

ANGUS

THE BUSINESS BREED

Feb. 26, 2021

Dear Angus Breeders:

It was a busy and productive week for the board of directors. After several weeks of committee meetings, we were able to spend time thinking strategically and focus on the future of the Angus breed.

- **January shows:** The Events and Education Committee approved both the Cattlemen's Congress and National Western Stock Show as Super ROV shows in 2022. Pen shows will be held in both locations. The American Angus Association will host the 2022 National Bull Sale at Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City.
- **Reducing budgetary dependence on investment income:** The Association has been able to hold registration fees at the same level since 1980, despite inflation of operating costs and the addition of new expenses like credit card fees. Staff continues to mindfully watch expenses and control costs, reducing Association expenses by 12% compared to 2019. Historically the Association has been able to use interest from investments to close the gap between operational expenses and core revenues like registrations, transfers, AHIR fees, AI certificates and membership dues. In recent years, budgeting a 5% percent return on investment has not been enough to balance the budget. After extensive analysis and discussion, the board unanimously supported a \$5 increase in registration fees across all age categories beginning April 6. This will allow us to balance the budget, maintain programs and services for Angus members and reduce our reliance on investment income.
- **AI Certificates:** The board had extensive discussion on the benefits and limitations of AI certificates. Ultimately, no action was taken.
- **Breed Improvement initiatives:** We were updated on the AHIR Inventory Reporting effort and excited to hear we have nearly 100,000 females enrolled thus far. We heard about changes that will allow members to provide more detailed disposal codes if they choose to do so. In a continuing effort to recognize breeders who submit phenotypes, the Breed Improvement Committee directed staff to evaluate options that would highlight an animal's EPDs if phenotypic data has been submitted.
- **Genetic evaluation updates:** As the genotype database approaches 1 million records, it is important to keep the genetic evaluation model up to date. AGI reported progress on potential updates and maintenance which will improve computing efficiencies and ensure we have the best evaluation available for our members.
- **Policy regarding registered animals with red ancestors:** The board updated our policies regarding the registration of black Angus cattle with red ancestors. Using genomic technology, we are able to ensure animals allowed in the registry are homozygous black and tested free of all known genetic conditions. In addition, foreign registrations fees were changed to \$50.
- **Strategic discussion:** The board heard from Dr. Alison Van Eenennaam about the advancements in gene editing and Dr. Bradley Wolter about a systems approach to genetic selection. Additionally, we discussed identifying optimum production targets and fitting genetics to different environments. The board reviewed Angus on dairy in the marketplace and how it is influencing the industry.
- **Research:** AGI gave us an update on their continued research of haplotypes and other projects.
- **Demand of registered Angus bulls:** We reviewed the national ad campaign messaging that will specifically drive value and demand for the registration paper to the commercial industry.

Thank you for your interest and feedback on these important topics for the Angus breed. Feel free to reach out to me or any member of the board with your questions.

Respectfully,



David Dal Porto
President
American Angus Association