

Northeast Farm Management Committee Report

by
Zane R. Helsel

Submitted to NEED on June 26, 2001

The Northeast Farm Management Committee met in Bar Harbor, Maine on June 14, 2001 following the Northeast Agricultural Economics Meetings. The committee had been asked to participate in a Risk Management Education project at the Center for Farm Financial Management (CFFM) at the University of Minnesota, to help build a new "Specialty Crops Section" for the National Ag Risk Education Library. Travel was paid by the project.

Kevin Klair and Chris Mikesell from CFFM attended the meeting to learn what fact sheets, articles, curriculum, presentations, and software programs that are currently in print for specialty crops in the northeast region. After a discussion as to what materials were available and how they should be organized in the library, some time was spent discussing what new materials should be developed to fill any voids that became apparent.

The University of Delaware has submitted a proposal to become the Northeast Regional Office for Risk Management Education. The proposal that was submitted to CSREES was discussed, including a provision for "block grants" for each 1862 and 1890 Land Grant University to continue their risk management education activities that were begun under previous RME funding. Approximately \$125,000 will be available for block grants in September of 2001, and additional (approx) \$250,000 will also be available for competitive grants in the fall of 2001. In subsequent years, all funds will be on a competitive basis.

Dr. Don West, National Program Leader for Farm Management gave a summary of CSREES activities over the past year. After a round robin of 'state reports' and discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Information submitted by:
H. Don Tilmon, Chair
Northeast Farm Management Committee

Northeast Pasture Research and Extension Consortium Report

By
Zane R. Helsel

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There were more than 60 persons who attended the NE Pasture Research and Extension Consortium annual meeting in early March near Harrisburg, PA. The keynote speakers were Bryan Petrucci on American Farmland Trust's plans to promote dairy grazing in the NE; Kim Seeley (Milky Way Farms, PA) and Duncan Hilchey (Rural Sociologist, Cornell University) on developing niche markets for pasture-based livestock products; Bill Tucker (VA beef producer) on the NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) and developing private-sector advocacy; and Evert Byington on the Agricultural Research Service's strategic plan for forage-livestock systems in the NE. Each speaker did an excellent job of setting the stage for discussion and debate. Also, a number of new producers including sheep and goat producers, and GLCI representatives attended for the first time.

The Consortium members approved several action items that will be "on the table" this calendar year:

1. The group agreed to continue developing the NE Grazing Guide website under new leadership at the University of Maine with added technical editors from the NE Region.
2. The group decided to request a continuation of the NE Pasture Consortium for another five-year period. The current term expires at the end of this calendar year. Accomplishments to-date, justification for the continuation, and future plans will be summarized and presented to the NE research and extension directors, ARS, and NRCS administrators for their consideration.
3. Based on the reviews of last year's unsuccessful consortium-type IFAFS proposal, it was decided that smaller, more focused grant proposals might be the best strategy this year. The Consortium agreed to provide written support for proposals on priority topics submitted to funding agencies if requested by the principal investigators. The priority topics selected were (not in priority order): 1) evaluate alternative forage species for inclusion in pasture-based production systems (Rayburn at WVU will lead this revised and expanded IFAFS proposal that was highly ranked last year, but not funded); 2) determine the environmental impacts of pasture-based livestock systems by quantifying nitrogen and phosphorus flows under grazing (some research is in progress, more needed); 3) enhance the amounts of conjugated linoleic acid and other fatty acids in milk and meat that are beneficial to human health through nutritional management of cattle (emphasis on beef cattle and human clinical studies since less information is available); and 4) evaluate the processing and marketing of pasture-based products with value-added attributes. The first two topics and the dairy cattle part of the third were included in last year's proposal. The last two topics will need significant discussion and planning.

In addition, Bryan Petrucci agreed to take the lead on a possible IFAFS grant proposal with major emphasis on education, outreach, demonstration, and applied research. The opportunity to link NE providers of grazing technology in a joint effort will be explored (AFT, GLCI, cooperative extension, industry, etc.). It may be possible to include some of the extension and resident education portions of last year's IFAFS proposal in this new one.

4. The Consortium will provide private-sector advocacy for the new legislation pending before Congress on NRCS/GLCI technical assistance, research, and education programs.

Information provided by:
Charles R. Krueger
Professor of Agronomy
College of Agricultural Sciences
The Pennsylvania State University

Dairy Practices Council Report

by
Zane R. Helsel

Submitted to NEED on June 26, 2001

At the request of Zane Helsel of Rutgers and to maintain our working relationship with the Northeast Cooperative Extension Directors I have prepared this report on the current status of DPC.

I am happy to report that the first year of billing the Northeast Cooperative Extensions on the same basis as all other educational institutions was completed without a problem. All members in the northeast have paid their annual dues at the new rate. Because of the change and adjustment by some of the universities in the number of updates received it resulted in a net loss to DPC of approximately \$3000 for the first year.

At the annual meeting of DPC in November 2000 the membership voted on several Constitution and By-laws Changes, which enables the organization to continue to grow. They were changed so that we could include countries as members. Prior to this change only States, Provinces and Territories could be members. We have already had inquiries from regulatory agencies in other countries about becoming members. We also changed the membership section to include educational institutions. Prior to this change only Cooperative Extension Service was mentioned. This opened membership up to universities that have Food Science or Agriculture Departments but are not part of the Cooperative Extension System. We have already had a community college with an agriculture department join. This also opens it up to universities worldwide.

All other changes in the constitution and by laws were of a housekeeping nature.

