

The Sheepmeat Council of Australia held its Annual General Meeting and General Meeting in Longreach Queensland, on 15, 16 & 17 November 2011.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The primary activity at the AGM was the election of office bearers and committee representation. Kate Joseph has stepped down from the President role as she had served the maximum three year term, having been elected to the position of President in November 2008.

Ian McColl was elected President and Scott Anderson Vice President. David Boyle was re-elected Treasurer. A range of committee positions, filled on an annual basis, were also decided.

Ms Kate Joseph spoke to the president's report tabled and thanked Council and staff for their support during her time as President.

Ian Feldtmann was also thanked for his long term commitment to SCA as it was his last meeting as a Victorian Councillor.

The audited end of year financial report was presented and accepted.

General Meeting

Major issues discussed included:

President's Report

Kate Joseph covered the issues of live export (Eid al Adha and the senate hearing); MLA board selection committee; NFF animal welfare workshop; AHA biosecurity workshop; OJD review; PIMC NLIS committee; MLA taskforces. Information and photos on Trilamb and the Young Shepherds competition in New Zealand were also presented.

CEO's Report

Recruitment for the joint CCA/SCA media and communications position has been completed with Fiona Edwards taking up the role. She will begin in early January 2012.

Meat & Livestock Australia

The MLA Chairman Don Heatley and Managing Director Scott Hansen attended the meeting and discussed recent activities. They thanked SCA and industry for the commitment to the Eid Plan.

Peter Vaughan, General Manager, Livestock Production Innovation, MLA addressed the Council and was present for the discussions on MLA projects. The MLA Animal Welfare 5 year strategic plan was endorsed and will be presented to the MLA board in the near future before release to the public. Council supported further research in the field of extension and uptake of industry programs. A project proposal for Capripox diagnostic testing was supported.

NLIS (Sheep & Goats)

The PIMC working group on NLIS and traceability mechanisms was discussed in light of the Farmer review and the Ken Matthews report "An assessment of Australia's preparedness to manage the threat of foot- and – mouth disease" which identifies that traceability in the sheep industry is a key issue.

State Farmer Organisation Motions

A resolution from NSW Farmers on OJD and soil type research was discussed and will be passed to the next OJD Research Advisory Group meeting.

A resolution from Agforce On the difficulties generated as a result of Brucellosis Accreditation not being compulsory to sell rams was discussed. There is anecdotal evidence that the disease is spreading. As a first step a stocktake of current activities at state level is required to work out the best way forward and whether a national approach is required.

Animal Health and Welfare Report

Kathleen Ferme presented the Animal Health and Welfare report. Issues included Emergency Animal Disease Response with livestock standstill to occur in 2013 and Exercise Phantom Fox to occur in May 2012 to practice the response and involve ILO's. ILO training in WA has taken place (since last meeting) and NSW is scheduled for Feb 2012 at Wodonga.

A submission on the registration of Trisolfen was submitted to the APVMA.

Kathleen attended the Australian Sheep Veterinarians conference. The conference included presentations on current topical issues before Council - footrot, bacterial arthritis and mastitis and worm resistance.

The funding proposal from the National Arbovirus Monitoring Project management committee which changes the funding split between industry and government (to 70:30 split between industry and government for direct costs, which results in a 50:50 cost share when 'in kind' costing is included) was accepted by Council. Discussions were held on how animal industries will meet the increase in the funding.

The International Colloquium of Paratuberculosis is to be held in Sydney on 5-10 February 2012. Council nominated the Animal Health and Welfare Policy Officer and a Council member to attend the event. SCA encourages producers and industry representatives to attend the industry day on Wednesday 8 February 2012 which will include presentations from Johnes's Diseases representatives across Australia.

Following the August Council meeting further information has been gathered on footrot since Footvax vaccine importation permits have ceased. Council approved a national footrot face to face meeting to be held in early 2012 to allow for the presentation of research and for technical experts from each state to discuss future control options of footrot.

Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep

Industry involvement in the development of the Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines has recommenced. The council discussed issues around competency, mulesing and the regulatory impact analysis in regards to the standards and guidelines.

Land Transport Standards

The Land Transport Standards are soon to be regulated and states will be working to have them implemented during 2012. Council discussed how industry will fulfil the requirements of documentation on 'time off feed' and 'time off water' since the later versions of LPA NVD no longer ask this question.

Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD)

Discussions were held in regard to the new OJD strategies post June 2012 when the current program is scheduled to finish. Council discussed the program objectives, principles, tools, communications and budget. Further collaborative work will now occur with WoolProducers Australia and an announcement will be made in the coming weeks.

Australian Live Exporters Council

Peter Kane and Lach MacKinnon and Australian Live Export Council addressed Council on the performance of the Industry plan for the Eid al Adha in the Middle East. They were present during discussions on the use of stunning domestically and in our live export markets. Kate Joseph thanked Lach MacKinnon for his contribution to the Industry whilst working with ALEC, and wished him all the best for the future.

Future Meetings

20th/21st February 2012 Canberra and 30th April /1st May 2012 at AAHL in Geelong

Further detail/clarification is available from your SCA Councillor, or the SCA Office, see www.sheepmeatcouncil.com.au