

## Federation of Animal Science Societies - Scientific Policy Committee

### Annual Report – 2010-11

<http://www.fass.org/policy.asp>

#### I. Committee Membership (n=12)

##### Voting members

Mary Delany - UC Davis, Chair (PSA), year 2  
Sheila Scheideler - University Nebraska (PSA), year 1  
Jim Pettigrew - University Illinois (ASAS), year 2  
Dean Hawkins - West Texas A&M University (ASAS), year 1  
Joe O'Donnell - California Dairy Research Foundation (ADSA), year 2  
Karen Plaut - Purdue University (ADSA), year 1  
Hugh Chester-Jones - University Minnesota (Midwest Consortium), year 2  
Mike Lacy - University Georgia, FASS Board Liaison (PSA)

##### Non-voting members

Gary Hartnell - Monsanto, Past Chair (ADSA), year 2  
Jamie Ritter - FASS Managing Director  
Lowell Randel – The Randel Group, FASS Science Policy Director  
Walt Smith - LockeLord Strategies, FASS Science Policy Director

#### II. Overview

FASS's renewed effort to be proactive and provide science based information to policy makers has been viewed as an overall success. In fact, the accomplishments of the FASS-Scientific Policy Committee have exceeded expectations in many areas. In particular, the committee has stepped forward to provide leadership in the production of several valuable and informative policy statements for FASS. Walt and Lowell have established key contacts with government agencies, made significant inroads in enhancing awareness of FASS scientific positions and expertise, and built relationships with like-minded scientific associations and organizations.

#### III. FASS-Science Policy Committee Meetings July 2010-December 2010

- July 2010 Meeting at JAM, Denver CO
  - review of year 1 (Discussion: what worked, what didn't, what needed change)
  - 2010-11 draft work plan established
- Monthly 90 min Teleconference Calls
  - August 30, Sept 27, Oct 27, Nov 22, Dec 20, Jan 24 , Feb 28, March 28, April 26, May 23 , June 27

#### IV. FASS SP and Washington DC Progress and Accomplishments on 2010-2011

- **Policy Statements Adopted by the Board**

- [Nutrition and Health Provided by Animal Products\\*](#)  
*Adopted on August 12, 2010*
- [Farm Animal Well-Being\\*](#)  
*Adopted on August 12, 2010*
- [Preserving the Benefits of Antibiotics for People and Animals\\*](#)  
*Adopted on August 12, 2010*

*Note: \* statements worked on during 2009-10 year*

- [Biotechnology as a tool to Enhance Sustainability for Animal Production](#)  
*Adopted on February 10, 2011*
- [Preserving Water Quality Associated With Livestock and Poultry Production](#)  
*Adopted on May 5, 2011*
- [International Agricultural Development and the Role of Animals](#)  
*Adopted on May 5, 2011*

- **Policy Statements in Development**

- Bioenergy (lead: Hugh Chester-Jones)
- A "Climate" policy statement was considered, but tabled for 2010-11

- **Webinars**

- Webinar "Antibiotics in People and Animals" October 20, 2010 was organized and executed with the maximum limit of viewers (n=100). As result of the high level of interest the webinar was posted on the FASS website [http://www.fass.org/policy\\_webinar.asp](http://www.fass.org/policy_webinar.asp). Numerous groups have posted the link on their websites and newsletters.

- **Webinars in Development**

- Biotechnology (leads: Lowell, Walt, Karen)

- **Government Impact**

- Statement and support Letters and oral statements completed
  - FDA letter supporting process and science-based decision making (transgenic salmon controversy) <http://www.fass.org/page.asp?pageID=393>
  - FASS letter to National Institutes of Health in support of the FASS Ag Guide. Similar letters sent by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Farm Animal Welfare Coalition.
  - FASS letter to Secretary of Agriculture regarding the vacancy of the Director of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture.

- FY 2011 Appropriations
  - Multiple AFRI Coalition letters
  - Multiple National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research letters
- Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology(PCAST) (Lowell provided oral comments; FASS-SP written comments also submitted ) January 2011; FASS and founding societies also listed on AFRI Coalition submission to PCAST
- Development/input for: Farm Foundation, Riley Memorial Foundation, Institute of Food Technologists and FASS sponsored Roundtable on Agriculture Research and Development. Lowell served as Co-Chair for the Program Committee and moderated a session during the Roundtable.
- Lowell served on the writing committee for the interdisciplinary chapter on Food, Nutrition, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Research and Development FY 2012 budget report.
- Walt and Lowell assisted the FASS Scientific Advisory Committee on Food Safety, Animal Drugs and Animal Health with their annual symposium. Walt and Lowell helped develop agenda topics and secured speakers from government agencies and industry. Walt also gave a presentation during the symposium.
- Organized a process for input by animal scientists into the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) beef feedlot survey.
- Lowell and Walt assisted the FASS Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Care with a meeting in Washington to discuss issues surrounding the FASS Ag Guide and ILAR guide. Walt participated in the meeting.
- Walt and Lowell attended a series of USDA stakeholder meetings held over the last year.
- FAIR 2012 Process: Lowell and Walt, along with members of the FASS SP Committee have participated in the formation of a strategy to move forward with the process of identifying animal agriculture research priorities. Lowell and Walt have secured representation from the Animal Agriculture Coalition and the American Veterinary Medical Association to participate in the FAIR Executive Committee. Lowell and Mary Delany are serving on the FAIR 2012 Executive Committee.
- **Communications**
  - Lowell and Walt provided timely updates on issues as well as requests for FASS participation as requested throughout the year.
  - Lowell developed and distributed monthly reports (see <http://www.fass.org/news.asp> ).
  - Lowell and Walt participated in monthly Animal Agriculture Coalition meetings on behalf of FASS.
  - Lowell contributed to National C-FAR activities and serves as a Board member on behalf of FASS.
  - Lowell participated in the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Academic Programs Summit planning committee on behalf of FASS.
  - Lowell contributed to AFRI Coalition activities on behalf of FASS.
  - Lowell addressed the Washington, DC Area Chapter of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists regarding FASS science policy activities and current policy issues.
  - Lowell and Walt participated in the ASAS Public Policy Committee monthly calls and organized meetings with agencies in Washington for the group.
  - Lowell and Walt participated in the monthly FASS Board calls.
  - Lowell provided a presentation to the PSA Board during the mid-year meeting.
  - Lowell participated in the April ADSA Board meeting.