



June 2012 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met June 13, 14 and 17 in Lethbridge, Alberta in conjunction with the Annual National Convention.

New Directors Jon Fox (Saskatchewan) and Lorraine Sanford (BC) attended their first meeting and Roger Hardy (Saskatchewan), Frank Strimbold (BC) and Kirk Wildman (Alberta, Past President) officially retired from the Board.

The Board discussed ways to engage members and obtain their feedback and input. A variety of methods will continue to be used such as the online poll question on the main page of the website; member surveys; informal discussions between directors and members and focus groups when appropriate.

In recognition of the value of Canadian Junior Angus Association members and to encourage them to become more involved in the Canadian Angus Association's annual general meeting and annual national convention, the Board decided to make an annual financial contribution toward the expenses of each of two delegates from the Canadian Junior Angus Association to attend the Annual National Convention.

The Board created a formal policy for both regional associations and individual members to affect change within the organization. The policy is for Directors to follow to ensure that suggestions, concerns and ideas from regional associations and members are passed on to the board and CEO as appropriate.

The Board approved a new protocol for registering offspring in a situation where multiple sire exposure or breeding is utilized. The protocol is as follows:

When using multi-sire pastures, members inform the Association prior to registration of the calves, of the sires involved in these pastures so we can identify, through GenServe, any problems ahead of time. Samples for DNA parentage testing should also be available on any dam, if requested by the Association, to determine parentage on a calf resulting from a multi-sire pasture breeding. Any DNA testing requested on the dam will be completed at the expense of the member.

It is recognized that as we transition towards SNP parentage testing the frequency of parentage problems arising from multi-sire pastures will decrease due to the higher number of genetic markers used in SNP testing versus microsatellite tests.

The Board approved a new protocol for Registration and Transfer of an Embryo which includes a Fee Schedule addition of \$30 to Register a Flush. This new fee replaces all previous embryo and flush fees listed in the fee schedule. The new protocol is as follows:

We can pre-approve and record a flush from a dam based on information in our records and information submitted by a member. To record and approve a flush, the breeder would submit an application and pay a fee (\$30 is proposed) to record a flush in the office containing information available from the flush recovery document: date of flush, sire(s), total number of embryos recovered. Once the breeder applies to record the flush and completes the DNA testing on the dam (as per existing requirements of the DNA policy) the flush would be approved. The request to approve a flush could only come from the breeder. When applying for registration on an ET calf, the new owner of the embryo would only have to provide the flush recovery date in addition to the other required information on the ET calf application form, applicable to all calves, and meet other eligibility requirements.

Above all else, breed purity is maintained because we are still parent verifying each ET calf. Information provided will be more accurate and we would be streamlining the process for both members and staff by eliminating the need to complete paperwork and transfers on embryos to be submitted each time ownership of an embryo changes. Also, buyers would no longer have to track down signatures to authorize the transfers when they are under deadlines to complete the registration of an animal potentially years after the initial sale of the embryo.

The Board approved a new protocol for parentage change due to DNA analysis. The protocol reads as follows:

For animals which are currently pending or listed as commercial in the herd book, the animal will not be registered until the correct parentage can be determined.

Upon notification of an incorrect pedigree from GenServe we do as follows:

For registered animals with no progeny:

- If registered already the animal is immediately suspended.*
- Written notification and a copy of the report from the lab is sent to the owner of the animal and the breeder by fax or email and by mail encouraging them to provide alternate parents to have the lab try to solve the problem. Working with the breeder and lab we try alternates until the proper pedigree is found.*
- Once found notification is again sent to the breeder and owner, and it is requested that the breeder confirm in writing the change in the pedigree. At this time, the name of the altered animal can also be amended.*

- *When confirmation is received in writing, the pedigree is changed and the breeder is charged as per the current fee schedule \$50 (Pedigree change as a result of a DNA test). For performance herd animals, current EPDs are deleted and interim EPDs are run or re-run depending on the age of the animal.*
- *The certificate of registration is reprinted once the original is returned to the office.*

For animals with few progeny:

- *The animal is suspended immediately along with all her progeny until parentage can be determined.*
- *Written notification and a copy of the report from the lab is sent to the owner of the animal and the breeder by fax or email and by mail encouraging them to provide alternate parents to have the lab try to solve the problem. Working with the breeder and lab we try alternates until the proper pedigree is found.*
- *Once found notification is again sent to the breeder and owner, and it is requested that the breeder confirm in writing the change in the pedigree. At this time, the name of the altered animal can also be amended.*
- *When confirmation is received in writing, the pedigree is changed and the breeder is charged as per the current fee schedule \$50 (Pedigree change as a result of a DNA test). For performance herd animals, current EPDs are deleted and interim EPD' are run or re-run depending on the age of the animal. EPDs are updated on the affected animal and on all progeny in performance herds.*
- *If progeny of the animal are owned by more than the two herds (breeder/owner), notices are sent to all owners of progeny, identifying the change in the pedigree and inviting affected certificates to be returned to the office for correction.*

For older animals with multiple progeny:

Cases such as this are immediately brought to the attention of the CEO and courses of action are determined on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule, however, the communication of such changes will be done in accordance with direction from the affected owners on the subject animal's registration certificate. Further, registration certificates of ensuing generational progeny will be changed as they are submitted but not with a 'blanket' alert of the need to change.

Please note: any reference to "in writing" or "written" above is inclusive of electronic communication, specifically email.

The Board pledged financial support to send two teams of four youth to represent Canadian Angus at the World Angus Forum in New Zealand in October 2013. An open competition will be held and more details will be available soon.

Meeting dates for the next year were set as follows:

- Sunday, October 21st to Tuesday, October 23rd, 2012 in Calgary, Alberta
- Thursday, February 14th to Saturday, February 16th, 2013 in Edmonton, Alberta
- Wednesday, June 5th to Sunday, June 9th, 2013 in Guelph, Ontario

A new policy was created to assist affiliate organizations—BC Angus, Alberta Angus, Saskatchewan Angus, Manitoba Angus, Ontario Angus, Quebec Angus, Maritime Angus, the Canadian Angus Foundation and the Canadian Junior Angus Association—in recovering outstanding funds if a member of the Canadian Angus Association is in arrears to one or more of the affiliate organizations.

Gary Latimer was confirmed as President for 2012–2013.

Kevin Blair (Saskatchewan) was chosen as President Elect for 2012–2013.