



Winter 2020 Board Meeting Highlights

1. The winter meeting was held Sunday, January 26 through Tuesday, January 28. The Board and CEO discussed 2019 challenges and successes as well as opportunities for 2020 in detail. Some of the topics discussed were:
 - The index initiative in cooperation with AbacusBIO
 - Completion of the Canadian Angus Foundation's history book
 - The inaugural edition of Angus Life magazine
 - Changes to the CAA indicator program
 - The CAA website redevelopment project
 - Re-launch of the Canadian Angus Rancher Endorsed program

Additional details and more highlights will be presented in the Association's annual report which will be available to members attending Convention and posted on the CAA website on Thursday, June 11.

2. The Board formed a committee in September to advise the CEO about possible changes and improvements to the Gold Show program. The Board discussed the committee's recommendations and has asked the CEO to pursue enhancements to the program before the 2020 Gold Show season begins.
3. To be in line with the requirements of our largest trading partner the United States and the rules of both the American Angus Association and Red Angus Association of America, the CAA Genetic Condition Policy has been revised to move Contractural Arachnodactyly (CA) and Mannosidosis (MA) from the list of **monitored** genetic conditions to **acknowledged** genetic conditions. The revised policy is included on the last page of these meeting highlights.
4. Along with other documents required to register an imported sire, proof of legal import will be required on a one-time-only basis for semen and live animals. Animals will only be registerable with service date after the date of import. This policy is effective February 1, 2020.
5. CAA will eliminate the current export package fee of \$75. Effective February 1, 2020, two fee options will be available:
 - \$50 if three or fewer documents are required
 - \$75 if four or more documents are required
6. In September the Board agreed on a new approach to member engagement. Directors have started contacting randomly selected members and asking for their feedback on CAA programs and services. The goal is to speak with 144 members (12 per Director) by the end of the year.

7. The CAA registration certificate will be redesigned to accommodate the introduction of indexes. The Board of Directors reviewed the proposed changes to the certificate which will debut with the launch of the new indexes in June.
8. The CEO reported to the Board that as of December 31, 2019, 920 users have signed up and are actively using AngusNOW. About 77% of 2019 registrations were completed online, a 6% increase over 2018.

The member service team has been experiencing a significant increase in the number of phone calls as members call for one-on-one support as they learn to use the program. In addition to the instructional videos and step-by-step instructions available on the Association's YouTube channel and website, we will continue to offer workshops and share tips in our newsletter and on our social media platforms.

9. There will be at least two new Directors joining the Board in June. Past President Trevor Welch of the Maritimes and Ryan Currie of Quebec are both retiring from the Board after completing two consecutive terms. George Baxter in Alberta and Graham McLean in Ontario are both eligible to run for a second term. Information about elections, should they be necessary, will be sent to voters in these regions in March.

As a reminder, all members who have a valid email address on file will be sent an invitation to vote online. Those who do not have an email address or who request a paper ballot will receive their ballot and information in the mail.

10. The Board of Directors has approved the location of Convention 2021. The official announcement with the specific city or town will be made during the CAA AGM in Moncton in June, but we can tell you that Saskatchewan is the host region.

Canadian Angus Association Genetic Condition Policy

This "Genetic Condition Policy" replaces all previous policies of the Canadian Angus Association including those titled "Genetic Defect Policy".

Effective September 22nd, 2013, revised January 27, 2020, and applying to animals born on or after September 22nd, 2013

The Canadian Angus Association currently monitors the following genetic conditions:

Double Muscling (DM)	Dwarfism (DW)
Developmental Duplication (DD)	Heterochromia Irides (HI)
Hypotrichosis (HY)	Protoporphyrria (PR)
Pulmonary Hypoplasia (PH)	Syndactyly (SN)
Tibial Hemimelia (TH)	

The Canadian Angus Association acknowledges and seeks to identify carriers of the following genetic conditions:

Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM)	Neuropathic Hydrocephalous (NH)
Osteopetrosis (OS)	Contractural Arachnodactyly (CA)
Mannosidosis (MA)	

Once the CAA has formally acknowledged and identified a genetic condition, the following process will be enacted:

Calves that have known carriers of a genetic condition in the first two generations (parental and grandparental) of their pedigree will need to be tested for the causative gene to be eligible for registration. If the animal is found to be a carrier of the causative gene it is eligible for registration and transfer. The subject animal's genetic condition status will be noted on its registration certificate, including electronically, per **Procedure V: Notations on Registration Certificates** listed below.

The Association will send an email notification to all members with registered animals (purebred breeders) summarizing the information on any new developments on genetic conditions, both those that are Acknowledged and Identified as well as those being Monitored. The notification will refer members to the Association website.

Procedure

The following procedures shall be followed in connection with the registration status of potential and known carriers of a genetic condition:

I. Status of Currently Registered Females and Bulls

Notwithstanding any subsequent test results, all registered females and bulls with the impacted genetics in their pedigrees as of January 1st in the year following the CAA's identification and acknowledgement of a genetic condition shall remain registered.

II. Testing of Animals

Testing to determine whether an animal is a carrier, or free, of the causative gene of a genetic condition shall be conducted through the CAA.

III. Publication of Test Results by the Association

Results of the testing shall be noted on the Registration Certificate of subject animals, including electronically. The Association shall also maintain an updated list of each animal determined to be a carrier, as well as those who have tested free of such condition. Upon request, the CAA shall provide such a list at no cost to the requesting member.

IV. Right to Request a Second DNA Test

In those instances in which an animal previously registered or seeking registration is tested and determined to be a carrier of the genetic condition (and is identified as such electronically on the Association's website), the member owner of record may request that an approved laboratory conduct a second DNA test on a sample from subject animal. In order to process a request for a second test, the member owner of record must provide materials or samples sufficient to permit the laboratory to verify the parentage of the animal in question.

V. Notations on Registration Certificates

Upon testing of an animal for a genetic condition, the animal's registration certificate shall be noted in one of the two following manners:

A. the letter "F" designating "FREE" on the registration certificate of any animal that has been determined by such a test to be free of the genetic condition;

B. the letter "C" designating "CARRIER" on the registration certificate of any animal that has been determined by such test to be a carrier of the genetic condition.

AI bulls and Donor Dams

AI sires and Donor dams that have a known carrier of any genetic condition, for which there is a DNA test commercially available, within the first two (2) generations of their pedigree, are required to be tested prior to registration of calves.

Foreign Animals

Foreign animals with a known carrier of a genetic condition, for which a DNA test is commercially available, in the first two (2) generations of their pedigree must be tested for the causative genetic condition in order to be eligible for registration.

Genetic Conditions for which there is no DNA test

Animals that have known carriers of a genetic condition for which there is no DNA test commercially available in the first two (2) generations of their pedigree are eligible for registration.