

## **Report of the FASS Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Care, Use, and Standards**

Since the printing of the last posting of the April 2005 FEDERATION news newsletter, the FASS Committee on Animal Care, Use, and Standards has been busy working on several items. The committee last met in person on October 31 and November 1 in Scottsdale, AR and discussed many issues relative to the interests and duties of this committee. At this meeting, Jerry Baker, FASS CEO, gave an update on FASS activities in 2005 and discussed the role expectations for each of the four FASS Scientific Advisory Committees. Some of the other items of business that were discussed were as follows:

1) Discussion centered on the release of a CD document entitled, "Criteria for the Evaluation of Animal Care Guidelines". This document is a report of the AAA-"Animal Agriculture Alliance", and the committee suggested that the FASS board of directors should decide how it should be released. The committee had some concern over the accuracy of some of the statements included in the document and recommended that the AAA name be removed, but that it should include information that AAA funded the project.

2) Discussion centered around a meeting that occurred on 6/21/05 which focused on the question of whether the ILAR (Institute for Laboratory Animal Research) guide, "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" should be combined with the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Testing (Ag Guide) as a joint document. The committee agreed that the FASS AG Guide should be updated and if FASS receives proper recognition, then the ILAR and Ag Guide should be merged.

3) Discussion also included the announcement of a joint conference entitled "The Humane Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research" which is hosted by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW), FASS, and possibly USDA. This meeting is scheduled for May 22-23 in St. Louis.

4) The development of the final FASS series of training modules called, "Farm Animal Worker Training Series" was discussed. This is the Poultry Worker Training Module, and the poultry sub-committee has been working on its development. Funding for this project is still being requested and the poultry committee hopes to have it completed by summer/fall 2006.

5) Finally, the committee did make a suggestion to the FASS board that its name be changed to "FASS Animal Care Committee". This name change would need to be approved by the FASS board.

The activities of the committee for 2006 is to review the information in the Ag Guide to begin the work of trying to get it updated and reprinted. In addition, it is anticipated that the poultry sub-committee can complete the poultry training module and sent it out for outside review.

Ken Koelkebeck, Chair  
kkoelkeb@uiuc.edu