

**DRAFT**  
**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS**  
**MINUTES FOR THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY JULY 5, 2016, 8:30 a.m.**  
**IN THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

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**Present:** Darren Bevans - *Chair, Zone 2*  
Rick Friesen - *Zone 1*  
Howard Bekkering - *Zone 1*  
Jimmy Nelson - *Zone 2*  
Brian Edge - *Zone 3*  
Ralph Buhler - *Zone 6*  
Cody Miller - *Zone 7 via phone*  
Lyndon Mansell - *Zone 8*  
Dick Wymenga - *CCC*  
Charlie Christie - *CFC*  
Reynold Bergen - *BCRC*  
Clint Dobson - *ALMA*  
Leigh Rosengren - *Rosengren Epidemiology*

**Staff:** Karin Schmid - *Beef Prod Specialist*  
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*

Edge nominated Christie, who declined  
Schmid called three times for nominations  
Nominations ceased  
Darren Bevans was acclaimed as the ABP representative to the Beef Cattle Research Council.

(b) Letter of Intent Review:

A list of priorities was developed for research projects. Bevans outlined the priorities of the research call and reminded the committee members that proposals had to fit with those priorities.

*ANH.01.16:* aligned with priorities but test sample is small; how to determine acidosis; inconsistent results with pain medication on ruminants; **13.5**

*ANH.02.16:* medium priority alignment, sample size concern; did not recommend when reviewed with ADF; if calves that are stressed can be identified it will be easier to determine which will get sick; determining stress will also allow for purebreds to be bred for higher stress levels; **15.5**

*ANH.03.16:* some initial work has been done on swine with positive results; can we tailor a vaccination program to individual animals; not a lot of detail on how they will determine results; could be a starting point for something else; reviewed with ADF and recommended full proposal; **15.5**

*ANH.04.16:* assess antimicrobial resistance in the respiratory tract and fecal matter; concern that the study will not be able to answer the five objectives; **12.5**

*ANH.05.16:* study of use and resistance through the whole system; they are tracking how antimicrobial use changes resistance through growth; there is concern about the sample size, primarily number of herds involved; need to ensure results will be published; **45**

*ANH.06.16:* screening for known genetic elements; not a lot of information about field tests; test is multiplexed; full proposal will answer questions; **49.5**

*ANH.07.16:* strategy to reduce in-feed antibiotics in cattle; lab work; secured a commercial partner but could not find any information on them; do we need to be looking for something with more immediate results; **37.35**

*ANH.08.16:* targeting naturalized reservoirs of bovine pathogens to reduce environmental transmission of antibiotic resistance genes; interesting project but does not fit in the priorities; **20.75**

*ANH.09.16:* cross-sectional survey of cattle on entry to Alberta feedlots to measure prevalence of factors associated with antimicrobial resistance in respiratory

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**1. Adoption of Agenda** **8:30 a.m.**

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(a) Adoption of agenda:

Motion by Bekkering/Edge:

**“That the agenda be approved.”**

Carried

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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(a) Minutes of the February 4, 2016 conference call:

Motion by Mansell/Wymenga:

**“That the minutes for the February 4, 2016 conference call be approved.”**

Carried

**3. Financial Report**

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(a) Financial Statement ending May 31, 2016:

Motion by Mansell/Friesen:

**“That the financial statement be accepted for information purposes only.”**

Carried

**4. Decision Items**

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(a) Appointment of BCRC representative:

Christie nominated Bevans, who accepted

isolates; if we can figure out a way to reduce the amount of drugs used or to make the drugs used more effective that will benefit the industry; ask for an estimate on the changing budget if they test all four pathogens; **41.5**

*ANH.10.16:* antimicrobial resistance of bacteria causing bovine respiratory disease and their association with antimicrobial resistance gene transfer of food borne pathogens; looking at three retained ownership herds from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba; fewer samples but larger testing sizes; relying on VBP records for use which may not provide enough information; **13.5**

