will further define the duties of certain officers, change the title and scope of business manager to Executive Vice-President and to redefining emeritus requirements. These changes are to be discussed by the Governing Council in January and presented to the ARPAS membership for a vote in the spring. If anyone has additional suggestions for needed bylaw changes give one of us a call.

The ARPAS Handbook has been updated for 2003 and is available on the website by clicking on "Society Information" and "Handbook, Constitution and Bylaws", or by clicking here:

<http://www.arpas.org/ARPAShandbook2003.pdf>

Lorraine Halderman has been working with a web page designer to update our ARPAS web site. The new home page should be available for viewing shortly. If you have any comments or suggestions on the content of the website or other issues you want to bring to our attention, please contact one of your governing council members or call Executive VP Dick Frahm. We are here to serve you.



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

These are exciting times for ARPAS - there is much activity.

At the Governing Council meeting in Phoenix, details were finalized for a new category of ARPAS sponsorship titled "Organizational Sponsor". An organization can become an Organizational Sponsor by contributing \$1,000 per year to ARPAS. Organizational Sponsors receive the same benefits as Corporate Sponsors. ARPAS now has two Organizational Sponsors: the National Pork Board and the United Egg Producers. We are grateful to have these two excellent organizations provide this support for the purpose and mission of ARPAS.

Also at Phoenix, details were finalized for a new ARPAS program "ARPAS Certificate of Approved Training". This program is available only to ARPAS sponsors. This is an educational recognition project offered to sponsors to provide professional recognition for training and education programs offered by the sponsor to employees, producers, and/or customers. The sponsor requests ARPAS approval of a program by submitting a detailed syllabus of the program, which will be reviewed by a committee of ARPAS members. If the program is approved, the sponsor will pay \$500 to ARPAS for this official approval of the program by ARPAS. In addition the sponsor will make payment to ARPAS of \$25 for each individual who successfully completes the program. For this, ARPAS will provide a certificate for each individual certifying completion of the program. Recently, ARPAS approved a training program by AGWAY for dairy herd managers titled: "Certified Dairy Herd Manager Seminar". It is a one-day seminar being conducted at two different locations on successive days, November 4 and 5, 2003. It will have approximately 50 participants.

I have been involved in discussions over a period of time with personnel from NRCS to develop an MOU between ARPAS and NRCS that will recognize ARPAS members as qualified "Technical Service Providers" for NRCS programs involving feed and nutrient management issues. The MOU has been developed and we are waiting now for it to be cleared by USDA legal counsel before it can be finalized with a signing ceremony.

Since the meetings in Phoenix, the ARPAS booth has been displayed at the Poultry Science Association meetings in Madison, WI (July 6-10), 4-State Nutrition Conference in La Crosse, WI (July 9), and the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI (September 30-October 4).

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the EVP of ARPAS, and interact on a regular basis with the talented and dedicated ARPAS leaders and members.

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**From Kenneth E. Olson, Ph.D., PAS**  
**ARPAS and Industry Audits**

As food production and marketing systems have evolved, they have tended to become much larger and more distant from the public. Few consumers are truly aware of where their food comes from or how it is produced and processed. Activists make claims of abuse of animals and the environment, often with graphic images, that resonate with many consumers. Outbreaks of food borne illnesses, often accompanied with a recall of food products, reinforce a certain level of concern among the public. As a result there is an increasing desire on the part of food retailers, both grocery chains and restaurants to be able to verify that the products they sell are safe and produced in a responsible manner. This is normally in addition to any regulation that may exist. Retailers are to a large extent caught in the middle. Consumers want information about the products that they are purchasing that must come from sources outside of the control of the retailer. The activities of concern occurred prior to the time that the retailer had control of the product. To protect the integrity of their brand, or their store, retailers are seeking reliable methods that will stand up to outside scrutiny, verifying what has been done prior to their taking possession of a product.

Agriculture is faced with a situation where choices must be made on how to deal with this desire for more information, verifying how the food that we consume is produced. On one hand, there is a desire on the part of some segments of the industry to do nothing. They may feel that “It’s my business and no one is going to tell me what to do.” There may be a feeling that this is a “hair-brain idea” and if we ignore it, it is bound to go away. The other alternative is one chosen by several organizations which is for the industry to take the lead in developing sound, science based programs that are verifiable and then work aggressively with their members to implement them. At the same time, they need to work with buyers to demonstrate that the programs are sound, something that they can communicate with confidence to their consumers. If the programs are seen as simply an attempt to maintain the status quo, and without scientific merit, they will not work. However, if they are credible, retailers will in many cases work with them

What are the likely results of the above choices? The first option, “do nothing”, really isn’t a choice. If we try to ignore the situation, a demand from the market, it will not go away. Someone will develop programs for the industry or there will be a move to greater regulation. The programs or regulations that evolve may or may not be based on current science. This makes it difficult to adjust and react. On the environmental side we have seen increasing regulation on a wide variety of fronts and with it a need to develop site-specific plans for facilities. If the second option is chosen, and it is done correctly, producers are much better positioned to set the future direction for the industry.

