



AEA EMUupdate

The Official Newsletter of the American Emu Association

President's Message

Volume 29, Issue 5 – Sept-Oct 2019

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Greetings From Colorado

We are all home from the annual convention, energized and ready to sell more emu products, and those growing emus, a reason to be in the emu business. Our turnout was less than hoped as many people found conflicts they did not expect, but for those who were there, we had a great time. The weather was very pleasant. One could lay by the pool or travel about enjoying the desert or even a trip to the Grand Canyon.

The chef at Tempe Embassy Suites nailed the emu steak dinner. He even came out on the banquet floor and explained the special marinade, sauces and side dishes. Our Friday night meal was enhanced by an acoustic duet of wonderful listening music and our 30th convention was celebrated by a delicious cake.

We had a special surprise as our

Board Member Brian Smith and his girlfriend surprised us all with an impromptu wedding in Sedona, AZ, two days before the convention. We, the AEA members and friends, were able to celebrate with them, as we surprised them with a small wedding cake and music for a special dance. It was a festive night complete with a few tears. Hopefully you too can meet Mr. and Mrs. Brian Smith in the future.

As much as I dislike it, cold weather is here. It snowed at my house Wed night. The end of October is too early for this. Yuck! It's time to winterize. The upside is, cooler weather and shorter days means hens will be laying eggs in the near future. I wish you many fertile eggs this season.

See you next month!

Terry Turner

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American Emu Association
510 W Madison St.
Ottawa IL 61350
815-326-1789
emusue@gmail.com

2020 Convention
Sept 11, 12, 13
Huntsville, AL



The AEA Banquet meal was delicious!

Emu steak marinated in a coffee, berry & wine sauce with chimichurri over the top. Side dishes were a baked, paper thin potato layered with cheese, also known as gratin, plus wild mushroom sautéed with a medley of roasted squash.

2020 AEA Convention ~ September 11-13
Huntsville Marriott at the Space & Rocket Center
5 Tranquility Base, Huntsville, Alabama 35805
Phone - 970-493-9262
Reservations - 800-228-9290 or 256-830-2222

Discount for Veterans - The AEA is offering a 10% annual membership discount to veterans and current military personnel with verification required. New & renewing members will be eligible for this discount.

AEA Annual Membership Meeting MINUTES 9- 13 -19

29# Registered Guests and 5 new members (Tabor's, Vito's & Pettit)

The entire year's **financial reports** were made available for members to look through.

Last year \$11,815.67 came in through **oil certification**. A member asked if the state affiliates could get a portion of this oil certification money. BOD explained why the program was started and how the money is earmarked for possible legal fees, if needed. Any AEA funds for state projects would be considered on their own merit, when proposed.

Discussed whether or not to continue with **annual conventions every year** beyond 2020. Most attendees wanted to keep the annual convention. A survey of members will need to be done.

The BOD has spent a lot of time investigating **foreign emu oil as it relates to Certification**. The Emu Oil Trade Rules state that these rules apply worldwide.

It was emphasized that all paperwork must be done in order to use the **AEA Certified Oil logo**.

Discussed how the **CBM program** works and its benefits.

Expect good changes as the **AEA website** is updated and completed.

The AEA needs people to be **nominated for board of director positions**. Next year we will definitely need someone from regions 4, 5 or 6 to run for that regional director position.

More **volunteers are needed** for the various committees. A big "Thank You" to all of our volunteers from last year. All volunteers are very much appreciated.

JoAnna Stinar has been working hard to **get the newsletters out in a timely manner**, but she needs help.

Members are urged to **join Facebook and Yahoo lists** in order to receive information, as it becomes available.

Brian is working on **creating a Meat Processing instruction DVD for processors** but, he needs volunteers to work on it this year.

There has been difficulty in getting the **Emu Egg Nutrition Label Information** onto the USDA nutritional database. It is still being pursued.

Members are encouraged to let the AEA Directors know, if there are **any thoughts or concerns** that the board could help with. The Egg Nutritional Data and Processing Video projects were suggestions from members.

RESEARCH

A new person is needed to submit paperwork for **G.R.A.S. (Generally Recognized As Safe)**.

A Human Oil Study trial is in process. Members will

be notified of results once they are published.

The **2017 Ag Census Report** was published this year. Emu farms and populations remained stable since the 2012 census. December, when the ag census is taken, is a bad month for accurate emu counts. Process birds are gone and the winter chicks have not hatched yet.

Maria Minnaar has information on changes needed for **brochure updates**. This will be looked into.

