

Multistate Research Committee Report

March 27, 2012

Presenter: Steve Workman

1.) Background:

The Southern MRC is composed of Ed King (ARS Rep), Steve Workman (Chair), Craig Nessler, Clarence Watson, Steve Oliver, and Eric Young.

The following is a current status report, prepared by Donna Pearce, of MRF activities sorted by termination date. This information is also available on the southern directors' web site.

Multistate Activities' Status

Projects/Activities Terminating 9/30/12

S-1025 – “Systems for Controlling Air Pollutant Emissions and Indoor Environments of Poultry, Swine, and Dairy Facilities” – Ron Lacewell, TX

S-1026 – “Textile Materials and Technologies Addressing Energy, Health and Other National Security Issues” – Bob Shulstad, GA

S-1027 – “The Poultry Food System: A Farm to Table Model” – David Monks, NC

S-1028 – “Ecological and genetic diversity of soilborne pathogens and indigenous microflora” – Mark McLellan, FL

S-1030 – “Flies Impacting Livestock, Poultry and Food Safety” – Rick Roeder, AR

S-1031 – “Improvement and Sustainability of Channel-Blue Hybrid Catfish Embryo Production and Performance” – Saied Mostaghimi, VT

S-1033 – “Control of Food-Borne Pathogens in Pre- and Post-Harvest Environments” – Doug Archer, FL

S-1034 – “Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds” – Jonathan Edelson, OK

S-1035 – “Nutritional and Management Abatement Strategies for Improvement of Poultry Air and Water Quality” – Nancy Cox, KY

S-1036 – “Genetic improvement approaches to sustained, profitable cotton production in the United States” – Clarence Watson, OK

S-1037 – “Integrative Functional and Physiological Genomics of Poultry” – Rick Roeder, AR

S-1039 – “Biology, impact, and management of soybean insect pests in soybean production systems” – Jonathan Edelson, OK

SCC81 – “Sustainable Small Ruminant Production in the Southeastern U.S.” – David Morrison, LA

SCC82 – “Development of Plant Pathogens as Bioherbicides for Weed Control” – Craig Nessler, TX

SERA006 – “Methodology, Interpretation, and Implementation of Soil, Plant, Byproduct, and Water Analyses” – Steve Workman, KY

SERA027 – “Nursery Crop and Landscape Systems” - Regina Bracy, LA

SERA037 – “The New Hispanic South: Strengthening the Capacity of the Region's Land-Grant University System to Respond” – Reuben Moore, MS

SERA042 – “Enhancement of Leadership Capacity in the Food Systems through Coalition Development” – Eric Young, NC

Extended One Year (to 9/30/2013)

S-1032 – “Improving the Sustainability of Livestock and Poultry Production in the United States” – Ron Lacewell, TX

Terminating Without Replacement 9/30/2012

SERA014 – “Development and Evaluation of Bunch and Muscadine Grapes for Fresh Market, Juice, Wine and Other Products” - Doug Archer, FL
SCC72 – “Enhancing Reproductive Efficiency in Cattle” – Nancy Cox, KY

Replacement Projects/Activities Approved

SDC345 (re-write for S1026) - “Biobased Fibrous Materials and Cleaner Technologies for a Sustainable and Environmentally Responsible Textile Industry” – Bob Shulstad, GA
S_temp2742 (re-write for S1034) – “Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds” – Jonathan Edelson, OK
S_temp2782 (re-write for S1039) – “Biology, impact, and management of soybean insect pests in soybean production systems” – Jonathan Edelson, OK
S_temp2762 (re-write for SERA006) – “Methodology, Interpretation, and Implementation of Soil, Plant, Byproduct, and Water Analyses” – Steve Workman, KY

Projects/Activities Terminating 9/30/2013

S-009 – “Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Utilization” – Jerry Arkin, Ga
S-1032 – “Improving the Sustainability of Livestock and Poultry Production in the United States” – Saied Mostaghimi, VA
S-1038 – “Peanut Variety Quality Evaluation Program” – Saied Mostaghimi, VA
S-1040 – “Genetic Selection and Crossbreeding to Enhance Reproduction and Survival of Dairy Cattle” – Nancy Cox, KY
S-1041 – “The Science and Engineering for a Biobased Industry and Economy” – Bill Brown, TN
S1042 – “Modeling for TMDL Development, and Watershed Based Planning, Management and Assessment” – John Liu, AL
S1043 – “Economic Impacts of International Trade and Domestic Policies on Southern Agriculture” – Eric Young, NC
S1044 – “Nutritional Systems for Swine to Increase Reproductive Efficiency” – Nancy Cox, KY
SCC-13 – “Statisticians Group” – Ken Koonce, LA
SERA017 – “Organization to Minimize Phosphorus Losses from Agriculture” – John Liu, AL
SERA018 – “Rice Technical Workers Group” – John Russin, LA
SERA019 – “The Changing Rural Health System: Education for Consumers and Providers” – Gail Cramer, LA
SERA025 – “Turf” – John Russin, LA
SERA038 – “Biobased Energy Research and Information Exchange Committee” – Nancy Cox, KY
SERA039 – “Public Policy Issues Education” – Lesley Oliver, KY
SERA040 – “Coordination of Winter Canola Research Programs in the Southern Region” – Clarence Watson, AR
SDC343 – “A model for secondary schools agriscience education programs that emphasizes the STEM content in agriculture” – Lesley Oliver, KY
SDC344 – “The Working Group on Improving Microbial Control of Arthropod Pests” – Rogers Leonard, LA

Action Requested: For information

2.) National Excellence in Multistate Research Award (SAAESD Nominee)

Background:

This is the fifth year for this award and it is the MRC's responsibility to review nomination materials and submit a recommendation to SAAESD for consideration.

