

Summary of the 15th Board Meeting of DEEResearch Ltd

Wednesday 4 October 2006, Deer Industry New Zealand, Wellington

AGENDA

1. Apologies
 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (27 April 2006)
 3. Matters Arising
 4. Register Update
 - a. Interests
 - b. Intellectual Property
 5. Financial Reports
 6. Statutory Compliance
 7. Research Update
 - a. 2005/06 Review
 - b. 2006/07 Projects Status
 8. Consortia Updates
 - a. Pastoral Genomics funding extension (presentation from Zac Hanley)
 - b. Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium funding extension
 - c. Johne's Consortium establishment and funding commitment
 9. FRST Re-bid
 10. Review of DEEResearch projects and industry uptake
 11. DINZ Board Assistance
 12. General Business
 - a. Process for approval to publish
 - b. University of Otago representation on DEEResearch
 - c. Away meetings
 - d. Letter to venison processors
 13. Suggested Meeting Dates and Calendar of Key Events
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Present

- C Isaacs (Chairman), G Barrell, N Beatson, P Benfell, M Buick, G Keeley, M O'Connor

Attending

- A Pearse, L Fung, Z Hanley – Pastoral Genomics Science Manager (by telephone for Agenda Item 8a)

Matters Arising

- A letter had been written to the PIC seeking opinion on vaccination as a sensible tool choice in the control of likely market sensitive diseases if in fact there may be a longer term stronger market position for NZ Inc without vaccination as a strategy.

- Project 1.20 (New Tb test development). Animal Health Board would be submitting a report to MAF for approval as a diagnostic technique for bovine Tb; no major barriers to this occurring are expected. AHB expects that the test may be of use as a screening test in cattle where a high proportion of lesions submitted are Tb. Due to sensitivity/specificity issues the routine use of PCR for deer may not be economically viable.

Action Points

- **Project 20, EU acceptability of technique for blown pack.** Further email sent to NZFSA (3/10/2006) but as yet no reply. Ongoing.
- **Leptospirosis – risk/industry stats and working group suggestion.** Leptospirosis is an increasing concern noted by the National Agricultural Health and Safety Committee and for the deer industry with low kill numbers but high prevalence. It was significant for two reasons: i) On-farm disease risk for animals and ii) human health risk to workers involved in the deer industry. A position paper to the DINZ Board with prior comment from the DEEResearch Board will be prepared.
- **Heritable Resistance to Tb – final report.** Report by end of November to be requested.

DEEResearch Research Update

2005/06 Review

The following projects were completed during the 2005/06 year:

Project #	Brief Title	Output
1.01	Epidemiology of Leptospirosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD Thesis • Presentation (NZVA Conference)
1.11	Johne's disease vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEEResearch report • Presentation (NZVA Conference)
5.01	Intra-uterine Johne's disease infection of fawns in sub-clinically infected hinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEEResearch report • Presentation (NZVA Conference) • Scientific paper submitted to journal (due Dec 2006)
4.03	Barriers to adoption of improved practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEEResearch report
5.02	Major nutrient limits for lactational yields of red deer hinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEEResearch report
1.13	Heritable resistance to Tb in deer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEEResearch report
1.20	New Tb test development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEEResearch report
5.03	Effect of peroxyacetic acid against spores of "blown pack"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEEResearch report
4.13	Effect of parasitism and weaning date on growth and reproduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEEResearch report

Refer to DEEResearch website for complete findings and reports and other projects funded during 2005/06

The acceptance and quality of final reports could be made conditional with final payment being withheld if there were concerns over the standard of the reports.

2006/07 Project Status

Project #	Brief Title	Status	\$ ('000)
1.16	Pastoral genomics	Ongoing	30

6.03	Johne's disease vaccination (extension of 1.11)	Underway	90
4.02	Johne's disease epidemiology	Ongoing	75
6.04	Internal parasitism	Approved	60
1.03	Methane mitigation	Ongoing	35
4.12	Diets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (PhD)	Ongoing	3
4.04	Stream recovery	Ongoing	10
1.20	OVERSEER for deer	Ongoing	25
4.10	Strategies to achieve early calving	Ongoing	40
5.04	What controls gestation length in first-calving hinds?	Ongoing	15
6.01	The early-breeding gene hypothesis	Underway	100
6.05	Breeding values for elk and wapiti	Underway	25
6.06	Economic indices for deer selection	Underway	10
6.08	Integrated livestock systems	Approved	40
6.02	Pre-skinning interventions for "blown pack" control	Underway	85
6.07	Muddy deer and wintering systems	Underway	19
5.07	Support for post-grad costs	Provision	8
			670