ADJOURNED

CBM Meeting MINUTES 9-12-19

Roll Call - LB Processors (Trevor Peterson), 3 Feather Emus (Tony Citrhyn & Janean Parker), Amaroo Hills (Jay Winslow), Sugar Maple Emu Farm (Joylene Reavis), Dennis Anderson, Brian Smith, Amy Hall, Terry Turner. (5 CBMs represented)

Discussed the AEA hiring a **website manager**. CBMs need a good AEA website to promote their businesses with more educational information on emu oil & emu meat.

It was suggested to ADD a place in the MEMBERS ONLY area for members to inform the AEA about problems concerning **companies violating the Certified Emu oil Program guidelines**.

CBM members find that being a **CBM gives value to their business** and steers customers to their websites.

The Emu Oil Committee is doing their best to **stop violators of the Certified Emu oil Program**. Education is key. We need to educate consumers on how to find the best emu oil and why good emu oil is so expensive. More info needed on the website.

Trevor suggested this **slogan for AEA Certified Emu Oil, "If it's got the seal, you can tell it's real"**.

CBM application and renewal period is the entire month of April. CBMs like the FREE month incentive to apply on time. Suggested to sending more reminders. Asked to simplify renewals, if nothing has changed and possibly the "simpler" renewal could continue for the next 5 years.

We are not able to exclude **certifying foreign emu oil** because of the Trade Rules. To add another tier of certification for "US Only", would make it too difficult to police the Trade Rules.

FDA inspections continue. One processor has been inspected twice in the past 18 months. Inspectors are looking for cleanliness, completed paperwork on file & that everything is up to date. They are also looking at claims and label content.

Emu Oil Capsules can only be made in an FDA approved dietary supplement manufacturing facility.

Many people are looking for **emus as pets**. The Facebook page "Emus As Pets" as over 20,000 members. Emu growers should present their emus as "livestock", not pets.

ADJOURNED

Presidents Meeting Minutes – 9-12-19

ROLL CALL - Clover (president) & Joe Quinn - **MT** - Tony Citrhy & Janeane Parker (secretary/treasurer) - **WA**, Joylene Reavis - **WI**, Dennis Anderson (president) - **IA**, Jay Winslow - **NC**, Amy Hall - **AR**, Andy Martin - **AL**, Brian Smith - **TN**, Cyril Klein - **IA**.

With only 3 voting members left, members of the **Wisconsin Emu Association disbanded** and transferred membership to the Iowa Emu Association, as have several other neighboring state associations.

Iowa and Washington affiliates are **growing**.

There are possible **changes coming to the AEA website**. The AEA would like a volunteer who is savvy in WORD PRESS to help keep the website monthly information updated.

Clover Quinn - Montana, stated that their biggest problem is a lack of local processing plants. A recent attempt fell through. Their nearest processing plant is 3 1/2 hours away.

In **Washington State in the Columbia Gorge area they are creating a small animal USDA plant** & may include emus.

Dennis Anderson - Iowa, mentioned last year that he and a retired emu butcher were putting together plans to educate processing plants on how to process & butcher emus. A fee would be charged for this service. No update at this time on how this is progressing.

The AEA needs **someone from Region 4, 5 & 6 to consider running as Regional Director** for this area. Terry Turner (Colorado) is the current regional director but, she will be timing out of board eligibility next September and we will need someone willing to fill this spot. **A merger of region 3 with 4, 5 & 6 would be the only answer, if a regional director from 4, 5 & 6 cannot be found.**

We need members (individuals or a state organization) to **form a committee to take over the duties of coordinating the annual convention**. The board needs to only participate in the convention, but not be in charge of the entire event. Everything can be done via phone, as this is what the board has done for the last 8 plus years.

Short articles on any emu related subject are needed for the AEA newsletter. We need articles and ideas. Submit articles to any board member.

According to the **2017 Ag Census**, Emu Numbers have held steady since the last census in 2012.

Many people are looking for emus as pets. The Facebook page "Emus As Pets" has over 20,000 members. Emu growers should **present their emus as "livestock", not pets**. People do not want to eat their pets.

The FDA will be looking at **traceability for all meat being sold in the near future**. In Wisconsin a "Premise ID #" is required for every property with livestock, including horses and chickens.

ADJOURNED

AEA Members

Use these phrases on labels, written copy and on your websites.



It will improve your marketing.

"The American Emu Farmer believes in Fair Trade and Sustainable Agriculture."

"Grown and Processed in the USA"

"If it's got the Certified seal, it's the real deal"

Did you know

Emu Today & Tomorrow is the emu industry's premier magazine? Published four times a year, ET&T provides insight to current emu market trends and how-to guides for emu farming. Partnering with the AEA, ET&T also offers on its website EmuToday.com a wealth of resources and tools for raising emus.

