

AASV District 11 Update to CASV

March 3, 2019

Blaine Tully

Greetings from the AASV and welcome back to Orlando! As you know, 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of our association, and I am looking forward to the conference and catching up with many colleagues.

This report will touch on a few highlights of the AASV fall meeting. On October 10th the AASV annual Fall Board of Directors' Meeting was held in Perry, IA. The Fall board meeting is always preceded by the AASV Strategic Planning session. Subcommittee chairs give updates of committee activity providing an opportunity to request support from the organization and board.

The Fall Meeting this year was slightly different as Dr. Tom Burkgren, our long-standing Executive Director has announced his retirement as of May 2019, requiring the re-hiring of his replacement. The 6 month rehiring process culminated in October when the board convened to interview successful candidates. Subsequent to the fall meeting, Dr. Harry Snelson has been hired as the new AASV Executive Director.

The fall meeting agenda was full, with many issues being discussed. I will outline a few of them below:

- The Canadian membership within the AASV is 138 members (total AASV Membership is 1697, including student memberships) representing 47 countries
- **ASF (African Swine Fever)** has received a lot of attention from the AASV executive and staff over the past months. Working closely with SHIC/NPB and NPPC, the association is having ongoing communication with USDA and US Border Services. Risk factor analysis, including feed/feed ingredients and foreign meat products have been identified as the main risks to the North American industry.
- **California Proposition 12** was discussed, as it will be voted upon in the upcoming midterm elections in California. This proposition will essentially allow the state to prohibit the sale of pork meat from farms that are not compliant with Proposition 2 (recall the ban of gestation stalls for all breeding sows other than 5 days prior to birth and during nursing periods. The ban of meat from farms also appears to include sows immediately after weaning.) This could impact Canadian companies currently marketing meat into California.

- **Welfare Committee update-** board discussed and approved the committee's RWA User questionnaire that outlines in some detail considerations that vets/producers need to understand while making a decision to adopt RWA programs. (FYI- we already have the RWA position statement, which can be found on the AASV website).

- **Future AASV Conference sites:**
 - 2020- Atlanta
 - 2021- San Francisco
 - 2022- Indianapolis
 - 2023- Denver
 - 2024- Nashville

As always, I serve at the pleasure of the District 11 members of the AASV. If you have any questions or concerns with the details within this report, or would like more information, feel free to contact me.

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