

Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (Council) was held on February 17, 2016 at the UVM Extension Berlin office, located at 327 U.S. Route 302, Berlin VT.

The following members were present: Dr. Kristin Haas (KH) Joe Emenheiser (JE), Dr. Omar Oyarzabal (OO), Jane Clifford (JC), Royal LaRoque (RL), JoAnn Nichols (JN), Dr. Ruth Blauwiekel (RB), Les Pike (LP), Melody Squier (MS)

The following public observers (affiliations) were present: Carrie Abels (Local Banquet; Humaneitarian.org)

The meeting was called to order by KH at 9:07 AM.

Approval of the minutes from the November 2015 meeting was tabled as there was not a quorum present at that point in the agenda. The minutes will be voted on during the April 2016 meeting.

Calf/cattle transport materials: Representative Dan Connor has committed \$2,000 to printing the educational materials on behalf of the VT Beef Industry Council; Joe Emenheiser has committed \$1,000 to printing materials on behalf of UVM Extension. The materials will need slight reformatting to include the additional sponsor information. The new goal is to have materials printed by the first week in April for dissemination at the AgriMark meeting in Burlington. KH will send materials to JN for reformatting. The web version of the information is currently available on the VAAFMM website.

Ben and Jerry's Caring Dairy Program: KH recently attended a meeting hosted by Ben and Jerry's where they introduced the principles of the animal welfare component to veterinarians who provide services to farms that produce for the company. Some Vermont producers are strongly supportive of the program; others are strongly opposed.

Drug testing of pulling oxen in Vermont: KH will be speaking with the VT/NH Fair Association members on February 27th and will provide them with an overview of the 2015 drug testing program for pulling horses/ponies at VT agricultural fairs. The Council discussed briefly the possibility of recommending that testing for therapeutic substances in pulling oxen be instituted but determined that this decision should be left to the impacted industries.

Legislative discussion: The Council discussed at length the challenges associated with the investigation and enforcement of alleged livestock abuse/neglect cases in Vermont and the associated public perception issues. The following questions and points were specifically posed by members in attendance:

1. It is imperative that all stakeholders work together to regain the trust of Vermont consumers – how can this best be achieved? Opening working farms to visits from the

public may be beneficial -- organized breakfasts on Vermont farms have already been held, and more are planned for 2016.

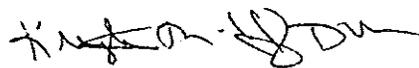
2. What is the best way to be proactive on livestock well-being issues rather than reactive? It is important to educate consumers and legislators; possibly develop a network of producer-consultants for each species who could assist humane officers if needed -- this could empower producers who are striving for excellence and raise the bar for all.
3. When there are animal abuse/neglect violations that are substantiated, there must be consequences imposed as a result of prudent enforcement; producers who break the law must be held accountable.
4. The Council members in attendance unanimously support mandatory training/education for all humane officers. It is inappropriate to vest these individuals with the statutory authority to investigate alleged criminal violations without equipping them with the knowledge and tools to do it properly. Mandatory training would enable humane officers to appropriately assess direct measures of animal well-being.
5. The Council encourages members of the Vermont Legislature to review the 2016 legislative report that focuses on the animal cruelty investigative process -- mandatory training of humane officers is one of the recommendations in that document.
6. What are the pros and cons of passing legislation that mandates more prescriptive environmental conditions, which are indirect measures of animal well-being, rather than language that mandates more prescriptive direct measures of animal well-being? The former may benefit humane officers who lack familiarity with behavior and physical attributes of healthy livestock species, but the latter would be a more efficient direct method of assessing animal well-being.
7. Sustainable agriculture relies on a combination of all production systems -- organic, conventional, large, small, etc. -- and polarizing discussion within the agricultural community that labels these methods of production and designates each as mutually exclusive from the others is counterproductive to the cause of promoting sustainable Vermont agriculture.

