

Health and Welfare Board Advisory Committee Draft Minutes

20 May 2020

1 WPA service agreement with AHA

Policy Manager Report

The Policy Manager Report was noted.

2 Market access support

Consumer perceptions project

The committee noted the verbal update provided. Given the COVID situation, the approach to commence the project is on-hold.

Animal sentience policy discussion

The committee discussed animal sentience in a global health and welfare context, and with a focus on Australian production systems. Discussion included the benefits and challenges associated with recognising animals as sentient beings, in legislative and enforcement settings as well as production settings. NSW Farmers' Association and the Victorian Farmers' Federation provided an update on policy settings within their organisations and from their state government reviews of animal welfare legislation. The committee agreed that WPA should be progressive in our policies and that our current welfare policy sufficiently recognises the mental state of an animal in context to sentience.

SheepMAP

The committee discussed the future of SheepMAP following varying feedback provided on the revised SheepMAP manuals and to the review findings discussed at the November 2019 meeting. SheepMAP provides market access for markets requiring John's testing. South Australian studs want to continue involvement in SheepMAP. Export markets want vaccinated rams (e.g. Uruguay, Argentina) and SheepMAP provides a pathway for this. People in SheepMAP want to continue with the programme and do not want to move to vaccination. It was agreed that AHA would continue the SheepMAP programme but WPA will continue to monitor participant numbers.

3 Biosecurity

NSIBS update

An update on work of the project steering committee was provided to the committee including work on opportunities to roll-out NSIBS into NSW and Tasmania. Dr Emily Buddle, NSIBS Extension Officer (South Australia) was introduced to the committee after commencing in the role in mid-April. An overview of Dr Buddle's workplan was noted by the committee. Penelope Keynes who has commenced in a similar role with Livestock SA also joined the meeting and was introduced to the committee. The need to not replicate the former Livestock Biosecurity Network model was discussed, including how NSIBS will be rolled-out to ensure that NSIBS fits the requirements of the state and the NSIBS objectives through its customised implementation.

4 Special initiatives

WPA YA Policy Presentation: Mulesing status and market trends

Background on the process to develop the policy brief was provided as part of the Youth Ambassadorship with WPA. The Youth Ambassador discussed the changes to the policy that had to

be made in relation to changing environments in the policy space, as well as globally with COVID-19. A response to the terminology, 'Virgin Wool' was provided and issues with the claim in terms of Woolmark and Pure New Wool labelling were discussed.

ACTION	WPA to progress the next steps of the Youth Ambassador Mulesing status and market trends policy paper.
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WPA YA Policy Presentation: Youth in wool policy

Background on the process to develop the policy brief was provided as part of the Youth Ambassadorship with WPA.

ACTION	WPA to progress the next steps of the Youth In Wool policy paper.
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ACTION	WPA to identify potential funding opportunities to continue the Youth Ambassador programme.
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Sheep Sustainability Framework

The committee noted the verbal update provided on the progress of the development of the Sheep Sustainability Framework. A series of consultation webinars will commence soon and people and organisations were encouraged to participate to help shape this framework.

ACTION	WPA to circulate information on how to have input into the Sheep Sustainability Framework development.
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Livestock Wellbeing CRC

The committee discussed the proposal for a Livestock Wellbeing CRC and the meeting with the CRC held on 1 May 2020. The name of the CRC was raised as a concern and it was noted that the CRC presentation did not focus on animal productivity, which must be a focus of projects conducted by the CRC. It also would not be equitable for sheep levies to be used to fund cattle and other species work within the CRC without these commodities' levies contributing to the work as well.

WoolProducers is committed to achieving sustainable animal welfare improvements through the objective and unbiased scientific measurement of minimum standards and by pursuing interpretation of objective and scientific measurement at the herd/flock level rather than at the individual animal level. Because of these positions and WPA's commitment, the committee believed it is important to review support for CRC projects individually rather than providing support for the CRC as a whole.

MOTION	That the WPA Animal Health & Welfare Advisory Committee do not object to the establishment of the Livestock Wellbeing CRC, and request information be provided on a project-by-project basis to be considered by the committee for support.
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5 General business

- COVID-19 response: An overview of the actions conducted by the wool industry to keep the industry operating was provided. An update on China mills and processing was provided in response to information request. Another issue regarding shearer travel in Western Australia has been raised with contractors requesting sheep be brought forwards for

shearing due to potential lack of availability of shearers in the future due to self- isolation restrictions.

6 Next meetings

- 19 August (H&W) & 20 August (Exec), 2020
- 18 November (H&W) & 19 November (Exec), 2020

Meeting close: 11.41am

Signed as a true copy

Edward Storey
President