

ANGUS

THE BUSINESS BREED

June 9, 2023

Dear Angus Breeders:

I enjoyed welcoming the Board of Directors to my home state this week for our June 4-8 meetings in Blacksburg, VA. The meetings were hosted at Virginia Tech, and University staff updated us on their beef industry research. The Board had productive discussions, preceded by Zoom committee meetings, that are important to the future of the Angus breed.

FY23 financial forecasts for the Association and its subsidiaries: The Association and its entities are in sound financial standing with projected positive bottom lines across all entities.

Functional Longevity (FL) Research EPD: Functional Longevity is on track to be released as a research EPD this fall to those currently enrolled in Inventory Reporting. Deadline to enroll is July 15.

Angus National Cattle Evaluation: The team at AGI reported on the genetic evaluation maintenance and economic assumption updates that took place at the end of May.

Gene-editing policy and SLICK IGA application: Over the past few months, board members have spent extensive time discussing gene editing with members, evaluating risks and opportunities for this technology. We have carefully considered what is best for the Association and ultimately took no action on the application. We wanted to share more of our insight regarding the decision process and compiled the attached memo.

Policy discussion on multiple-sire pastures, registration naming, and condition testing for ET donors: We had a good discussion and updated several rules. I encourage members to read the *Breeder's Reference Guide* and the board highlights in the August *Angus Journal* or on the website.

Delegate election: The board approved expansion of electronic options for the election of delegates beginning in 2024.

AGI research on Bovine Congestive Heart Failure (BCHF): In the ongoing effort to better understand the potential genetic component of BCHF, AGI is gathering actual heart, liver and lung scores from processing plants alongside individual genotypes.

Red meat yield measurement: CAB is involved in a group that will continue to look for solutions to the antiquated yield grade equation. The goal is to better quantify red meat yield and enhance genetic prediction tools.

Member focus groups: Over the last couple of months, staff have met with members to gather feedback on AIMS and LogIn. We're grateful for their time and input as we look at ways to improve these important tools for members.

AHIR and Inventory Reporting: Members continue to enroll in inventory reporting, helping to better inform the National Cattle Evaluation for maternal traits. I encourage breeders to consider enrolling your herd in the program.

Structured Sire Evaluation Program updates: The board heard updates on the spring breeding program, as well as the new young sire nomination process. The next set of cattle are being processed this summer.

Global Angus Evaluation: Progress continues toward the ongoing global evaluation. Additional data will improve accuracy for the Association membership.

Industry insights survey: Conducted by Cattle-Fax on behalf of Angus Media, the board discussed the initial results of the data showing valuable information for the Angus breed. In the coming months, the Angus Media team will be covering the survey and showing value of Angus genetics in the U.S. beef industry.

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Show judge selection and Phenotype Genotype Show (PGS): The board continues to evaluate and improve the judge selection process. As the PGS grows, we are expanding into bred-and-owned bulls and females, as well as shows on the state level.

Angus Foundation: This spring was a great success for the Angus Foundation. The Angus Family generously supported events surrounding 150th anniversary of Angus in the United States. Rancher's Revelry, hosted at Audley Farm in Berryville, VA, raised more than \$80,000. The annual Angus Day of Giving, which is held on the arrival date of the bulls on George Grant's farm, raised an additional \$80,000 to continue the Angus breed's legacy.

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

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Date: June 9, 2023

To: The American Angus Association Membership

From: AAA Board of Directors

RE: Current Status of Accepting Gene Editing into the Angus Herd Registry

During the past seven years the American Angus Association Board of Directors has been learning about gene editing from subject experts and other provided resources. In 2021, U.S. breeders began using gene-editing technology and it became apparent this technology would have some level of adoption in the U.S. beef industry. As a result, the Board determined it was prudent the Association have policies and rules to address it.

For the past three years, the goal has been to design policies and a framework to consider the acceptance of a gene edit (also called Intentional Genomic Alteration – IGA), on a case-by-case basis, and establish Association rules and policies for any approved edits. The first policy was adopted in September 2021, and revisions occurred in November 2021, and June 2022. Additional revisions are still under consideration. The current policy can be found in the Breeders Reference Guide under Registration Rules as Rule 104.f.

In February 2023, a member brought forward an application for approval of the PRLR-SLICK IGA. This IGA is a modification of the prolactin receptor gene that allows for better regulation of internal body temperature with an increased capacity to sweat.

The Board reviewed the application but chose to take no action. This technology is still in its infancy, and we believe there are currently too many unanswered questions to sufficiently and confidently assess the potential benefits and risks of the PRLR-SLICK IGA to the Angus breed. There are no plans to reconsider this application until:

- more is known about the PRLR-SLICK IGA
- data on edited cattle in production can potentially be obtained
- additional input from Association members and Angus industry stakeholders can be collected
- more is understood about potential patents, licensing and breeder access
- more is known in general about gene editing adoption, FDA approval process and overall acceptance by consumers

The Board is committed to objective, progressive and open-minded discussions, and decisions on behalf of the Angus breed and Association membership, yet avoiding abrupt action when questions and concerns are left unanswered around a technology like gene editing.

As always, the Board invites questions, input and feedback on this topic and all significant industry topics that relate to the governance of the Association. We need your input as we navigate these new territories.

For additional information, visit [Angus Journal's website](#) to catch up on the previously published resources surrounding gene editing.