Emu Today & Tomorrow

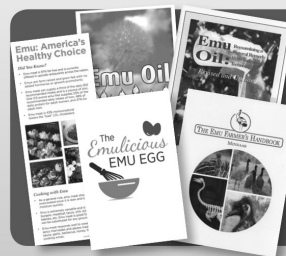
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Amy here from the great state of Arkansas

I wanted to give a shout out to everyone out there looking forward to their crop of eggs this year. I am so very jealous.

However, my fencing contractor has just finished installing 2,500 ft. of 8' high perimeter fence around approximately 8 acres. The well is drilled and some preliminary roads are in.

I am still looking at facilities like barns and more fencing. Oh yes, lots of fencing, along with lots of questions - water storage and pipes, grain storage, incubators, layout planning. Will I get grown breeding pairs, chicks or fertile eggs or some combination of all three? Who knows for sure?

I'm betting this brings back some memories of the beginning of your emu journey.

Maybe, just maybe, you would like to tell your story. I would like to hear it. We have new members who would like to hear how you did it. We would like to discover how members got started by different routes. We need you to tell your story at the 2020 convention.

As for the convention, I won't mince words. The board needs help. We need speakers lined up by the spring of 2020, so we can promote the convention in a timely manner. We cannot still be looking for speakers like we were in July this year.

We need subjects that will attract both current and new members.

I wanted to bring in a high end speaker for the 2020 convention. The push back I received is not just that she commands \$7,500-\$10,000 plus expenses. But also that...well she is known for her work with cows, pigs, sheep, etc. But, how many key note agricultural speakers have any knowledge of emus? She is a professor of animal science at the University of Colorado, and she is booked a year in advance.

Make no doubt, I can hardly justify this cost when only 20 people show up for a convention.

So my first problem is **attendance**. What would bring you to the table? Maybe you have been in business of raising birds for many years. I bet you have something of value to contribute even to other farmers, who have also been in the industry for years.

We need speakers for the 2020 Convention. The speakers and topics need to be listed by the early spring of 2020. That is our goal. We need speakers who are passionate about the emu industry. That is you, my friends.

I put together a List of subjects, primarily about emu farming. I would like to have several of these subjects at the convention each year, rotating after a few years or as new information, techniques, etc., come around. It's a changeable list. Add to

it, change it. This list will be updated after each convention and will be viewable on the FaceBook.com AEA Members Network, as well as the AEA website.

Examples are: **Health; Veterinary; Husbandry; Sexing Emus; Home Processing; Nutrition, Pens & Facilities; Egg Collection; Incubation; Data Collection; Organization; Employee Safety & Education; Transportation; Talking to New Processors; Emu Behavior; Public Relations; Fat Collection & Storage; etc.**

Email me at GoFarm2020@outlook.com with your ideas. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Amy Hall, AEA Vice President

How to Make Farms Prosper & Support the Emu industry

by Dr. Jay Lehr

Dr. Lehr is a former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) consultant who reports to the president on EPA issues, food safety and agricultural concerns. He has strong opinions and has been following how the emu meat industry has been evolving for quite some time.

With his interest in emu meat Dr. Lehr was thrilled to be asked to speak at our convention.

One of his first statements was that "humans are meat eaters" (research proves that meat is a necessary part of the human diet) and that belching cows are "NOT" responsible for climate change. He also said that enough food is produced in the world and that climate rarely causes people to go hungry. Politics is the prime cause of famines.

Now is a great time for the emu industry to contact the government for assistance. US Ag Secretary, Sonny Perdue, is a veterinarian and good friends with the American Farm Bureau president. Secretary Perdue is very open to agricultural concerns.

There is a lot of anti-farm rhetoric right now, mostly about pollution from animals and machinery exhaust. Since most people know very little about farming, each farmer should spend 2 hours each month educating the public about agriculture. What better way to learn about farming than from the farmer himself?

One of the biggest problems for the emu growers is a lack of knowledge about the emu industry among lawmakers. The other problem is that the emu industry does not have a "seat at the table", when it comes to legislation. Several suggestions were given to possibly get a foot in the door.

Dr. Lehr finished by telling us that right now farm loans are readily available and to check them out at www.farmers.gov.

Website Help Needed



Our new AEA website, www.aea-emu.org, needs volunteers to help keep it up to date by posting new information.

If you are experienced with WORD PRESS, the AEA could use your help. For more information or to volunteer, contact, info@aea-emu.org.

