



NEWSLETTER

September, 2013



NPLC PLANNING MEETING

The gang gathered in OKC earlier this month to plan the 2014 Annual Meeting program. We were hosted by the folks at the Pinto Horse Association of America and appreciate the great hospitality. Topics, speakers and award candidates were discussed. The dates for your calendar are May 5-7 in Oklahoma City. If you are an NPLC member, we fully

expect to see you there! Among the topics are leadership, social media (good people gone bad), a panel discussing updates on genetic research, cloning, information transfer and legal implications relating to ownership of genetic material. And, we'll have a session on crisis management specifically about disease outbreaks at livestock events. Additional details will be available, but the board is focused on providing a meeting worth your time, effort and money.

SPEAKING OF MONEY

We are set to produce another NPLC Membership Directory and could use suggestions or actual sales help for potential advertisers. We'd like to have commitments by the end of this month. If you have corporate partners who might be interested, let them know that approximately 12,000 copies are distributed and that a half-page ad is \$300 and a full-page ad is \$500.

And, to let you know that we're spending some of your money on the future, several breed associations and NPLC are partnering on an exhibit area at this year's FFA Convention.

INDUSTRY ISSUES

As with any group of livestock folks sitting around a table, the board discussed a wide assortment of issues facing the industry from the economy in general to long-term impact of drought to comparing notes on registration rules, parentage verification and membership trends. One of the larger benefits of NPLC is the opportunity to spend some time away from duties at the office to recharge and rework your

list of "important" things to worry about. The blizzard of information makes things difficult enough, but there's also the non-stop "feedback" from members and volunteer leaders. A speaker recently suggested that if someone brings you a problem without also bringing at least one possible solution, they've really just brought you a complaint. As the sign says: The complaint department is closed!

PREZ DAN MAKES A MOVE!

In case you hadn't heard, Dan Meihak has started a new job as Executive Director for the American Bucking Bull Inc. and United States Bucking Bull Association, which is headquartered in Pueblo, Colorado. As you might imagine, the fascinating world of documenting and preserving pedigrees is an important part of the mission.

Monthly Bit of Wisdom

Good boards decide and delegate; they do not react and ratify.

NOTE FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES (ASAE) ON TAX REFORM

Momentum on tax reform in Congress is increasing. The House Ways and Means Committee is poised to release a draft bill in the coming weeks. The stage is set for a possible mark up of the committee bill in October. While much of the media's focus has been on adjusting corporate or individual tax rates, ASAE has been watching concurrent debates on deductions, credits, and additional sources of revenue. ASAE is concerned about potential ramifications for the association community, as it is unclear how Congress will address those issues.

The issue that is of the utmost concern to the association community is modifications to the UBIT statute. Adjustment to the statute may force associations to make stark changes to their business models. In preparation for a debate in Congress on these issues, ASAE recently sent a letter to the leadership of the Congressional tax-writing committees. In the letter ASAE reaffirms to Congress the major economic impact of associations, as well as how associations depend on income from passive royalties to advance their tax-exempt mission. Finally, we reiterate the important work that associations do around the country that may be severely diminished due to changes in the statute.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL REPORT SOUNDS ALARM ON ANTIBIOTIC OVERUSE IN HOSPITALS, NOT FARMS

Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a new report highlighting the growing threats posed by antibiotic resistance and pointing to antibiotic overuse by humans as the main culprit.

"Antibiotics are among the most commonly prescribed drugs used in human medicine. However, up to 50% of all the antibiotics

prescribed for people are not needed or are not optimally effective as prescribed," noted the report.

"The most acute problem is in hospitals," emphasized CDC Director Tom Frieden. "The most resistant organisms in hospitals are emerging in those settings because of poor antimicrobial stewardship among humans."

The report also noted that the use of antibiotics for promoting growth in food animals is not necessary and should be phased out.

The report noted that "it is difficult to directly compare the amount of drugs used in food animals with the amount used in humans, but there is evidence that more antibiotics are used in food production."

One of the "gaps in knowledge" about antibiotic resistance is that the use of antibiotics in humans and animal production is not systematically collected, according to the report.

Long-time critics of using antibiotics in animal production seemed disappointed in the report.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) said CDC "missed an opportunity to advise veterinarians and federal and state agencies on reducing the quantity of antibiotics used in animal production."

"Although CDC says antibiotics for growth promotion in food animals should be "phased out," the report lacks specific detail, including advice for veterinarians, the food industry, and the agencies that regulate food safety—the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture. And CDC's advice for consumers on safe food handling may help people avoid illness, but it doesn't help stop the problem of resistance development," CSPI said.

**SAVE THE DATES
MAY 5-7, 2014
NPLC ANNUAL MEETING**

Animal Welfare Approved

Animal Welfare Approved has launched a new smartphone app that helps consumers decipher food packaging and restaurant menus. Available for both iPhone and Android devices, AWA's Food Labels Exposed is a free app that provides succinct, clear, and factual definitions for over 80 common food terms and claims.

Arabian Horse News

A couple notable in the Arabian horse industry has donated \$3 million to the Colorado State University Equine Reproduction Laboratory to propel teaching, research and clinical services that have made the laboratory a foremost authority in reproductive science and techniques.

Bud and Jo Adams, of Scottsdale, Ariz., said the significant donation is their way of giving back to a program that benefited their horse business, Adams Arabians, for many years. It is the family's second transformational gift to the university: Twenty years ago, Bud Adams and his late first wife, Louise, donated a barn and arena complex worth more than \$1 million; the Adams-Atkinson Arena has been a key facility, where thousands of CSU equine students have gained a unique combination of scientific and hands-on learning.

AAEP Foundation Allocates More Than \$316,000 in Support of Programs Benefiting the Welfare of the Horse

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Foundation has approved 2013 funding of \$316,298 for 25 equine organizations and special projects committed to improving the welfare of the horse.

Among the initiatives receiving support are Equitarian workshops, student veterinary scholarships, important equine research, unwanted horse programs, and professional and youth development. New initiatives to receive funding include an October 2013 Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy Summit, the AAEP's National Equine Health Plan Task Force and its

efforts to develop an Equine Disease Communication Center, and additional support for laminitis research.

Beltway Beef Newsletter

If you haven't become a loyal reader, maybe you should. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association is publishing a regular (almost weekly) online newsletter called BELTWAY BEEF, with updates on pending legislation and various regulatory issues.

STAGES = Swine Testing and Genetic Evaluation System

In order to best serve the commercial swine industry, purebred swine breeders must continue to emphasize the production of seedstock with documented quality and predictability. The **Swine Testing and Genetic Evaluation System** (STAGES™), a program of the National Swine Registry (NSR), provides purebred genetic suppliers the opportunity to do just that.

Developed by the NSR to facilitate genetic improvement, STAGES™ calculates the most economically significant traits and predicts the genetic value of each pig using Best Linear Unbiased Prediction (BLUP) technology. A team of leading swine geneticists from U.S. land grant universities oversees the system to ensure its effectiveness in making genetic improvement. STAGES™ accurately assesses the genetic merit of all participating nucleus herds of America's Best Genetics. Through accurate data collection and reporting, a database of nearly two million performance records has been compiled for numerous economically relevant traits, and with state-of-the-art technology, EPDs and indexes are updated each evening. These predictions of genetic merit, coupled with a DNA-verified pedigree structure, help purebred operations find ways to make hogs better and more profitable.

Editorial Note

News items from your association that might be of value for NPLC members should be shared. Don't hesitate to send an email to your loyal and faithful editor for inclusion (or at least consideration). staylor@appaloosa.com