As a result of this general discussion, the Council agreed that it would be beneficial to invite the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture, as well as the Senate and House Judiciary committee members, to its next meeting on April 13th in order to engage legislators in this discussion and introduce new legislators to Council members. It is important that committees with jurisdiction of animal well-being issues regard the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council as a resource. KH will contact the assistant for the Committees on Agriculture to schedule this meeting.

The Council briefly discussed H.697, a bill that proposes to amend the shelter and exercise requirements for equines. Contemplation of this proposed bill resulted in the Council discussion that has already been summarized in this document. More discussion is anticipated when the Council meets with legislators in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin M. Haas". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kristin M. Haas, DVM

Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (LCSAC) was held on April 13, 2016 from 9:00AM to 11:30AM in Room 10 of the Vermont Statehouse. The meeting provided the forum for a discussion between LCSAC members and legislative members of the Vermont House and Senate Committees of Agriculture. Multiple members of the Committees on Agriculture attended; House and Senate Judiciary members were invited to attend but were unable due to the impending close of the 2016 legislative session. The following LCSAC members were in attendance:

Diane Bothfeld (DB); Dr. Kristin Haas (KMH); Dr. Kent Henderson (KEH); Dr. Ruth Blauwiekel (RB); Marcy Wisnowski (MW); Les Pike (LP); Royal Larocque (RL); Joe Emenheiser (JE); Jane Clifford (JC); JoAnn Nichols (JN); Brian Kemp (BK); Marcy Wisnowski (MW); Melody Squier (MS)

The following public observers (affiliation) were present:

Barry Londeree (Humane Society of the United States); Caroline Abels (*Local Banquet & Humaneitarian.org*)

A quorum being present, Chair DB called the meeting to order at 9:05AM, and those in attendance introduced themselves. KMH reviewed the LCSAC's charge and purpose and briefly reviewed position statements, etc. that the LCSAC had provided to the Legislature.

JC presented the cattle/calf transport education/outreach materials to the legislators in attendance. Several suggested that all existing outreach materials be made available in Spanish translated versions, and that materials be distributed to Rural Vermont and the Franklin County Watershed Group. Legislators also recommended that future iterations of the materials contain several legislators suggested that the LCSAC should next focus its education/outreach efforts on livestock handling/stockmanship by providing written best management practices and interactive training. This suggestion will be considered for discussion during future meetings. KEH clarified that Merck Animal Health has already created interactive training modules for livestock handling and that these could be utilized by the LCSAC for in-state training. One legislator suggested that it would be helpful to include the livestock lameness scale in future iterations of the outreach materials.

The group discussed H.512, including the proposed Senate amendments to the bill. There is some disagreement between the House and the Senate as to next steps for H.512, and the members of the House Committee on Agriculture in attendance stated that the Senate amendments to H.512 should stand alone as one or more separate bill(s). The key points of the Vermont Animal Cruelty Task Force were discussed.

RB led a discussion with attendees that reviewed the status of the joint resolution on tail docking, which has passed out of the Senate and is being discussed in the House. The resolution commends the National Milk Producers Federation and other private sector organizations for approaching this issue in a proactive, non-intrusive manner. Several cited the

resolution as evidence that market/industry-driven mandates can effect change in Vermont. RB thanked legislators for their efforts related to this issue.

JE led a discussion pertaining to different approaches to measuring animal well-being. Many in attendance agreed that direct, science-based methodologies are preferred over indirect ones but acknowledged the complicating factors that often arise when animal well-being is evaluated. It was suggested that any livestock well-being – related legislative mandates that are enacted in Vermont focus on directly assessing physical and behavioral attributes of the animal(s) being evaluated rather than on prescribing environmental parameters that impact those direct attributes.

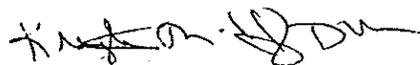
LCSAC members asked legislative members in attendance what the Council should focus on in the near future. Legislative partners suggested the following: biosecurity, Avian Influenza issues, the importance of premises ID, and the possibility of using more widely in Vermont RFID tags rather than visual ID tags. Multiple legislators in attendance suggested that the LCSAC develop a position statement highlighting the advantages of premises registration prior to the next legislative session.

