

ANGUS

THE BUSINESS BREED

August 31, 2023

Dear Angus Breeders:

It was a productive week as the American Angus Association Board of Directors met, Aug. 28-31 in St. Joseph, MO. Prior to this week, we had several virtual committee meetings. In a competitive fast-paced environment, the Board continues to prioritize innovation for members and our commercial cattlemen customers.

Fiscal Year 2023 projections and FY 2024 budgeting: The Association remains in a solid financial position for FY2023. We passed balanced budgets for the Association and all entities that maintain and expand programs and services. The board scrutinized all expenses looking for cost savings, such as the continuing increase of credit card fees now totaling more than \$600,000. While we took no action, this will remain a topic of discussion in the future. The board voted to reallocate National Junior Angus Show premiums for elevated awards and to help cover escalating show facility expenses.

Research updates on Functional Longevity, teat and udder evaluation, and heart health: Important research continues to gather more data which will aid in the development of new tools for the membership. We learned about the progress with industry partners and the volume of data being collected to help us understand the potential genetic influence on bovine congestive heart failure. The Functional Longevity research EPD is still on track for an early fall release.

Patents related to animals and genetics: Our legal counsel presented on patents and intellectual property law. The board discussed the changing industry landscape, how patents on genetics or animals could limit our members' access in the future, and how the Association can best protect our members.

Gene edit approval process: Three employees from the Food and Drug Administration shared an educational presentation on how the gene editing approval process works, including risk assessment. We are now more knowledgeable about how oversight works when bringing a gene edit to market and we will keep learning as the technology advances.

Association rules and policies related to gene editing: We continued to update the gene editing policy for clarity. As science and the market evolves, the Board wants to ensure the Association is both prepared for the future and positioned to protect the integrity of the registry.

Review of summer video auctions and AngusLinkSM enrollments: The partnership with IMI has proven beneficial, as AngusLink has seen record enrollments this season and our presence in the summer video sales has never been greater. Through July, we have seen 57% growth in number of head and millions of dollars of premiums paid back to users of registered Angus genetics.

Adding a maternal score to the AngusLink Genetic Merit ScorecardSM: As commercial cattlemen adopt the use of AngusLink in selling feeder cattle, they have requested a tool to describe the genetic merit of groups of replacement heifers. Plans are underway to launch a maternal score for commercial females beginning in the spring of 2024.

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Powered by AngusSM campaign review and planning: The advertising campaign continues to differentiate registered Angus seedstock from generic black-hided cattle. We believe the campaign is effective and discussed ways to continue to build awareness.

Enhancements to GeneMAX AdvantageTM: To provide easy-to-use female selection tools for commercial cow-calf producers, the board approved including \$Value indexes on GeneMax Advantage test results. By doing so, commercial cattlemen will be able to see the same indexes on their GeneMAX Advantage-tested commercial Angus females as the registered Angus bulls they purchase.

Joint evaluation work with international Angus associations: The expansion of the World Angus Evaluation is scheduled for Oct. 13. The update includes the addition of pedigree, genotype, carcass and performance data on 11 additional traits from Angus Australia into our weekly Angus evaluation. This adds to the foot score data that has been in the evaluation for nearly three years.

Whole Herd Inventory Reporting: Members continue to provide data which helps us build and strengthen selection tools. At the conclusion of the July enrollment, there were 109,661 females enrolled from 840 members, including 89 new members.

Judge selection process for junior and open shows: The committee continues to refine the judge selection process. They reviewed submitted judge applications, and will continue to evaluate new applications on an as-needed basis.

Review of progress and timelines on the Angus website project: Progress continues on updating Angus.org. We heard positive member feedback from those who tested the new site in the beta-testing phase.

Election of Treasurer: Jim Brinkley was elected as the treasurer of the Association for 2024.

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

Respectfully,



Chuck Grove
2022-23 President
American Angus Association