These are the 2019/2020 AEA committees. Let us know if you would like to volunteer on any of them.

Committees - chair and members

Chairman is listed after the liaison and works with other committee members.

- Ag/Legislative – [Jay Winslow](#) / [Andy Martin](#) / [Ngon Nguyen](#)
- Awards – [Dennis Anderson](#) / [Andy Martin](#)
- Financial/Budget – [Brian Smith](#) / [Susan Wright](#) / [Ngon Nguyen](#) / [Trevor Peterson](#)
- By-Laws/Parliamentarian – [Andy Martin](#) / [Jay Winslow](#) / [Tony Cithyrn](#) / [Janeane Parker](#)
- Emu Oil Certification & Batch Numbers – [Terry Turner](#) / [Susan Wright](#) / [Cyril Klein](#) / [JoAnna Stinar](#)
- AEA Certified Emu Oil Program & Trade Rule Committee – [Terry Turner](#) / [Susan Wright](#) / [Carolyn Palo](#) / [Ngon Nguyen](#)
- Research & Grants – [Dennis Anderson](#) / [Cyril Klein](#) / [Caleb Binford](#) / [Maria Minnaaar](#)
- Internet & Technology (I.T.) – [Jay Winslow](#) / [Susan Wright](#) / [JoAnna Stinar](#) / [Ngon Nguyen](#) / [Andy Martin](#) / [Amy Hall](#) / [Janeane Parke](#)
- Convention – [Joylene Reavis](#) / [Terry Turner](#) / [Brian Smith](#) / [Amy Hall](#) / [Carolyn Palo](#) / [Susan Wright](#)
- Meat – [Amy Hall](#) / [Ngon Nguyen](#) / [Tony Cithyrn](#) / [Jay Winslow](#)
- Membership – [Brian Smith](#) / [Susan Wright](#) / [Amy Hall](#) / [Gary Smith](#) / [\(Jody Pierce – consultant\)](#)
- Newsletter – [Amy Hall](#) / [JoAnna Stinar](#) / [Joylene Reavis](#) / [Brian Smith](#)
- Nominations – [Amy Hall](#) / [Jim Glick](#) / [Carolyn Palo](#) / [Deitra McCleery](#)
- Phone for AEA – [Amy Hall](#)
- Public Relations – [Joylene Reavis](#) / [Clover Quinn](#) / [Carolyn Palo](#) / [\(Sherri Schatz – consultant\)](#)

Sub Committees - —

Promotions & Advertising Committee - [Joylene Reavis](#) / [Paul Pluss](#) / [JoAnna Stinar](#) / [Ron Reagan](#) / [Jay Winslow](#)

NOTE - The Promotions & Advertising committee will be used for a press release and promotion campaign, "if", needed for favorable research or discoveries.

2020 Convention Committee – president is on all committees

- 1.) Convention co-chairs – [Amy Hall](#) / [Joylene Reavis](#) / [Jay Winslow](#)
- 2.) Hotel Liaison – [Joylene Reavis](#) / [Amy Hall](#)
- 3.) Registration – [Brian Smith](#) / [Susan Wright](#) / [Terry Turner](#)
- 4.) Banquet & Welcome Night Coordinator (with Entertainment if needed) – [Terry Turner](#) / [Jay Winslow](#) / [JoAnna Stinar](#)
- 5.) Speaker / Classes Coordinator – [Amy Hall](#) / [Carolyn Palo](#) / [Kathy Goldstone](#)
- 6.) Decorations / Speaker Gifts - [Terry Turner](#) / [Amy Hall](#)
- 7.) Awards – [Dennis Anderson](#) / [Andy Martin](#)
- 8.) Funding Committee – [Brian Smith](#) / [JoAnna Stinar](#) / [Carolyn Palo](#)
- 9.) Program Booklet – [Joylene Reavis](#) / [Terry Turner](#) / [Carolyn Palo](#) / [ET&T](#)
- 10.) Exhibit/Booth Coordinator – [Amy Hall](#) / [ET&T](#)
- 11.) Silent/Live Auction & Raffle – [Brian Smith](#) / [Amy Hall](#) / [Jay Winslow](#) / [JoAnna Stinar](#)
- 12.) Welcome Bags – [Terry Turner](#) / [Brian Smith](#)
- 13.) Mascot Art Contest - [Amy Hall](#)
- 14.) Promotion & Advertising – [Joylene Reavis](#) / [Terry Turner](#) / [Andy Martin](#) / [ET&T](#)
- 15.) Tourism – [Terry Turner](#)
- 16.) T-Shirts & Retail Items- [Amy Hall](#) / [Terry Turner](#)
- 17.) Audio/Visual – [Andy Martin](#) / [JoAnna Stinar](#)

