

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
January 7, 2009
Conference Call

- Present: Jim Mickelson
Joe Thomas
Jack Corson
Jim Bennage
Dave Graham
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters
Gene Hardy
Patrick Zimmerer
John Etchepare
- Absent: John Hansen
Frank Galey
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office
- Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director
Derek Grant, Public Information Officer
- Guests: Matt Mead and Cindy Garretson-Weibel – WY Business Council, Agri-Business Division

Joe Thomas attended a meeting in Montana about three weeks prior regarding Brucellosis in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. There was representation from the ranching communities, as well as State Veterinarians. He said they discussed a new vaccine, management plans and the feedgrounds in Wyoming. He felt the Board could possibly help put together management plans in their areas, but a new vaccine is probably fifteen years down the road at a great cost, and that without the feedgrounds there were be an increase in infected cattle in Wyoming.

Gene gave an update from the recently held ADMB meeting. He said they had received a report on the Absorka Elk herd in which the study has identified a resident herd and a migratory herd. The resident herd is growing while the numbers are down in the migratory one. There are three packs of wolves in the area. The study will try to see why there has been a decline in the one herd.

John Etchepare indicated he thought it would be a good idea from the Board to have a joint meeting with the division managers from the Department. After attending the House Ag committee meeting January 27, the two will meet the rest of that morning. The Board will continue its meeting that afternoon until the Senate adjourns and again the 28th.

Gene Hardy talked about some of the legislation. There is some proposed legislation regarding the intentionally feeding of livestock and Joe Thomas suggested obtaining the laws from Montana and Idaho. John continued talking about some of the bills that will be coming up his session and said here may be a 5% cut in agency funding due to revenues being less than projected.

The Wyoming Livestock Board will be meeting on January 13 regarding the humane treatment of animals at State Fair. John would like to have the Board discuss this before making a presentation to the Livestock Board. The Board had asked some time ago to look into the possible use of ultra-sound to determine tail length. John and Jason reported the vets they talked to said it would be rather cumbersome and time consuming; and then not be a sure way to check for tail length. At this point, the Board is still working under the 3-full coccygeal/caudal vertebrae.

Jack Corson wanted an update on the wild horse issue. John said BLM has no funding for roundups this year. He said they are working with the Governor about taking with BLM. He said we are still hoping to get some 2009 funding and there is a real drive to secure 2010 funding. What funding BLM currently has is going to the care of the horses and not to roundups.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Hardy, President

Date