2001 Guideline Dissemination

The DPC March Guideline Updates Contained:

One New Guideline:

DPC 70, Small Ruminant Milking Systems

Two Revised Guidelines:

DPC18, Fieldperson's Guide to High Somatic Cell Count

DPC 49, Pre and Post Milking Teat Disinfectants

The March mailing totaled 990 sets of Guideline Updates. Northeast Cooperative Extension received 194 sets, or 19.6% of the March mailing. With the placing of the Northeast Extension on the same dues basis as the rest of the country their share of the DPC budget is at an all time low of 6%.

We have been direct mailing all updates for those Universities, which supplied a list of who was receiving the guidelines. This results in a savings in mailing cost for DPC and further distribution cost to the universities. We would request that if you have changes in your mailing list that you notify DPC. The guidelines are mailed under a non-profit bulk rate and are not returned if the address is incorrect.

Marketing

Since our last report we have had our display at the following locations.

- ADSA-ASAS Joint Meeting at the Baltimore Convention Center July 24-28, 2000.
- IAFP Meeting in Atlanta Georgia August 6-9, 2000
- New York State Association of Milk & Food Sanitarians in Syracuse, NY September 2000
- Pacific Congress on Milk Quality and Mastitis Control, November 13-16, 2000 in Nagano, Japan.

We continue to update and improve our Web Site. We still wish to include more information from your universities and Hot Link your Web site to ours.

The Benefits of Membership

1. Receive the DPC guidelines as they are written and revised.
2. DPC is the only source for practical, how to, peer reviewed, guidelines for the Dairy Industry
3. Ability to purchase additional copies of guidelines to use for training courses or class work at a 50% discount.
4. Receive direct mailing of announcements of our Annual Educational Meeting with registration at a reduced rate as compared to non-members.
5. A place for people in the educational field to have their work published if it falls into the area covered by our mission statement.
6. Publicity for the Educational Institution through the DPC Web site and Informational Brochures.
7. Hot links on the DPC Web site to your Web site or e-mail.
8. DPC guidelines are being distributed world wide so that it expands the area of recognition.

The Future

Over the last 3 years the DPC Executive Board has developed and continued the updating of a Plan for the Future. It contains the following points most of which have been accomplished in some part but are left in the plan to make sure that we continue to work on them.

1. Communications with Membership

- Provide 3 to 4 mailings per year to keep members informed
- Increase promotion of DPC to Industry
- Continue to expand the base of sustaining members
- Continue membership categories of individual, regulatory, educational, and sustaining.
- Continue to develop a Corporate Membership because of all the mergers taking place in the Dairy Industry.
- Continue promoting DPC at National Meetings through the DPC display, attendance and participation.

2. Task Forces and Guidelines

- Assure Task Force names reflect the area being covered for easy promotion and understanding.
- Maintain the mission statement for each task force to assure it is accurate.
- Make sure systematic review is conducted to ensure Guidelines are current.
- Promote Guidelines as peer reviewed documents.
- Involve experts from non-member states
- Continue to work on and promote small Guideline Sets for Niche Markets.
- Convene Task Force and Committee meetings in conjunction with other Organizations National Meetings.

3. Executive Board

- Continue a 1 and ½ day Spring Meeting
- Continue a ½ day meeting during the Annual Meeting

4. Annual Meeting

- Continue current format.
- Continue current 2 and ½ day format.
- Increase promotion to obtain workers from all areas of the country.

Since we are in our 32nd year of existence we do not want to make changes, which will take us away from our successful formula of operation. We just want to expand our base so that we have all the experts in the field working on our guidelines.

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Dairy Practices Council, I want to thank the Northeast Extension Directors for their continued support of this non-profit educational organization.

Information submitted by:
Terry B. Musson
Executive Vice President
The Dairy Practices Council

TO: Northeast Extension Directors (ne-cesdirs@umail.umd.edu)
FROM: Lavon L. Bartel (lbartel@umext.maine.edu)
SUBJECT: Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center report for June 2001

Northeast Regional Aquaculture Committee (NRAC)
Prepared for the Northeast Regional Directors Meeting—Penn State
June 24-27, 2001
Presented by Lavon Bartel

Gloria Wyche-Moore of Washington DC became the chair, effective January 1, 2001. Information regarding NRAC can be found at:
<http://www.umassd.edu/specialprograms/nrac/>

The NRAC Board and the host university through the partner institution, UMass-Dartmouth has offered the position of Executive Director to Tomas Vergel C. Jamir. As of June 14th, the date of the last Executive Committee meeting of the Board, Dr. Jamir had not joined the staff, yet business such as submission, return with comments and revision of NRAC's 13th Plan of Work go on as necessary to conduct the research and extension programs in the Northeast, through USDA Review. The projects with positive review should be able to start around the time of the projected REP start—01 July 2001. The NRAC executive committee is scheduled to discuss the USDA reiterated requirements for proposal funding at our next meeting. Some members of the group do not think the multi-state requirements always make sense and some are concerned that the USDA review is not consistent with what some of the region's expressed aquaculture industry needs. I remain an advocate for multi-state "regional" approaches and would appreciate any insights others in Northeast Extension might have regarding "alternative funding" for PI's who propose "one state" (or basically single locus) projects. NRAC's Executive Committee is tentatively set to meet on September 14, 2001, while the entire regional board meets yearly in December (this year 12/10-11/01). My appointment (a completion of John Gerber's election to serve) on NRAC expires 12/31/2001. If nominated and elected by the Northeast Extension Directors to another 2-year term as extension liaison, I would serve.

Action required: There are no actions necessary at the time by the Northeast Extension Directors except for following the request to have the appropriate person's name forwarded to serve on the Board and Executive Committee effective 1/1/2002.