President Terry Turner
Director Region 4, 5, 6
 2051 County Rd. 82E
 Livermore, CO 80536
 970-493-9262h
 terry_turner@hughes.net
 president@aea-emu.org

Vice President
Jay Winslow
 6323 Coble Church Road
 Liberty, NC 27298
 jwinslow07@outlook.com

Treasurer
Brian Smith
 6913 Timberlake Dr
 Murfreesboro TN 37129
 931-980-7503
 snakeman52006@hotmail.com

Secretary
Joylene Reavis
 700 8th Ave #731
 Monroe, WI 53566
 608-897-8224
 emujoy@sugarmapleemu.com

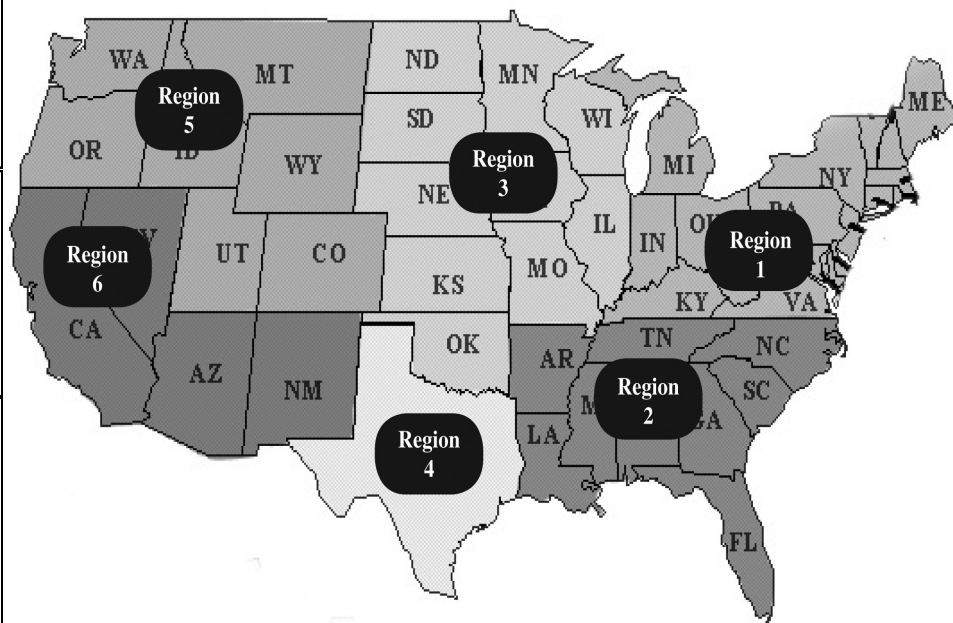
Parliamentarian
Amy Hall
 2020 Red Bench Road
 Paris, AR 72855
 479-847-0352
 gofarm2020@outlook.com

Director Region 1 & 2
Andy Martin
 P.O. Box 590088
 Birmingham, AL 35259
 205-999-6314
 admin@proemu.com

Region 3
Dennis Anderson
 2960 Oaks Ave
 Haverhill, IA 50120
 641-751-4527
 oaksaveemuranch
 @heartofiowa.net

AEA Board of Directors Contact Information

AEA Regional Areas



Emu Processing Plants

Larue Meat Processing USDA
 1908 Water Level Rd
 Somerset, PA 15501
 811-445-7229

Krehbiels Specialty Meats, Inc.
 USDA
 1636 Mohawk Rd
 McPherson, KS 67460
 620-241-0103 / 620-241-0106

J&S Meat Processing
 180 Fm 833 E
 Fairfield, TX 75840
 903-389-6169

Craig's Meats
 N9064 Hwy 162 No.
 Mindoro, WI 54644
 608-486-2212

B and D Meats
 5370 Grange Rd
 Roseburg, OR 97471
 541-677-7283

Lemay & Sons USDA
 116 Daniel Plummer Rd
 Goffstown, NH 03045
 603-622-0022

Special "D" Meats USDA
 30637 Lake Street
 Macon, MO 63552
 660-385-2141

Value Added Emu Products

Uvalde Meats
 508 S wood Street
 Uvalde, TX 78801
 830-278-6247

Communication & Networking



"AEA Members Network"
Contact Amy—
gofarm2020@outlook.com
479-847-0352

YahooGroups Email List
Contact Brian—
snakeman52006@hotmail.com
931-980-7503