How does this desire for information by consumers apply to ARPAS? As we have reported in previous newsletters, ARPAS has been an integral part of one of the proactive industry programs suggested above, the United Egg Producers (UEP) Certified Animal Care program. ARPAS and the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA are the two organizations who have performed third-party audits of layer facilities for UEP. The program has gone well. UEP reports that their members produce 90% of the shell eggs in the country and that over 80% of their members are a part of the program. You can now find eggs across the nation that carry the “Animal Care Certified” label. Companies that wish to use this will need to continue to be certified on an annual basis, so it is a long-term program.

To meet this need of the industry and desire from the public for third-party audits, a training and evaluation program for “Animal Welfare Auditors – Poultry” was put in place by ARPAS. Every ARPAS auditor is an ARPAS member. They have demonstrated their knowledge of poultry science through a poultry exam. As auditors, their exam also includes sections on auditing and animal welfare. This certification process gives credibility with industry and the public.

While the egg industry is the first to move aggressively to third-party audits of production facilities, they will not be the last. The pork and broiler industries, through the National Pork Board and the National Chicken Council, are beginning self-audit programs and segments within those industries are beginning to look at options for third-party audits. ARPAS has had discussions with both. On the environmental side, USDA NRCS is looking for technical service providers to work with producers, again an area where the technical knowledge of ARPAS members is needed.

All of these areas offer potential new opportunities for ARPAS to be of service to members, industry and the public. ARPAS members bring technical knowledge and scientific credibility to the table. The ARPAS organization ties together scientific credibility with recognized expertise in certifying of individual professionals. This is a combination that is uniquely situated to assist animal agriculture in providing a positive response to public desires for greater verification that our food is produced in a proper and responsible manner. It takes time, effort and commitment of resources to develop new programs, but there appear to be an increasing number of opportunities available for ARPAS if we want to move on them. It is an area that deserves thoughtful consideration, but time is also of the essence. Someone will fill the need that is rapidly developing in this area. Will it be ARPAS?

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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.

Richard R. Frahm  
Co-Editor

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Co-Editor

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## ARPAS Membership Survey 2003

### ARPAS Publications

#### Section I. *Professional Animal Scientist Journal*

- Overall satisfaction level with this publication: (**circle one**)  
1. very dissatisfied  
2. dissatisfied      3. undecided      4. satisfied      5. very satisfied
- Papers published are: (**circle one**)      1. too basic      2. too applied      3. about right
- Applicability of papers: (**circle one**)      1. rarely useful      2. occasionally useful  
3. useful      4. often useful      5. consistently useful to me in my profession
- Topics in papers:  
I would like to see more papers published on: (**rank 1 –highest to 4 - lowest**)  
nutrition\_\_\_\_      reproduction\_\_\_\_      genetics\_\_\_\_      physiology\_\_\_\_
- I would like to see papers on (**score each by importance, 1 – highest to 5 - lowest**):  
Government Regulation of Animal Use\_\_\_\_      Public Policy Issues\_\_\_\_  
Community Outreach Programs\_\_\_\_
- Comments on improving the PAS Journal.: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Section II. ARPAS Newsletter

- Frequency of publication: (**circle preference**)      bi-monthly      quarterly      yearly
- Topics of interest: (**circle those of value to you**):      1. industry news      2. book reviews  
3. expert opinion/position papers on contemporary issues      4. upcoming meetings and events
- Delivery method (**circle one**):      paper      email      both

Comments on improving the ARPAS newsletter

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**Section III. ARPAS Web Site**

1. Suggestions for web site: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Usefulness of website (**rank 1 – highest to 5 - lowest**): \_\_\_\_\_

**Section IV. Respondent Information**

1. I am: (**circle appropriate**) PAS ACAN or other specialties \_\_\_\_\_
2. Area of main interest: (nutrition, physiology, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
3. My main species of interest is: (**circle one**) Beef Dairy Equine Swine  
Poultry Aquaculture other species (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
4. ARPAS member for how many years? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Job function: (**check one**)  
 nutrition/feed industry  tech service  extension  research-academia  
 research-industry  veterinarian  genetics/A.I. industry  
 animal health industry  independent consultant  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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