*ANH.11.16:* reduction of antimicrobial use in bovine respiratory disease (BRD); the combined effects of viruses and bacteria; determining viruses that predispose cattle to respiratory disease; using banked samples; **25.5**

*ANH.12.16:* a smartphone app and web interface for monitoring AMU; currently this information is collected through surveys; an app would be easier to use for our younger producers especially if they see the benefit to providing the information; this app is already being used at the U of S for other epidemiological uses; is there some way to share the information gathered by different information sources; many apps tracking treatment data but can't collect it all in one place; do we really need another app? **17**

*ANH.13.16:* investigation of an antimicrobial use (AMU) reduction intervention on the severity of liver abscesses and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Enterococci in feedlot cattle; Cargill in the US has reduced the use of Tylosin without a significant increase on liver abscesses; there is no published research; no evidence exists on when liver abscesses actually start.; **43**

*ANH.14.16:* assessing the effects of antibiotic use on antibiotic resistance in a beef production system using a virgin herd; trouble fitting this project into the ABP priorities; can antimicrobial use determine the resistance profile; if they find a link what is the benefit to the industry; concern over the second generation sample size; **20**

*ANH.15.16:* nutritional management to reduce for liver abscesses; instead of starch cattle will be fed a fat based diet; idea is that less starch may result in fewer liver abscesses and reduce the use of Tylosin; concerns about adequate source of pellets if the idea takes off; need to consider how to achieve the same effect with more available feedstuffs; **34**

Schmid will ask for full proposals from the following LOI's:

- ANH.06.16
- ANH.05.16
- ANH.13.16
- ANH.09.16
- ANH.07.16
- ANH.15.16

Motion by Wymenga/Nelson:

**“That the Research Committee request full proposals for the following Letters of Intent: ANH.06.16; ANH.05.16; ANH.13.16; ANH.09.16; ANH.07.16; ANH.15.16.”**

## 5. In Camera

## 6. Discussion Items

### (a) Alberta Beef Forage Centre Update:

Things are still moving along. From the organizations involved, we have been working to put together Terms of Reference; populating the advisory board; reps to Centre have been confirmed from ARECA, AFIN and ABP. ABP rep is Assar Grinde; looking to having a meeting in late fall.

### (b) 2015 Forage Call Update:

The only outstanding item is Greg Penner's NSERC application for matching funds, which we should hear about soon.

### (c) GF2 Project Update:

We pursued two projects through GF2, one looking at colistin resistance with Tim McAllister and one re-examining the impacts and prevalence of bloat with Karin Orsel, but neither were approved.

### (d) ALMA Discussion:

The new government has made a number of changes to the government structure; among them is the closing of ALMA.

Schmid spoke with John Brown about ALMA's dissolution, voicing a number of concerns about the process moving forward. He indicated that industry will be involved and engaged in the process and that he doesn't anticipate major changes to the programs delivered, just the vehicle for the delivery of those projects is changing.

ALMA will be dissolved by the fall as Alberta Agriculture learns how the organization works. During the lifetime of ALMA, the organization has invested over \$43 million in beef and forage research.

Bevans expressed his appreciation on behalf of the committee on the work ALMA has done to fund beef research.

### (e) “Worried About...” Update:

The next brochure, “Worried About Greenhouse Gas Emissions,” is currently with the designer for the second round of revisions.

### (f) General Project Update:

There are some projects that have finished and the Cluster reports are in. Schmid offered to circulate the reports, but the committee preferred to wait until the fact sheets were prepared as well. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein's lameness study is also completed and can send out a presentation she has given for anyone interested.

## **7. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events**

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- (a) Calgary Stampede July 8-17
- (b) International Range Symposium, Saskatoon – July 17-22
- (c) Kinsella Field Day – July 20
- (d) FCDC Field Day – July 28
- (e) CBIC – August 9-11
- (f) Livestock Gentec Conference – October 18-19

## **8. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Nelson at 3:10 p.m.