

Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (LCSAC) was held on February 11, 2015 in the Vermont Labor Relations Board Hearing room at 13 Baldwin Street, Montpelier VT. The following members were present:

Dr. Kristin Haas (KMH); Dr. Ruth Blauwiel (RB); Diane Bothfeld (DB); Les Pike (LP); Dr. Kent Henderson (KEH); Royal Larocqe (RL); Jessica Danyow (JD); Marcy Wisnowski (MW); Jane Clifford (JC) (initial portion of meeting only)

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by DB at 9:02 AM.

The following members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products participated in the first part of the meeting:

Carolyn Partridge; Dan Connor; Rodney Graham; Richard Lawrence; Teo Zagar; Joey Purvis

The following public observers (affiliations) were present:

Joanne Bourbeau (Humane Society of the United States); Joe Emenheiser (UVM Extension) (latter portion of the meeting only); Caroline Abels (Humaneitarian; Local Banquet)

LCSAC members and legislators engaged in discussion of the following topics:

- Review of the existing LCSAC position statements (swine gestation crates, tail docking) and letters (letter to the legislature re. Act 83)
 - Rep. Partridge, with support from her committee members, asked that the LCSAC review and amend if needed its existing position statement on tail docking as a bill on this subject has been introduced by Senator Sears.
 - Legislators requested that the LCSAC review the request it made in its Act 83 letter and acknowledged that there is a need for education/outreach to small farmers and itinerant slaughterers engaging in on-farm slaughter to ensure they are utilizing best management practices when slaughtering on the farm and to ensure that there are qualified, experienced itinerant slaughterers who are succeeding those who are retiring.
- Overview of the Dairy CARE initiative and associated March 12, 2015 workshop
 - KEH provided a description of this initiative
 - Dairy CARE dovetails with the FARM program and provides the context for the written SOPs that are required by the FARM program.
- Overview and status update of the calf transport initiative
- H.52 was discussed briefly

The November 2014 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written, following a motion made by LP and seconded by RB

Following the legislators' departure from the meeting, LCSAC members engaged in a follow up discussion regarding the calf transport initiative and the bill pertaining to tail docking.

Calf Transport Initiative

- \$2,450.00 in sponsorship funding has been raised – acknowledged that this might not be enough funding to complete all that was originally contemplated
- LCSAC members agreed that all materials should be bilingual (English and Spanish) – State of Vermont has access to a translator but services might be fee-based
- Resources contemplated include palm cards, longer fact sheets, trifold brochures, website materials, videos
- Potential contractor ideas
 - College/pre-vet students could help as interns
 - Don Hognlund could serve as a potential resource – KMH to contact
 - Don Hoenig of MIM Consulting could be a good resource – KMH to contact
 - Holly Tippet with Farm to Plate – JD to contact
 - Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy – JD to contact
 - Caroline Abels has a number of contacts and is willing to distribute RFP within her network
- Potential additional funding sources
 - Vermont Community Foundation – Small and Inspiring grants - <http://www.vermontcf.org/Nonprofits/AvailableGrants/SmallInspiring.aspx>
 - Fund a Farmer grant program - <http://www.fundafarmer.org/>
- Project timeline
 - KMH will draft RFP and share via email with LCSAC members
 - RFP disseminated by end of February 2015
 - Accept proposals through end of March 2015
 - Finalize hiring decision by April 2015 LCSAC meeting
 - Hire contractor with anticipated contract completion date of July 2015

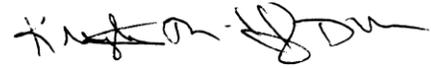
Tail Docking Bill

- KMH to send copy of bill and existing LCSAC position statement to members by end of February
- LCSAC members to correspond re. content of position statement via email during month of March
- Complete a revised draft of position statement in time for final review during April LCSAC meeting
- Submission to House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products immediately following April meeting

A public comment period was held; Joe Emenheiser commented that he might be able to donate time to the calf transport initiative/spend time working with the contractor that is hired

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin M. Haas". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kristin M. Haas, DVM