



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM, COMMISSIONER**



**Louisiana Board of Animal Health
March 3, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Veterans Memorial Auditorium
5825 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Proceedings**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Thomas Early at 10:05 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE

Mr. Thomas Early led the pledge.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Jaclyn Soileau.

Members present: Dr. Clark Cooper, Rayburn Smith, Kurt Cazayoux, Thomas Early, Brady Rutledge, David Mains, Bill Holdman, Vandal Fairchild, Giles Brown, Lennie Crawford, Dr. Anna Chapman, and Dale Cambre.

Members Absent: Dan Cason, Law Ponder, and Nickey Smith

APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR

A motion is made by Vandal Fairchild to appoint Michelle Ribera to the position of Director of the Louisiana Board of Animal Health. Motion is seconded by Mr. Dale Cambre and is passed. Dr Brent Robbins then formally introduced Michelle Ribera as the director of the Board of Animal Health and spoke briefly on Mrs. Ribera's experience while at LDAF.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the last BOAH meeting is made by Anna Chapman, DVM. Motion is seconded by Clark Cooper, DVM. Minutes are approved and are passed unanimously.

HEARING OFFICER, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. Early turned control of the meeting over to Hearing Officer Alicia Wheeler, the Assistant Attorney General from the State of Louisiana's Department of Justice. Hearing Officer Wheeler will be presiding over the adjudicatory hearings.

ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

In the matter of Gary Thompson/ Respondent in Case Number 23-AH-001 MC-22-170, MC22-174 and MC-22-206

LDAF General Counsel, Amy McInnis, representing the department. The respondent was neither present nor was he represented by counsel.

The Respondent was charged with:

(18) counts of violating LA Revised Statute 3:2131 (*specifically*)

1. One (1) count for failure to properly dispose of livestock carcasses on October 13th, 2022.
2. One (1) count for failure to properly dispose of livestock carcasses on October 17th, 2022.
3. Sixteen (16) counts of failure to properly dispose of livestock carcasses from December 20, 2022, to January 4, 2023, on the Respondent's property.

Ms. McInnis, questioned, Brand Enforcement agent, J.D Fail, the lead investigator on this case.

Mr. Fail testified as to the nature of the investigation, the number of carcasses found on Mr. Thompson's property, the location of the carcasses, photos that were taken by Mr. Fail during his investigation, as well as witness statements and statements from Mr. Thompson and his wife all of which were taken by Mr. Fail.

Ms. McInnis offered the photos and documents into evidence which were admitted.

Mr. Lennie Crawford, BOAH member, expressed his dissatisfaction with the actions of the Respondent, and asked if there were any further actions that could be taken against Mr. Thompson. Amy McInnis advised the board that it would be possible to seek a permanent injunction against Mr. Thompson in civil court.

A motion is made by Mr. Thomas Early to find Mr. Thompson guilty of eighteen (18) violations of Louisiana RS 3:2131. The motion is seconded by Mr. Brady Rutledge. Giles Brown recuses. Motion is passed.

A motion is made by Mr. Rutledge to impose the full penalty of Eighteen Thousand dollars (\$18,000) against Mr. Gary Thompson. The motion is seconded by Mr. Early. Mr. Brown recuses. The motion passes unanimously. Mr. Brown and Mr. Smith abstained from the vote, and Mr. Crawford opposed the motion. After a discussion, Mr. Crawford withdrew his opposition to the motion.

The Board asked if the Respondent had any outstanding penalties, and Ms. McInnis advised that the Respondent does have outstanding penalties which are currently unpaid. Ms. McInnis explained that the charges were based on the Board's authority to charge per day on which the violations occur.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the Chronic Wasting Disease/ CWD Rule

Assistant State Veterinarian, Dr. Daniel Myrick gave an update on regulations for the Chronic Wasting Disease/ CWD, stating that the emergency rule will be allowed to expire on March 21st, 2023. The permanent rule was finalized and effective on February

20th, 2023. Dr. Myrick showed via a map the current surveillance area for CWD in Tensas Parish as well as the locations where the positive wild deer were found.

Update on Trichomoniasis Rule

Dr. Myrick updated the Board on new regulations for Trichomoniasis positive bulls and suspect (positive) bulls testing, confirmatory testing, and movement to licensed quarantine facilities. The permanent rule went into effect on February 20th, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Rule change Regarding Identification of Goats

Dr. Daniel Myrick presented proposed amendments LAC7: XXI.115B

Modifications for ID placements for breed specific goats i.e., American Lamancha goats, who cannot be tagged through the ear. These breed specific goats will wear issued RFID tags on a collar around their necks.

A motion is made to accept these regulation updates by Rayburn Smith and the motion is seconded by Vendal Fairchild. Motion to accept the proposed rule changes is passed.

Livestock Market Charter/ American Select Equine LLC.

Mr. Nicholas Blaine Manuel has appeared before the Board for the purpose of obtaining a Louisiana Public Livestock Market Charter for his business, American Select Equine, LLC. Mr. Manuel has presented his completed market charter application; his fees are paid, and his surety bond is issued. Mr. Manuel is in good standing with the USDA Packers and Stockyards.

After considering his application and reviewing Mr. Manuel's financial statements, the calls for a motion to approve the Public Livestock Market Charter for Mr. Nicholas Blaine Manuel/ American Select Equine, LLC.

A motion is made to approve the market charter by Mr. William Holdman. Motion is seconded by Mr. Rayburn Smith. Motion to grant the Public Livestock Market Charter for American Select Equine, LLC., is passed.

Lifetime Brands

Scott Perry came before the board to inform them of the updates concerning the new lifetime brand program. As of 2023, there has been a massive increase in the number of lifetime brands that have been applied for and approved. In 2016 there were approx. 4000 lifetime brands, by March of 2023 there are 5484 lifetime brands.

Saddle Microchip Program

Scott Perry informed the board of the upcoming dates for the Louisiana Saddle Microchip events. This program has been considered quite successful in the past and has been well received by the equestrian community. At the last microchipping event which took place in Abbeville, LA, more than 70 saddles were brought in and microchipped

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Thomas Early calls for a motion for the board to adjourn. Motion is made to adjourn by Dr. Clark Cooper. Motion is seconded by Giles Brown. The Louisiana Board of Animal Health meeting is adjourned at 12:00PM.