



GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF

Climate Working Group Agenda
Monday, October 10, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Central U.S./Canada Time

Members Present

Lora Wright – Sure Harvest
Eric Harris – Sure Harvest
Andre Mazzetto – Ag Research
Courtney Hall - WWF
Sam Werth – USRSB
Sara Kroopf – McDonalds

Hernan Villalobos – McDonalds
Jessica Loughland – Greenham & Sons
Terry Ward – Zinpro
Tony Hegarty – Belvedere Ag
Vanessa Brain – Leather Working Group

Staff Present:

Julie James, Katie Ambrose

1. Opening Remarks *Courtney Hall*

Brief overview of agenda for meeting

2. Goal Reporting Framework Update and Q&A *SureHarvest*

Brief overview: Presenting the results from the request for information sent out in August, following up with discussion and questions about the framework being developed. Project aims to understand where everyone is at and developing the framework with a goal of ongoing support and reporting in phase 3, taking place in late 2023 and onward

Result from RFI, 8 respondents (national roundtables), about 2/3 of those contacted. Disclosed existing initiatives across the three main areas where GRSB has established goals (Climate, Nature Positive, and Animal Well-being). There are about 6-7 initiatives per area depending on the roundtable. Have goals and initiatives specific to key areas, including animal health and welfare, climate specific goals, and nature positive and land use goals but also other categories and areas of interest, like economic and social indicators as well.

Climate goals focused on GHGs, indicating data for meeting those goals included outcome-based data, practice-based measures, and roundtable/region specific reported data coming from predominantly from government data, other certification schemes and industry surveys, the private sector, and civil society

Most goals focused in on the live animal sector of the industry; some data included representation in goals relative to packer-processor phases. Also asked about data verification, emphasizing the importance of credible data and recognize that it is not always possible to get perfect data, and highlighting the importance of transparency as well

Discussion followed led by Eric Harris:

First step is to standardize/harmonize to the steps that national or regional roundtables have in place, before moving to the next step of developing an approach that works at the global level

Framework to have three main levels – this is only an initial consideration, so looking for feedback due to the global application of the framework, it needs to be simple and streamlined (similar to ERBS methods with specific sublevels)

- 1) Engagement – could be with respect to a specific goal, to be tracked and managed over time,
- 2) Primary goal/target – shifting to active performance from only participation in the case of specific goals, and
- 3) Implementation - activities and indicators for tracking interventions and demonstrating progress (still needs further discussion and review)

Main discussion topics: climate and other established goals, and creating a global metric for carbon footprint assessment

Climate/carbon neutrality and nature positive goals were discussed. Members stated certain goals are easier to meet than others (i.e., climate), versus more vague ones like nature positive goals due to setting different baselines and indicators to measure progress

SureHarvest had some ideas on nature positive goals, in order to have distinctions on the main metrics and focusing on feasible measures and country specific metrics; overall still struggling to define what nature positive is and want to know what other roundtables have done, how is everyone else defining this goal. SureHarvest meeting soon with other board groups to better flesh out the definition

USRSB asked about land use, as it can be very different geographically across the US. How would you be able to quantify land use? And in terms of climate, challenge of what type of data do you want to use that will work for everyone, like national level databases that are available to some countries but not others and metrics that coincide with those issues.

There is an important discussion with metrics and carbon neutrality and how you define it when it comes to reaching the 30% emission intensity reduction; via GWP100, neutrality requires a significant amount of offset and sequestration and does not really work for short lived gases, so you move toward GWP*. This can be done at a national level based on population of animals. The problem starts further down the supply chain with businesses following science-based target initiatives and other reporting frameworks with GWP100; there are conflicting ways of doing things

Action item: see if there is existing guidance on what climate neutrality means to GRSB and if not, propose that as a workstream for the science working group in partnership with the climate working group (Courtney Hall)

GWP* methodology published and publicly available as of February and recently updated in September, could get update from Brian Lindsey; corporates will continue following GWP100 until there is guidance on incorporating GWP* methodology

FLAG released 2 weeks ago. Provides guidance and tool, with regionally specific intensity pathways based off literature, and projected production intensity for different regions; in the corporate sector, using this to guide the action taken in certain regions to help with interventions but it might be a good place to look for reference on target intensities could or not be by 2030 and longer-term expectations of beef intensity by those regions

Action item: update on FLAG in the future

Discussion on carbon footprint metrics on a global scale

Need alignments on certain metrics and items used to calculation regional footprints then you need to figure out how to aggregate everything to get the global number, which could be done in a couple ways:

1. Aggregation as kg CO₂-equivalents per kg beef production, assuming that methods for calculating emissions are similar enough to allow for aggregation
2. Aggregating percent change, looking at each individual roundtable and weight average percent reduction per year

There were some concerns with percentage-based aggregation, as using actual numbers would be the better option and to have people actually aligned on methodology would be helpful; could also look at regional production data and regionally relevant emissions factors

Reporting gases separately by country before a global value would be better, creating transparency and credibility for the industry, as a single CO₂-equivalent number doesn't provide much information.

Could potentially learn from dairy industry approach, using an existing model like GLEAM with the potential for regionally specific updates in order to represent more than only members of GRSB. Might be good to work with FAO to see how they're calculating numbers and have communication into how the beef sector is doing

Furthermore, before being able to start calculating the carbon footprint, need to establish a baseline year, which is currently 2030 (can also depend on individual roundtable). Need alignment into baseline years if different roundtables start measurements at different times

Action item: look into baseline year incorporated into GRSB goals

SureHarvest welcomes feedback to this initial consideration; approach for measurement is TBD, but one option is having a national/regional carbon footprint within a supply chain that follows carbon footprint guideline

Question: How is Sure Harvest addressing private sector engagement in this framework?

Engagement is more focused on national/regional levels, rather than the private sector. The area where you get more into the discussion of climate, as to how progress and data is tracked as the main performance metric, how do you actually get there? Need to get to point where you are measuring with the formal metric, which is the hard part; that is where the climate discussion opens up to a role for industry in interventions and progress indicators, potentially still guided by the national roundtables.

Will look to feedback on implementation step later on.

3. GRSB Engagement at COP27

Courtney Hall

GRSB planning its first ever COP engagement, working with Dimension Ag to demonstrate commitment to being part of climate solution and showcase the beef sector's mitigation resilience programs on the path to GHG reductions in achievement of the Paris Climate Agreement

To take place in a couple months in Egypt, with two members in attendance, Ruaraidh and Josefine.

Will also be participating in official UN FCCC side event toward resilient transformed African agriculture systems on November 14; GRSB hosting side event called "Towards sustainable grassland and livestock management", with more details to come

4. AOB

Looking for climate working group co-chair

If you have topics you want to learn more about during this working group meetings or want to share more about your roundtable's approach, please send Courtney Hall an email.

5. Discussion

Next Climate Working Group Call – **December 12, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.** Central US/Canada