

# ANGUS

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## THE BUSINESS BREED

Feb. 24, 2023

Dear Angus Breeders:

Over the last couple of weeks, the board of directors met via Zoom for committee meetings, as well as the board meeting held Feb. 21-24 in St. Joseph, MO. We discussed several important topics for the future of the Angus breed.

**Functional Longevity Research:** An update was given on the ongoing research to develop a Functional Longevity EPD that should strengthen our ability to describe important maternal traits. The research model is very difficult, but the team is optimistic that a Research EPD will be available by summer.

**Gene Editing or Intentional Gene Alterations (IGA):** The board heard from a breeder who shared information on gene editing and submitted an IGA application for approval of the “slick” gene. Per previously established policy, the topic will be taken up by the Breed Improvement Committee with a report back at the June board meeting. Like all topics, I encourage members to share their thoughts and opinions with us, but especially on new and emerging technologies like this one. While the board will continue to modify policies as the technology evolves, we did establish a \$500 fee for an IGA founder animal.

**Global Angus Evaluation:** We heard an update from the AGI team regarding ongoing research to develop a Global Angus Evaluation. As we have seen with our combined evaluation on foot EPDs, we are encouraged about the potential benefit of improved accuracy through adding additional phenotypic data on other traits.

**Show Judge Selection Process:** The Activities committee selected judges for several upcoming shows and continued discussion on potential improvements to the judge selection process, with an emphasis on gathering more exhibitor feedback.

**AngusLink<sup>SM</sup>:** We got an update on the collaboration with IMI Global. We are excited about the potential growth for both AngusVerified<sup>SM</sup> and the Genetic Merit Scorecard<sup>SM</sup> that this partnership will enable.

**AHIR Recognition Program:** The board discussed ways to recognize breeders committed to data collection and submission. Staff presented several ideas and will continue to explore options.

**Breeder Submitted Topics:** We talked about several topics submitted by members including policies and procedures involving parentage, storage integrity of different DNA sample types, offering an electronic option for Pathfinder certificates, and potential research around Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV). We will consider ideas for improvement on several of these topics, including establishing some best practices around parentage.

**Ultrasound Guidelines Council:** Patrick Wall, Executive Director of the Ultrasound Guidelines Council gave an update on their efforts and answered questions about differences between ultrasound equipment and labs.

**Member Outreach and Education:** Knowing the importance of understanding EPD Accuracy, the board heard about efforts to elevate awareness. Additionally, staff gave updates on the significant improvements being made to Angus.org as well as the progress of the new online youth learning platform, BEEF Academy. We are excited about the upcoming webinar on Tuesday, Feb. 28 and hope breeders wanting to learn more about \$Indexes will tune in.

**Angus Media President:** The search committee is continuing to review applications to find the ideal candidate for Angus Media president.

**Angus Convention and Annual Meeting:** The board discussed future locations and priorities for the convention. Plans are in place for Orlando in 2023, Fort Worth in 2024 and Kansas City in 2025. Costs continue to increase for facilities, food and all expenses related to hosting a meeting. The board discussed options for future conventions, ways to control expenses and improved interaction with board candidates.

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

Respectfully,



Chuck Grove  
2022-23 President  
American Angus Association