

ANGUS

THE BUSINESS BREED

September 15, 2022

American Angus Association Members,

The American Angus Association Board of Directors met September 12-15, 2022, in St. Joseph, MO, following virtual committee work leading up to the board meeting. We had lots of lively and important discussion for the future of the Association. Here are a few of the highlights:

- **Fiscal Year 2022 projections and FY 2023 budgeting:** The Association has been able to maintain a good financial position despite slightly lower registrations, inflation and a depressed financial market. We passed sound budgets that maintain and expand programs and services without relying heavily on investment income.
- **Election of treasurer:** Jonathan Perry was elected to serve as treasurer of the Association for 2023.
- **2022 Angus Long-Range Objectives:** As the beef industry changes, it is important to continue to update long-range objectives to help guide the board and staff. A few revisions were made to the prior long-range objectives and will be updated shortly on the website for members to review.
- **AHIR Inventory Reporting update:** To grow the program, we discussed additional improvements, including the option for two-season enrollment, based on feedback by the membership. We also discussed ways to recognize breeders participating in AHIR® Inventory Reporting and MaternalPlus®. This led to a very robust discussion on phenotypic data collection in general. I was encouraged to see reports indicating weight data submissions are generally holding steady while foot scores, feed intake and breeding records are increasing.
- **Update on functional longevity and fertility research:** The research to support improved maternal tools for Angus breeders remains on schedule for release of a functional longevity research EPD this fall available to those enrolled in Inventory Reporting. Plans continue to fully release the new EPD and incorporate it into \$M (Maternal Weaned Calf Value) by the summer of 2023.
- **Research related to heart health in Angus cattle:** The board received an update on the research projects surrounding heart health. Staff have led a collaborative effort to raise research funds, and I was encouraged by the commitments to the project.
- **AGI strategic planning:** Recently, the board and staff have been working on long-range planning specifically for AGI. The board approved updated Mission, Vision and Strategic Intent statements with a goal of best positioning the organization for our Angus members.
- **Breeder utilization of mating software:** In an effort to keep the board abreast of industry technology, we heard a presentation by an external company describing its program to assist with mating decisions.
- **Potential fee structure related to gene editing:** The board directed staff to continue research of Association costs and operating procedures related to gene editing to help establish a fee structure.
- **eID:** In line with the policy changes the board adopted in June, staff provided an update on its progress to enable breeders to use eID as a primary form of identification.
- **AngusLink:** Despite fewer AngusLinkSM enrollments, likely due to drought, staff reported summer video auction results and strong demand for AngusLink-enrolled cattle.
- **CAB initiatives with Beef Quality Assurance:** As consumer interest in cattle care continues to rise, cattlemen can show their commitment to those initiatives through programs like Beef Quality Assurance. CAB has launched an effort to connect that information back to the consumer by encouraging members to become BQA-certified. As a first step, 100% of the board members have completed their training.

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- **2022 Angus Convention updates and planning:** We reviewed plans for the Angus Convention and the 139th Convention of Delegates in Salt Lake City Nov. 4 -7.
- **Angus.org and Angus University projects:** Work continues to improve the functionality of Angus.org for both breeder and commercial cattlemen audiences. The board also heard updates surrounding the online learning module project for the juniors.
- **Delegate election process:** Due to delays with the U.S. Postal Service delivery, the board has approved optional electronic delegate nomination and voting, allowing for a more convenient and timely voting process.

I joined my fellow board members Alan Miller and Jim Brinkley on the *The Angus Conversation* podcast following the meeting and discussed some of these topics in more detail. If you would like to hear more, listen tomorrow at TheAngusConversation.com.

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,



Jerry Connealy
President
American Angus Association