A public comment period was offered, but public observers declined to comment.

Minutes from the prior two LCSAC meetings were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43AM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin M. Haas".

Kristin M. Haas, DVM

Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (LCSAC) was held on September 21, 2016 from 9:00AM to 11:45AM in the classroom of the UVM Extension office located at 327 US Route 302, Suite 1 in Barre. The following LCSAC members were in attendance:

Diane Bothfeld (DB); Dr. Kristin Haas (KMH); Dr. Kent Henderson (KEH); Dr. Ruth Blauwiel (RB); Les Pike (LP); Royal LaFocque (RL); Joe Emenheiser (JE; participated by phone); Jane Clifford (JC); JoAnn Nichols (JN); Dr. Omar Oyarzabal (OO)

The following public observer (affiliation) was present:

Barry Londeree (Humane Society of the United States)

A quorum being present, Chair DB called the meeting to order at 9:04AM, and those in attendance introduced themselves.

Following a motion made by KEH and seconded by LP, the minutes from the April 2016 meeting were approved without further discussion.

KMH initiated a discussion regarding member term statuses. Several members are in need of reappointment or replacement, but KMH has been unsuccessful in getting the appointing authorities to take action on these items. It was determined by consensus that this issue should be tabled until after the new Administration and legislative body is in place. It was also noted that even when members' terms have ended, they may continue to serve until replacements are found. This discussion will be continued during the first meeting of 2017.

KEH introduced Tom Frangione with Merck Animal Health, and they jointly presented information to LCSAC members about Merck's Dairy Care 365 program. Pertinent points from that presentation and resultant discussion include the following:

- The purpose of the program is to actively engage farmers to ensure that their production animals are humanely managed.
- To participate in the program, the farmer signs an Animal Care Commitment Statement, codifying his or her intent; SOPs are developed jointly by the livestock owner and the veterinarian of record; video training modules are viewed by all employees on the farm, supported by the livestock owner and veterinarian; there is verification that the training has occurred and that recommended practices are followed; retraining occurs as needed and for new employees.
- Training video resources are available at www.DairyCare365.com, but critical to have attending veterinarian involved with employee continuing education for best outcome because it allows practices to be customized for the particular farm(s).
- A training meeting was held in Vermont in 2015 with approximately 50 attendees, including dairy cooperative representatives, veterinarians and producers.

- A series of webinars will be held in the near future where eight video training modules will be presented and reviewed
- Beef cattle modules are also available but Mr. Frangione was less familiar with those.

Follow up action items for the LCSAC were discussed and include the following:

- There is not a need for the LCSAC to develop these types of resources since they already exist, but LCSAC members may:
 - Help disseminate webinar notification through networks
 - Work with the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association to host a veterinary-specific training on the Program
 - Help introduce the program and the training modules to the CREAM and 2 + 2 students at UVM and VTC.
 - Provide a link to the Dairy Care 365 program on the LCSAC website landing page.
 - Invite dairy cooperative representatives to the next LCSAC meeting to further discuss their utilization of this and similar programs.

LCSAC members discussed the development of a position statement re. farm premises ID. RB will write a draft statement, with input from KMH, for review by the LCSAC. This was a topic that the Legislature suggested the LCSAC focus on during the April meeting.

The topic of adequate shade for livestock was discussed. It is expected that a bill focusing on this will be introduced during the 2017 session, and Secretary Ross met with one Vermonter who is extremely concerned about the current statutory language. The LCSAC has previously agreed by consensus the legislative mandates, if they are to be developed, should focus on direct measures of animal well-being rather than solely on indirect environmental assessments.

LCSAC members discussed on-farm biosecurity. Action items resulting from that discussion include:

- Linking the LCSAC webpage to Dr. Julie Smith's biosecurity website (KMH and RB)
- Acquire biosecurity signs from USDA and other sources for dissemination in Vermont (KMH)

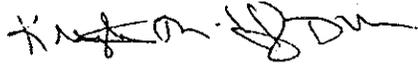
The Council briefly discussed the use of RFID tags in livestock and determined that the associated issues are outside the scope of the LCSAC.

