LINEAR APPRAISAL
2016 MID YEAR COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Daniel Considine and Robin Saum

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rachel Anderson, Lynn Benedict, Jennifer Bice, Bob Bourassa, June Bryan, Sally Callahan, Jan Carlson, Phil Cassette, Leslie Diaz, Kris Ellis, Lynn Fleming, Glenys Gotthardt, Brian Heiser, Joan Dean Rowe

Appraisers and Ex-Officio: Shirley McKenzie, Association Manager, Lisa Shepard, Performance Programs Manager, Mark Baden, Bob Bartholomew, Betty Henning, Eric Jermain, Trinity Smith Malmanis, Karen Brooks, Jennifer Tereba, John White, Sam Whiteside, Ben Rupchis, trainee and Don Bergfield, candidate

Committee goals and objectives:

- Plan and conduct the annual refresher session
- Plan and conduct a LA Education/Training Workshop at the Convention
- Continue the commercial herd research project approved by the Board 10/2011
- Continue to update the SOP and Guidebook as needed
- Continue to identify and train new appraisers
- Continue to provide Linear Appraisal program direction as a service to members

Summary of committee work so far:

1) A request was received from the Guernsey breeders to begin appraising their animals under certain situations. The committee reviewed the information and unanimously feel it is premature to begin appraising them.

2) The Annual Refresher session and pre training day was held in Ontario, California at the Drake Family Dairy on February 26th – 28th. Committee members in attendance were: Rachel Anderson, Jennifer Bice, Bob Bourassa, Jan Carlson, Daniel Considine, Leslie Diaz, Kris Ellis, Lynn Fleming, Glenys Gotthardt, Brian Heiser, Joan Dean Rowe, Robin Saum, = 12. All appraisers and PPM were in attendance. One of the senior appraisers became very ill and did not attend the 2nd day of the refresher. However, they were an instructor on day one and the committee in attendance voted unanimously to accept this as the required attendance.

3) On the pre refresher day two potential trainees worked one-on-one with a senior appraiser. One candidate, Ben Rupchis, was promoted to appraiser trainee status after completion of the pre-refresher teaching day and evaluation of the committee. The other candidate will continue other educational opportunities in 2016 and has been invited to the 2017 pre-refresher training day.

4) The refresher session had a different format from previous years. The first day, the appraisers were placed in teams of two for several animals. Then groups of animals were appraised by each team. Some animals were identified by the appraiser pairs to be brought back for further discussion. This format was followed for the entire first day and doubled as a commercial herd project. 230 animals were evaluated. On the second day a local breeder brought in several Nigerian Dwarf animals for a round robin exercise. We also did a few stacking exercises on day two as well as buck evaluations.
5) The Committee discussed the requirement of 2,000 mature does and 2 years experience as an appraiser for senior appraiser status. The discussion was quite lengthy with many view points and ideas shared. No decision was made. Lynn Fleming will provide alternative wording for the committee to consider.

6) The majority of the committee liked date of the refresher session being held in February. Jennifer Tereba requested the committee consider having the refresher over President’s Day weekend or to move it farther from that weekend as it is difficult to get time off of her job right after a holiday. The committee felt that a Saturday/Sunday format might be suitable with a refresher over President’s Day weekend and this will be considered for 2017. Rachel Anderson will be working with members in Florida for a potential refresher site in 2017.

Work to be completed:

1) Lisa Shepard, PPM, reported 4 herds have been evaluated under the commercial herd project and there is 1 herd left to evaluate. Lisa is working to schedule the additional herd this year. Project approved in 2011.
2) Present LA Training Workshop at the Convention in Austin, Texas.
3) Continue to update SOP/ Guidebook as necessary
4) Identify and develop additional annual refresher session locations.
5) Continue to identify potential appraisers.
6) Committee to consider eliminating escutcheon height and arch in young stock and bucks
7) Committee to consider travel expense policy for appraiser trainee candidates. These people would not be appraisers yet and are not on the committee.
8) Committee to consider code for pendulous udders, udders lacking attachments, bowed rear legs.
9) Committee to consider a code for Body Conditioning Score of 1 or 5.
10) Consider a policy statement that ADGA has the right to change the appraiser when the choice is that either the session is cancelled or there is the need to find an alternate appraiser
11) Consider wording provided by Lynn Fleming for Senior Appraiser status.
12) Analysis of pricing structure and program

Robin Saum and Daniel Considine, Co-Chairs