Minutes of the 15th Methane Phenotype Working Group (MPWG)

By Phone 2100 GMT 11th Oct 2013

Present: Hutton Oddy, Yvette de Haas, Natalie Pickering, John Basarab, Steve Miller.

Apologies: Jan Lassen, Cesar Pinares, John McEwan, Roger Hegarty, Kristi Cammack.

Action points from last meeting:
John Basarab: to run a simulation model for gross CH₄, yield and intensity, by changing Ym for high and low efficiency animals and put in differing values for FI
  - Ran a simulation with a 10% drop in DMI, a Ym increased by 1.4% and a increase in TDN of diet by 1.4%.
  - Low RFI animals still reduced CH₄ emission by 8.6%
  - Hope to with Karen Beauchemin run through the HOLOS method.

Additional actions from this meeting:
- **John B** to write a few paragraphs on the results of the simulations for the White paper.
- **Hutton** to strengthen the objective statement of the White paper (Line 158-160).
- Need a calculation of the potential “size of the prize”, what is the potential level of CH₄ emission we could get down to.
- The conclusion and Recommendations of White paper, write some that are aimed at funders and research communities.
- **ALL to read and contribute to the White paper so we can have it finished before the next meeting.**
- **Yvette and Natalie** to go through and trim the White paper down to the 36 pages allowed for the animal review paper. 1st draft to be emailed out before next meeting

General discussion:

Main points that need strengthened in the White paper.
1. Line 158-160 What is the explicit objective of the paper is.
   a. Currently states “lower methane emissions”, is this Methane production, MY or methane intensity?
   b. Should be reduce methane in total through decreasing MP, MY or MI without adverse effect on productivity of the animal as a whole.
2. What is the maximum achievable improvement we could expect realistically? Need a good figure otherwise why should we and others be continuing down this road.
   a. What is the “size of the prize”
   b. What is the lowest we could get it too cos it can’t be zero, can it?
   c. more than a genetic gain question
   d. Needs a statement up front of what WE think is possibly.
3. Conclusion and recommendations
   a. The white paper will be brought to the attention of funders and research communities to back up research proposals.
   b. Need to state the size of the prize
c. Statements that funders and research communities want to hear to back up why we should be researching this area.
The White paper will be published on the ASGGN website, it is also up to us to bring it to the attention of the communities we represent.

Review Paper
- 36 pages, and audience is more fellow researchers
- Focus on methane and not so much on FI. How to measure and what to measure for genetic improvement.

WCGALP ASGGN meeting
- ASGGN meeting in on the registration form $75 CAN.
- Funding Hutton wrote to Harry Clark but will also call him.
- Need the WCGALP conference organiser in charge of sponsorship (Martin?) to target the GRA and Hutton and Yvette to target GRA people. Hopefully can get a loan at least that will be paid back by the workshop fees.

Next meeting 4th Dec GMT time.