



## Fall 2018 Board Meeting Highlights

1. Following the Special General Meeting on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Board met Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
2. On Sunday, the Canadian Angus Foundation and Canadian Angus Association Boards of Directors held a joint meeting. While all directors appreciate the opportunity to engage with each other, they decided that this will be the last time that the two boards meet in the fall in order to allow both boards to maximize their meeting time.
3. The Board analyzed the new AngusONE evaluation and the results, particularly for red Angus cattle. Your Canadian Angus Association is always in search of the 'best tools' to create value for you, our members. We research, discover, evaluate and determine every tool available for our use in our sector and industry to ensure its optimal economic value to assist you with the selection and identification of your preferred genetics.

As with every topic, regarding our Red Angus evaluation, we hear and appreciate your feedback over the past few weeks.

Canadian Angus is very excited to offer our new AngusONE evaluation as our first national all-Angus NCE. We are proud to partner with the American Angus Association's AGI on the monthly production of this evaluation, offered for black cattle for over a year now and including red cattle since August 2018.

AngusONE EPDs will be posted to our online HerdBook and included in pedigree extracts. Given our long-term commitment to and partnership with the Red Angus Association of America, their new BOLT EPDs will be available upon individual request for Canadian Angus members to use as supplemental inserts in your sale catalogues for your potential American buyers.

Based on member feedback we are creating a distinct red breed average and percentile rank system so that Canadian Red Angus animals will be compared to only other red animals; this should be in place by the November Genetic Evaluation. Hopefully this inclusion alleviates most of the percentile rank challenges that members are experiencing in terms of using AngusONE to market their genetics.

As a best practice used for comparison, please expect Canadian Angus to continue to promote the use of percentile rankings and accuracy as of equal, or greater, importance in the use of EPDs as the actual trait score.

4. Based on input from Directors at the meeting, a decision has been made to extend the amount of time that Angus Cow Enrollment program (ACE) members have to request their tags and parentage verification tests to match the amount of time to request registrations and transfers. Members now have 2 calendar years to access these services for each cow on their inventory. Cows enrolled on the program in 2019, for example, have until December 31, 2021 to access services.
5. At each meeting, the Board devotes time to education. At this meeting, there were two educational opportunities. Harmony Beef, located near Angus Central, gave the Directors a tour of their state-of-the-art, EU-certified facility. The Business Development Team also gave a presentation to the Board on their role in achieving the objectives of the new strategic plan. The Business Development Team reported that the 2018 Year of the Tag initiatives have resulted in a 17% increase in sales for the world's already largest branded tag program.
6. In response to some recent events in the beef industry, the CAA Board will introduce a new rule aimed at maintaining breed purity. Effective January 1, 2020, all sires must be fully parent verified in order for offspring to be registered. 2018-born sires do not have to adhere to this new policy but it does impact the 2019 calf crop. 2018-born and older sires will be 'grandfathered' but 2019-born and younger sires must comply with the new policy. CAA will work with every member to assure your compliance with this policy.

The best practice for all breeders is to take a hair sample when calves are processed. Stored in a sealed bag or envelope in a cool, dry place, a properly labelled hair sample will keep indefinitely for permanent female genotyping of females or parentage verification testing. Following this best practice will help breeders easily adhere to this new policy.

The probability of a false positive based on single parent verification is significantly higher than parentage verification through both the sire and dam. It is not unusual to achieve sire verification on a walking sire only to have the sire disqualified during additional parentage verification testing when a member pursues AI sire designation for a walking sire. In many cases, the parent animals have been sold making it difficult to qualify the sire. Members have repeatedly told CAA and your elected Board of Directors that breed purity is extremely important, thus the Board has strengthened their commitment to breed purity through this policy: the more information we have, the more accurate we can be, and the less problem you will have for both yourself and your buyers.

7. CAA will cease to include EPDs on printed registration certificates. EPDs are only accurate on the day that they are printed, and with the new AngusONE evaluation providing updated results monthly, printed registration certificates are out of date faster than ever. The printed certificate will state that EPDs can be viewed online, and historical EPD data can be viewed in authorized users' performance reports. The change will not happen immediately as CAA has pre-printed registration certificates in stock. When those certificates have been used, we will order new ones that do not have the EPD chart pre-printed. We anticipate this change will occur early next year.
8. Some Directors have recently been approached by members who have seen animals that they believe may not be purebred Angus cattle. If a member suspects an ineligible animal has been registered, CAA requires a written request to investigate the animal's parentage or the condition that would prohibit registration. CAA maintains a closed herdbook which means that both the sire

and dam must be registered purebred Angus cattle to qualify the animal for registration. If a parentage test shows that an animal is not purebred, their registration will be revoked.

9. 2018 is the year of the Canadian Angus Tag. A significant amount of staff and Director time has been spent promoting Angus tags and the benefits of the program. We are on track for a 17% increase in tag sales this year. The Board cannot stress enough that a best practice for Canadian Angus members to add value to their Angus cattle and crossbred offspring, combine quality cattle with Angus tags.