- A two-day workshop was held at Invermay on 27-28/9/2006 and a revised AgResearch-Massey protocol for Internal Parasitism will be submitted to DEEResearch by the end of October, while a revised plan will be submitted for Integrated Livestock Management.
- Relatively small proportion of funds allocated to Market Access and Development.
- MWNZ will be approached to obtain list of research undertaken on Market Access and Development.
- DINZ has approved \$60,000 for the establishment of four focus farms in 2006/07. The funds would be administered by DEEResearch.
- South Canterbury, North Canterbury, Combined Hawkes Bay-Central Regions and Rotorua farms and facilitators are being selected to start in early 2007.

Review of DEEResearch Projects and Industry Uptake

- Only six replies have been received. Summary spreadsheet was very long and off-putting.
- Varied assessment of "applicability" and "relevance" (from low to high). But uptake at either a farm level or across the industry was either low or medium (*i.e.* the findings were never "highly" taken up and used).

Consortia Updates

Pastoral Genomics

- Much of the research had moved into a development phase and may be an issue of suitability for 'public good' related science and technology
- A strong scientific argument was needed in order to justify the use of GM crops. The programme uses conventional breeding in the short-term and a

cisgenic (*i.e.* gene transfer within clovers and ryegrass) approach rather than transgenic in the long-term.

- Funding of \$34,000 *per annum* for a period of two years commencing 1 July 2007 allocated for continuing investment in the Pastoral Genomics Consortium, subject to other participants and FRST contributing expected levels of funding as outlined in the presentation.

Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium

- Funding of \$35,000 *per annum* for two years commencing 1 July 2007, for continued investment in the Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium, subject to other participants and FRST contributing expected levels of funding. Funding was also conditional upon the outcome of the upcoming meeting with government ministers not resulting in additional costs to the industry.

Johne's Disease Research Consortium

- Project 4.02 (Epidemiology of Johne's disease in deer) needs to be explicitly tracked through to JDRC.
- Funding of \$100,000 *per annum* for five years commencing 1 July 2007 be approved for investment in the Johne's Disease Research Consortium subject to a successful formation of the Consortium and other participants and FRST contributing expected levels of funding.

FRST Re-bid

- Expected governance role of the DEEResearch Board covers entire programme funds.
- Approach similar to that used by "Outcome based Investments" programmes: The lead research provider has a contractual arrangement with FRST and therefore ultimate liability, however a governance body operates and provides strong advice and guidance to the researchers.
- With the decline in animal numbers the level of direct co-funding may mean that DEEResearch will struggle to meet its commitments.

DINZ Board Assistance

- The Board was happy to engage with the DINZ Board sub-committee and have it involved in strategy setting.
- The Chair should be involved in determining the terms of reference and that the interaction with the sub-committee should be with the Board.
- The Board extended an invitation to the sub-committee to attend the next Board meeting in December.

General Business

Process for Approval to Publish

- An article that has been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal can be considered to be fully in the public domain and no further approval is required.
- There is no formula to apply as to when approval is required so conservatively approval needs to be sought.

- Areas that are contentious (e.g. where there is public risk) or data is questionable will always require approval.
- Media releases relating to funded work will also require approval.
- DEEResearch acknowledges that much of the funded work will have a public good component and approval will not be unreasonably withheld.
- DEEResearch will undertake to respond within a reasonable timeframe to requests to publish (but also require reasonable timeframes from the researchers).

DEERselect – clarifying ownership and developing a model for continued investment

- Report provided by AgResearch noted and licence agreement options will be explored.

Enquiry from University of Otago regarding representation on DEEResearch Board

- The Board emphasised that G Barrell did not represent Lincoln University but *all* universities. University representation should be determined by the universities themselves.

Away Meetings

- Sufficient time should be dedicated to the institutes where meetings were to be held and not be time-constrained by other issues.
- Two face-to-face meetings and two teleconference meetings per year were considered an appropriate number of meetings.

Letter to Processors

- G Keeley tabled a letter he was proposing to send to venison processors seeking more input into research priorities. The Board approved the contents of the letter.

Other Business

- An offer of support for Pastoral 21 was suggested.

Suggested Meeting Dates and Calendar of Key Events

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 7 December 2006 at Wellington to cover:

- FRST re-bid and science strategy
- Calls for Expressions of Interest
- Presentations to DINZ Board sub-committee

The following meeting will be held in late April 2007 (date yet to be confirmed)

The DEEResearch Annual Report will be presented in the December issue of Deer Industry News.