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ARPAS Update
THE "VALUE ADDED" BY ARPAS MEMBERSHIP
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One unit of a commodity is indistinguishable from another unit and has no more value. To become distinguishable we must add value and cease to be a commodity. Lest you forget, when you became a member of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) you added personal value and rose from the commodity ranks of animal scientists.

Much of the following commentary has been taken directly from our ARPAS website, constitution, bylaws and existing ARPAS literature. Very little new has been added because the original foundation was very strong. Plagiarism may not be the correct term for my liberal borrowing since I am acknowledging my sources upfront. What ever new I have added is certainly strengthened by the collective wisdom of those who drafted the original words. I would suggest that you review the sources of this information also.

The need for this organization was framed by this statement, "Modern animal agriculture, and society in general, are becoming more complex, with more governmental regulations and controls, more litigation, and more need for accountability and certified credibility. In this climate the registration, certification, and professional stature provided by ARPAS will become increasingly important".

Our founder's vision is stated in the preamble to our constitution:

"To meet the need for a national registry of Animal Scientists qualified to provide technical service and to provide evidence of this professional competence to the public, to members of other professions and to the profession of the Animal Sciences (meat and fiber producing animals, dairy, poultry, equine, and companion animals) itself, the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) was established on August 7, 1984."

ARPAS is a professional society affiliated with the American Society of Animal Science, American Dairy Science Association, Poultry Science Association, Equine Science Society, American Meat Science Association, and other scientific associations with an interest in the purpose of the Registry, but is not accountable to and does not speak for those scientific associations. The Registry is responsible to its membership and Governing Council. The Registry is self-governing and self-supporting through dues and fees assessed its members.

Our name: This organization shall be known as the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS).

Our purpose: It shall be the purpose of this organization to provide registration of professional status for qualified members of the Registry, to strengthen the Animal Sciences among the professions and to promote the profession of the Animal Sciences. The Registry shall be open to all Animal Scientists who meet the requirements for professional registration as established by the Registry.

Our mission: ARPAS provides certification of animal scientists through examination, continuing education, and commitment to a [code of ethics](#). ARPAS catalyzes continual improvement through publications (including the [PAS journal](#)) and by providing information on educational opportunities. The principal Core Competency of ARPAS is certification of professional animal scientists.

You are a member of ARPAS because:

1. You are fully qualified as a professional animal scientist by training and experience.
2. You take pride in your profession and you want others to recognize your feeling.
3. You believe that being designated a professional animal scientist will contribute to your success.
4. You believe that continuing education is essential to personal and professional development.
5. You believe in adding value so that your clients/customers get value added.

Who can benefit from ARPAS Membership? Anyone engaged in the practice of one of the Animal Sciences through research, education, extension, consulting, service, or production. As a member of ARPAS, tell other "animal scientists" about the "added value" you have acquired from being an ARPAS member and give them a copy of this presentation. Also, make sure you add your PAS or Diplomate designation to your correspondence and business card.

Update on ARPAS

ARPAS is a healthy and growing organization with almost 1500 members. Our membership is progressive, active and willing to serve this organization. Being mid-way through my second year as your Executive VP, I can focus on implementing new programs, new chapters and growing membership and not on fighting small brush fires and solving individual issues.

Your new President is Dr. Randy Shaver and the President-Elect is Dr. Bill Braman. ARPAS has been fortunate to have capable leadership to orchestrate our activities and programs. Our members have always been very willing to serve on the Governing Council, as an officer or serve on a committee. An example is Dr. Shaver's work with NRCS and development of a Feed Management Exam to certify ARPAS members involved with developing Nutrient Management Plans.

Susie Rahn is our capable FASS administrative assistant. Susie is your primary contact at the ARPAS office and she handles the routine issues regarding membership, testing and CEU's so efficiently that I seldom get involved. She constantly and courteously points out ways we can improve our administrative functions such as membership, tracking of CEU's, and evaluation of educational programs for ARPAS credits. Some changes have been made in our "infrastructure" as a result of Susie's suggestions and the support of other FASS personnel. These changes will greatly reduce the time she has to spend on routine issues.

2008-2009 was a year of paying for deferred maintenance (called infrastructure improvements by politicians) for ARPAS. With help from the IT folks at FASS, we remodeled our website to eliminate out-dated information and made it more user-friendly. A new ARPAS logo was created, thanks to the effort of our Historian Dr. Bill Price and other ARPAS members. It is now being incorporated into all our communications media. We initiated an online election process with great success which significantly increased member participation and reduced staff time. A new sponsorship brochure was developed to enhance our work with this important part of our organization. Bill Sanchez and his committee worked to cultivate new sponsors and retain those who have supported ARPAS in the past. These infrastructure modification required money and I am please to say that with membership growth and generous sponsors, we were able to pay for these changes without "bail out money" or deficit spending.

A concern voiced by members about the availability of personal information posted on the website was considered by the Executive Committee and they agreed to reduce the information available to non-ARPAS members to only a member's name and certification. As an ARPAS member, you can still access this information but you must first sign in on the ARPAS website. The website is your 24-hour-a-day communication vehicle. It is designed to provide ARPAS information and allow you to deposit CEU's, a feature which has been enhanced in the past few months. We encourage all of you conducting programs to have them evaluated for ARPAS credits so attendees can readily update their CEU's on line.

Dr. Steve Schmidt, exam committee chair with help from ARPAS members, Susie and FASS personnel, has refreshed most ARPAS exams, prepared and posted study guides and expanded our ability to balance exams and track individual questions in our exam database.

Dr. Wayne Kellogg is Editor of the "Professional Animal Scientist Journal". The journal is now available on "Highwire" and it continues to grow in both size and recognition. Our ARPAS Newsletter, edited by Dr. Steven Emanuele, is online and more user-friendly. This newsletter has grown from a small communication piece developed by Bill Baumgardt, your first Executive Director, to an outstanding publication in a user-friendly format.

ACAS (American College of Animal Science) is functional and has admitted several new diplomates. Please help us identify those highly qualified individuals that should be board certified members of ARPAS through our alternate certification program. Dr. Bill Sanchez is the current President of ACAS.

Our Treasurer, Dr. Carl Hunt, will verify that ARPAS is in good financial condition. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Keith Lusby for serving as the ARPAS Treasurer for the four years previous years and steering us in the right financial direction. New programs initiated in 2008-2009 include the ARPAS Foundation and the "Distinguished Professional Animal Scientist Award". Both of these have been featured in the newsletter. These programs are indicative of ARPAS reaching a stage of maturity that values recognition of members and provides a continuing financial mechanism for support of worthy endeavors. Dr. Wayne Perry was selected as one of the first recipients for the "Distinguished Professional Animal Scientist Award".

Meetings I attend on behalf of ARPAS included the PAACO Board, Mid-West ASAS, Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference, Joint ADSA/ASAS, Cornell Nutrition Conference, California ARPAS and the Tri-State Nutrition Conference. ARPAS exams were given at most of these meetings and sponsors were cultivated.

Thanks to many of you for proctoring ARPAS exams, individually and at conferences, during the past year and thanks to all ARPAS and ACAS members who give of their time to work on behalf of this organization. I am fortunate to work with this organization.

Thank you for inviting me to Arkansas, my home state, and for allowing me to share this information about ARPAS.