The Council briefly discussed the circumstances surrounding at-large livestock and the public health and safety risk that those situations cause. A bill pertaining to this may be introduced during the 2017 session, and the LCSAC will provide input as requested by the Vermont Legislature.

A public comment period was offered; no public comments were received.

DB reminded attendees of the next meeting scheduled for November 9, 2016 in the same location, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:54AM following a motion made by RB and seconded by KEH.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kristin M. Haas, DVM

Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (LCSAC) was held on November 9, 2016 from 9:00AM to 10:54AM in the classroom of the UVM Extension office located at 327 US Route 302, Suite 1 in Barre. The following LCSAC members were in attendance:

Diane Bothfeld (DB); Dr. Kristin Haas (KMH); Dr. Kent Henderson (KEH); Dr. Ruth Blauwiel (RB); Les Pike (LP); Royal Larocque (RL); Jane Clifford (JC); Dr. Omar Oyarzabal (OO); Melody Squier (MS)

No public observers were present:

A quorum being present, Chair DB called the meeting to order at 9:05AM.

Following a motion made by LP and seconded by KEH, the minutes from the September 2016 meeting were approved without further discussion.

KMH Updated members on the acquisition of a two-year FDA grant awarded to the Agency of Agriculture for the purpose of implementing an education and outreach program that promotes responsible on-farm use of veterinary medications. The intent of the effort is to reduce the incidence of medication residues found in the tissues of bob calves and market cattle originating from Vermont, thereby protecting public health and promoting the Vermont Brand. This effort is expected to have a positive impact on animal well-being.

Members discussed a draft position statement authored by RB and KMH that provides justification for mandatory livestock/poultry farm registration in Vermont. The discussion focused on the need to highlight three general points in the position statement: 1) premises registration can help protect the Vermont Brand; 2) premises registration can help protect producers who are not otherwise licensed or registered with VAAFM; and, 3) there are financial benefits for producers associated with registration of their farm premises. KMH/OO/RB will make additional edits to the position statement based on the group's discussion and will circulate to members before the next LCSAC meeting.

KMH and DB updated members on VAAFM's initiative to modernize the livestock/poultry health-related statutes via an "Animal Health Omnibus" bill to be contemplated during the 2017 legislative session. KMH will be contacting Representative Partridge to discuss this possibility.

Members engaged in a follow up discussion pertaining to the Dairy Care 365 and biosecurity related conversation that occurred during the September meeting. Noteworthy items from that discussion are the following:

- KMH will work with the VVMA to possibly host a veterinary-specific training on the Dairy Care 365 program.
- The CREAM and 2+2 students have already been introduced to this program.

- KMH will add links to the Dairy Care 365 program and other similar ones on the LCSAC website.
- KMH will invite dairy cooperative representatives to the April 2017 LCSAC meeting in order to provide a review of Vermont-pertinent programs to LCSAC members.
- KMH will inquire with USDA and the State of Maine about obtaining biosecurity signs and will bring examples to the next meeting for possible further dissemination to Vermont farmers.

A public comment period was offered; no comment was received.

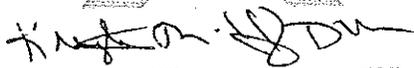
Dates for the 2017 LCSAC meetings were set, and they are the following:

- February 8; 9AM – 12PM; plan to hold in Montpelier and invite members of legislative committees with jurisdiction
- April 5; 9AM – 12PM – plan to hold in Berlin pending availability of Extension office meeting room
- September 20; 9AM – 12PM – plan to hold in Berlin pending availability of Extension office meeting room
- November 8; 9AM – 12PM – plan to hold in Berlin pending availability of Extension office meeting room

Members discussed the use of conference calling vs. holding in-person meetings. There was agreement that in-person meetings are preferred but that conference calling can be used as an exception if logistical issues prevent in-person attendance by one or more members.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin M. Haas, DVM