

Nov 25, 2024 - NSF CEIF Animal Welfare Committee Agenda

1. Attendance:
 - a. Chair: Meghan Barrett
 - b. Student Representative: Jordan Smink
 - c. Innovafeed (Co-Chair): Not in attendance
 - d. Better Insect Solutions (Recorder): Lars-Henrik Lau Heckmann**
 - e. Agronutris: Julien Chuche
 - f. Open Philanthropy: *See below*
 - g. Mars: Bree Modica
2. Declarations of any COI: No
3. Updates on Action Items:

Objective	Responsible Party	Due Date	Task
Admin	Cheryl Preyer	10/2 10/7	Send around minutes Upload minutes behind the firewall
Admin	Meghan Barrett	10/7	Book next meeting time
GBP	Meghan Barrett	72 hr before next meeting	Update the GBP based on our conversations for a final review at the next meeting
GBP	Everyone	Next meeting	Review the new sections of the GBP
Admin	Meghan Barrett	10/7	Add COI declaration piece to the agendas moving forward
Obj A	Meghan Barrett	Next meeting	Plan for what we might do to address priority A
Obj C	Everyone	10/4; updated to 10/10	Send Meghan your ideas for the top possible welfare concerns in the industry that we should consider as our focal areas
Obj C	Meghan Barrett	10/10	Make survey and send around internally to the AWC to select your Top 10. Collate results and send a new survey to Cheryl for the IAB at

			the CEIF meeting to take the question in airtable.
Obj-C	Cheryl Preyer	Before CEIF meeting	Add survey to airtable.

4. Membership Updates:

a. Innovafeed Co-Chair Substitution: Maye Walraven

(Member Replacement: If the committee representative for a company is leaving during their appointment, they must establish a new committee contact for their company and notify the committee co-chairs immediately.)

b. Open Philanthropy is no longer with CEIF. Process for replacement:

If a company itself leaves the CEIF during their two-year appointment, a renomination process must be held for their seat for the remainder of the two-year period (Section 6).

Renomination

To efficiently fill committee seats that are empty, the AWC will contact all companies within CEIF. Companies will have four weeks to submit a standard application to the committee for the 'seat' category (Section 5). The AWC co-Chairs will select the new representative company from the pool of applicants.

If there are no candidates - either because there are no companies within that 'category' left at CEIF or because none of the companies within that category elect to apply - then the committee will issue a general call for applications following the standard election process; any company or researcher, who is not already represented on the committee, is then welcome to apply to fill that seat for the remainder of its term.

5. Governance Best Practices (GBP) Discussion

Everything in blue.

6. 2024 Temporary Policies Updates

7. **Top Priority Objective:** providing guidance that supports ethical research practices that align with industry and academic standards when animals are used for CEIF research projects; and

- **Seems like we want some brief statement about general IACUC/research approvals for vertebrate animals and keeping animals in accord with local farming practices for farmed vertebrates while meeting standards of member companies for companion animals; some kind of generic section that can be added to the executive summary/proposal process to document this**
- **For insects, seems like we want something like a 3Rs guideline document for research proposals and same kind of generic section during executive summary/proposal process**
 - **Internal review of approved studies?**

- Guidance on publishing ethics statements? - both for insects and verts?
Encourage people to put this in the methods section (ARRIVE guidelines, stats power)
 - **TEMPLATE CHANGES - ASK CHERYL IF WE COULD HAVE THE STATEMENT INCLUDED ON THE POSTER**
 - I think we should probably make these materials and then make a 'recommendation' to the CEIF leadership to adopt them, but allow the CEIF leadership to make adjustments/final call on adopting the recommendation
8. **Second Objective:** maintaining empirical- and industry-informed guidance to support mini-livestock animal welfare in production facilities, and regularly updating this guidance to match changes in scientific evidence or industry best practices. This guidance will begin with the black soldier fly, with the possibility of expanding scope to other species as appropriate knowledge and expertise becomes available.

Name
Lethal Larval Overheating
Slaughter Methods
Disease (and Depopulation)
Neonate Larval Survival
Stocking Densities (Adults & Larvae)
Larval Feed Chemical Additives (caffeine, antibiotics, etc.)
Larval Feed Abiotic Conditions (moisture, pH, etc.)
Transport of Live Insects
Adult Nutrition
Selective Breeding/Genetic Modification

9. **Currently Tabled Objective:** suggesting tractable ways to incorporate animal (vertebrate or invertebrate) welfare into ongoing CEIF research projects and proposals where appropriate.
10. **Meeting Minutes**
- a. GBP document to be 'tested' in nomination of new AWC member due to exit of Open Philanthropy.

- b. Final review of GBP document was conducted by the attending AWC members with full consent of the content in the final version. It was decided that there is no need for a specific section to cover performance review.
- c. Discussion of ethics guidance on CEIF research included:
 - i. Generating a short guidance document (1-2 pages) that eventually can be posted on the CEIF website
 - ii. Inclusion of an ethics statement to be included in relevant published work and posters/presentations funded by CEIF
 - iii. Encouragement of CEIF researchers to include more detailed description (inspired by the guidance document) on ethical considerations in the Material & Methods section of manuscripts submitted for publication
 - iv. Considering to produce a *short communications* for peer-review that can be driven by the AWC to communicate in a proactive and transparent way
 - v. Review by AWC members of full proposals that contain elements of animal welfare (ideally 2 AWC members per proposal).
- d. Input from IAB voting highlighted three main topics to be considered for our second objective, i.e. i) Lethal Larval Overheating, ii) Slaughter Methods, and iii) Disease (and Depopulation). **Action: AWC members share references that they are aware of that cover these three topics.**
- e. Securing animal welfare research topics in CEIF was discussed, including suggesting to the IAB (by AWC-IAB members) that animal welfare should be included as a research focus area. This could be e.g. an 'open call' option to integrate animal welfare research both directly (insect farming perspective) and indirectly (insects applied as animal feed perspective). Integration of this proposal requires that IAB members can agree on a structure which supports the above-mentioned.

11. Action items

Objective	Responsible Party	Due Date	Task
Admin	Cheryl Preyer	12/2 12/9	Send around minutes Upload minutes behind the firewall
Admin	Meghan Barrett	12/9	Book next meeting time (make sure we meet quorum)
Admin	Meghan Barrett + Cheryl Preyer	12/2 12/9	Make standard application form (MRB) Send around standard application process to the CEIF membership
Admin	Meghan Barrett + Maye Walraven	1/17	Re-appoint the CEIF seat previously held by Open Philanthropy (Note: MRB may be recused due to COI, depending on applicants)

Admin	All	Next meeting	Read over the GBP document and be prepared to vote at our next meeting to 'ratify'
Obj 1	Meghan	Next meeting	Put together a list of recommendations we want to make on this objective to the CEIF leadership.
Obj 2	All	Next meeting	Find resources related to the top three animal welfare concerns (AVMA, government documents, IPIFF, etc.) and share with the committee.