Action Requested: The MRC will present their recommendation to the group for a vote.

3.) Policies for Funding Travel to Multistate Project Meetings

Policies for Funding Travel to Multistate Project Meetings

Institution	Travel Funding Provided	Comments
Auburn University	\$750	On-line application asking about presentations and/or collaborations
University of Arkansas	\$800	One trip per faculty per year, second with special circumstances
University of Florida	\$700	Maximum per faculty per year
University of Georgia	Partial	Two days' per diem & transportation, projects rewriting are priority
University of Kentucky	Full cost	Includes CC's & ERA's
Louisiana State University	Full cost	Lead PI only, must request funding
Mississippi State University	\$1,500	Maximum of 30 per year, first come basis, apply thru Dept Head
NC State University	\$500	For each participant on project
Oklahoma State University	Variable	Funding at department's discretion; zero to \$500 provided to faculty
University of Puerto Rico		
Clemson University	\$500	Maximum per faculty per year
University of Tennessee	\$1,000	One faculty per project, funds allocated to departments based on official participant, managed by department
Texas A&M University	No funding	Departmental responsibility
University of Virgin Islands	Full cost	S-type projects only
Virginia Tech	\$1,000	One trip per faculty per year

4.) Comments on Multistate Project Annual Meeting Attendance

Comments on Multistate Project Annual Meeting Attendance

Saied Mostaghimi

Attendance from VT has actually increased this year since we came up with a new policy to support all participants (official) and provide up to \$1,000 per year to each to attend the meeting. It had been declining for several years however. I think it is mainly a funding issue.

Doug Archer

Although I have not been AA of S-1033 - Control of Food-Borne Pathogens in Pre- and Post-Harvest Environment for all that long, the pre-meeting e-mail chatter was enlightening. There is no lack of interest among the participants. I sense, however, that these folks are the super-achievers in their professions, and that they are simply "timed out." Depending on the location of the meeting, one to two days can be lost to travel, and coupled with the meeting time, nearly a week is gone. Teaching and extension responsibilities seem to me to be the big obstacles.

Bill Brown

The S-1030 group attendance has always been great and shows no sign of any loss of enthusiasm. My S-1037 committee is small and does not function.

Melinda Jones (UTK)

I see travel to multi-state meetings on a fairly regular basis. It seems about like it's always been. Having said that, there's probably one group that regularly attends and maybe others who don't normally go. Probably some of our projects do not have a representative at the meetings.

Rick Roeder

I have served as AA for S-1041 for only two years but I would say that the attendance both years has been what I consider to be strong.

Jonathan Edelson

My limited experience indicates that year to year attendance at the annual meetings is dependent on:

1. The specific project, with at least one project having attendance dropping until the group decided to terminate due to lack of interest in the project.
2. The location of the meeting, i.e. Orlando in December may draw more than Indianapolis in February.
3. Area of interest with some projects focused on areas of interest that attract more funding than others and thus the participants have the ability to travel.
4. Lack of travel funds from the institution.

So, these observations come from one group that slowly dissolved and attendance declined from year to year, one group that attracts the same number year after year with each member sincerely interested in the meeting and interactions and one group that seems to be up and down in attendance dependent on locale.

Harald Scherm

I have only been AA for one year, so I don't have the historical perspective. However, from the meeting I have been at this past fall, there were definitely more participants not in attendance than there were in attendance. Part of this may be due to the fact that this particular project is in transition (extension last year, with re-write this year), With the transition process there will be some turnover in membership.

More generally, if I were to take a guess, I would assume the problem of too many meetings - too little time becomes more and more pressing for most scientists. The number of specialized scientific meeting has become mind-boggling over the past 10 years. From my experience as a faculty member, time has been more of a constraint than money for travel to meetings.

Ron Lacewell

Not really, attendance is holding at stable level. For sure the lack of travel funds is the reason some do not participate in the meeting. I am speaking for S-1025 and S-1032 (meet together last few years due to same folks on both) and S-1046 (meets with Beltwide Cotton Conference to save travel costs).

Nancy Cox

Attendance at my meetings of my projects on swine nutrition and dairy breeding is declining, primarily due to animal herds being closed out or declining and animal science production positions not being refilled.

Eric Young

My international marketing project meets twice per year and attendance has been steady. Those that miss the meeting seem to do so primarily due to conflicts with other activities. My organic agriculture soil health project meets in conjunction with either the American Society of Agronomy or the American Society for Horticultural Science conferences, alternating years. Attendance has been good from the faculty most closely related to the professional society whose conference they tack the meeting to and poor from faculty associated with the other society.