



September 2012 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors changed the timing of their traditional October meeting to September 23–25 to accommodate CEO Rob Smith and President Gary Latimer’s October trade mission to Kazakhstan.

The Board experimented with a “paperless” approach to this Board meeting. Consistent with the Board’s Environmental Policy, all meeting materials were provided to Directors electronically. The experiment was very successful and the decision was made to keep all future Board meetings paperless. In addition to eliminating the use of large amounts of paper and printer ink, mailing costs have been eliminated resulting in a cost savings for members.

The Board approved a new vision statement for the Canadian Angus Association. The new vision statement reads: The Canadian Angus Association exists to preserve and expand the Angus breed for Canadian cattle producers and beef consumers, to provide the best opportunities for profitability today and for future generations.

The Board revisited their decision to reduce the size of the Board. They determined that 10 Directors will be slightly too small and feel that their current size of 12 Directors is ideal. This suggestion will be presented to the membership in early 2013 for voting as a by-law amendment is required.

An extended lunch break was taken on Monday, September 24 to allow the Board of Directors and Canadian Angus Association staff to hold a formal groundbreaking ceremony on the site of the new Canadian Angus Association building. Angus cattle were even on hand for this momentous occasion!

A new DNA Parent Verification Policy, effective January 1, 2013 was approved. This policy change means that any bull born in 2013 will be parentage verified to both its sire and dam. The new policy states:

Under the Animal Pedigree Act, it is illegal for any breeder to make false statement or representation regarding the registration of an animal. If there is any uncertainty about an animal’s parentage, it is the breeder’s responsibility to contact the Association and arrange a DNA test to determine correct parentage prior to registration.

In order to maintain breed purity and accurate pedigree information the Canadian Angus Association requires DNA parentage verification in accordance with the regulations

outlined below. Animals with parentage genotypes on file will be **parent verified** to the fullest extent possible.

All parentage verification testing will be processed through the Association so as to maintain Association and International Industry standards. Members must contact the Association to request parentage verification DNA kits. Members are responsible for providing DNA samples required for definitive parentage verification.

Definitions:

Parent verified – verification using DNA (SNP technology as of July 1st, 2012) that **both dam and sire** qualify as genetic parents of the animal

Sire verified – DNA verification that the animal is qualified as progeny of the specified bull

Dam verified – DNA verification that the animal is qualified as progeny of the specified cow

Parentage genotype – individual DNA marker information

Calf testing requirements:

- Any questionable parentage (sire and / or dam) must be **DNA verified**
- Every 200th animal registered by the Canadian Angus Association will be selected for a random spot test. The animal must be **parent verified** within 12 months of notification to avoid account suspension
- Every Embryo Transfer calf must be **parent verified**
- Any calf resulting from a multi-sire breeding (including if a cow is re-bred by AI or natural service to a different sire within 14 days of the previous service, or if a cow is managed in a multi-sire pasture, both of which must be reported to the Canadian Angus Association) must be **sire verified**
- If a dam is less than 516 days of age when her calf is born, the calf must be parent verified
- If a natural calf is born less than 275 days after the birth of its dams previous natural calf it must be parent verified

Sire testing requirements:

- All sires, including those approved for AI use, must have a DNA parentage genotype on record with the Canadian Angus Association and be **parent verified** before their offspring can be registered

Dam testing requirements:

Embryo Transfer donor dams must be **parent verified**

The Board endorsed the creation of genomically-enhanced EPDs utilizing the Pfizer 50K test for Red Angus cattle and the Igenity 386 Angus panel for Black Angus at a cost of, respectively, \$139.99 and \$85 each. These tests will increase accuracies of EPDs by approximately 30% upon

incorporation of the test results into the next National Cattle Evaluation pending successful negotiation with our NCE providers, the Red Angus Association of America and American Angus Association.

The Canadian Angus Association has received funding from the Alberta Innovates Program that allows us to offer these tests to CAA members nationwide at a rate of "2-for-1" until March 31st, 2013. This "2-for-1" deal will also apply to the new SNP parentage verification, so you will be able to test animals for the price of \$12.

The Board seeks to re-brand the CAA with a new logo in 2013, which will be unveiled in conjunction with the opening of our new building. They are looking for something artistic, representative of the Association and Angus cattle as well as a departure from our current logo. Members are encouraged to share their ideas with Cassie Dorrn, CAA Director of Marketing & Branding.

The Board spend a half day brainstorming current and potential Association practices and outcomes. This exercise will assist both Board and Administration on future planning, direction and vision.