

**SERA-IEG-15**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting**  
**February 8, 2004**

The annual meeting of SERA-IEG-15 was held in conjunction with the 30<sup>th</sup> Southern Dairy Conference at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel, Atlanta, GA. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on February, 2003 by its chair, Gary Hay. Participants in the meeting were:

Angelica Chapa, Mississippi  
Terry Kiser, Mississippi  
Bill Herndon, Mississippi  
Lane Ely, Georgia  
Gary Hay, Louisiana  
Wayne Gauthier, Louisiana  
Bruce Jenny, Louisiana  
Steve Nickerson, Virginia  
Jodie Pennington, Arkansas  
Gary Rogers, Tennessee  
John Rushing, North Carolina  
Steve Washburn, North Carolina  
Lon Whitlow, North Carolina  
Geoff Benson, North Carolina

Dr. Terry Kiser, administrative adviser to the IEG, reviewed the various types of regional activities with the group:

1. A numbered "S" project is for research and there are approximately 30 of these in existence.
2. A SERA-IEG has both extension and research components.
3. An IEG is primarily a research activity as distinct from a SERA-IEG

The Southern Dairy Conference Program meets both the research and extension components of the SERA-IEG and is well regarded by the regional directors. It provides industry contact and opportunities for input and thanks go to all who make it possible.

Dr. Kiser reminded the group that Dr. Steve Nickerson is the monitor for SERA\_IEG-15. An annual report is due to Eric Young's office at NCSU within 60 days of the annual meeting.

The members present gave oral situation reports on their respective states. The news was gloomy both from an industry and university perspective. The number of dairy farms, cows and production continues to decline. University budgets are being cut and dairy positions are not being refilled when they become vacant.

Gary Hay opened discussion of a SERA\_IEG-15 web page and offered to develop a prototype. There was consensus that he proceed with this.

A motion to elect Geoff Benson as the 2004-2005 chairman of the SERA-IEG and chairman of the 2005 Southern Dairy Conference was seconded and passed by voice vote. A motion to elect Gary Rogers as the 2004-2005 recording secretary of the SERA-IEG and vice chair of the 2005 Southern Dairy Conference was seconded and passed by voice vote. This means that Gary Rogers will also serve as the chairman of the 2006 Southern Dairy Conference. Benson and Rogers assume their new responsibilities immediately.

There was a discussion on whether to try to hold a summer meeting to plan the 2005 conference or use conference calls and e-mails. The consensus was to use e-mail and conference calls.

The final issue raised for discussion was the need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regional collaboration, including the use of the "Dairysouth-L" listserv to exchange information, newsletter articles etc., between the members. Lane Ely reminded the group that Warren Gilson at Georgia also maintained a dairy discussion list.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Benson, Chair  
2005 SERA-IEG-15 Committee