

Great Meetings, Great Interaction, Ending with a Toast to ASA's New Headquarters!

April's Board meeting began with youth development strategic planning and ended with a toast to the completion of ASA's new headquarters!

Committee meeting agendas not only had items which needed to be addressed but include great brainstorming sessions about the future development and growth of ASA. It was evident that ASA's mission statement, which is a guide ASA Trustees and Staff use reviewing existing programs or developing new ideas for continued stability and future growth, was in the minds of all during the meetings.

Mission Statement: The American Simmental Association believes the best way to serve its members, its members' customers and the beef industry is through continual improvement and use of genetic and associated technologies. As such, the Association will continue to be a worldwide leader in the development and integration of these technologies for the beef industry. The Association will initiate and foster relationships with like-minded entities to enhance our ability to achieve this objective.

The Association will be widely recognized as having an unyielding commitment to scientific principles and as a hub for the industry's most progressive seed stock producers — an organization that is extremely cooperative with all facets of the industry and tirelessly devoted to the success of its members and its members' customers

Staff, Activities & Events Committee members and AJSA Trustees reviewing the existing youth programs and developing a strategic plan for future youth development. This not only started more communication between the Senior and Junior Trustees; it brought greater understanding to an approach of youth development expanding outside of the Regional and National Classic events. You'll hear more details as programs develop; two examples are: youth commercial steer program and the expansion of number of animals to exhibit at the National Classic.

ASA is in the best financial position in history! An intense financial review and budgeting are always on the schedule during April's meeting; here's a quick recap:

1. Simmental has never been in better financial condition.
2. Maintained or increased every one of our services and programs.
3. Covered extra "unbudgeted" expenses without tapping into investments – *new ASA headquarters (and property it sits on—One Genetics Way), legal, BOLT/ASA's advanced genetic evaluation.* This was done with savings not using ASA's Vanguard investments.
4. ASA has assets of 9.4 million with ASA's Simmental Way's property and building on the books for \$109,839.
5. ASA's property at 1 Simmental Way is currently under contract; however, we do not need to sell this property to maintain member services and programs.

FY2017 budget was approved and has allowed for expansion and growth of services and programs.

Here is a recap of the committees' work:

Activities & Events. Continued focus from the previous day's youth development strategic planning session. Discussions led into the upcoming **Regional and National Classic events** and to revisit past group/state contests which helped create more unity among states. The **AJSA President** is invited to join the A&E Committee meetings to encourage more interaction between the A&E Committee and the AJSA Board. Starting in 2017, if possible, the number of head you will be able to register for the National Classic has **increased to 9 with the ability to exhibit 6.**

The **AJSA Board has fundraising events** throughout the year to support projects they are interested in. It is the commitment to provide programs and leadership which develop life-skills for all who participate in ASA's youth programs. Fundraising develops good business practices in managing money. The ASA Board committed up to \$5,000 (to be paid back) which allows the AJSA Board to expand their fundraising campaigns for FY2017.

The A&E committee is working on updating and expanding the **PTP Judges list**. Please encourage anyone who would like to participate as a judge at ASA's events to complete an application (available on the website) and return the application to: ejackson@simmgene.com. The application must include two letters of recommendation.

Make plans to attend the **2016 Fall Focus in Bozeman**. More information is in your May/June Register. August 19 is the open house to tour ASA's new headquarters with a barbecue on the grounds that evening. If you stay at the Holiday Inn (Baxter Lane); a shuttle will be available to take you from the hotel to the headquarters. The educational symposium is on the 20th and we hope you stay for the committee meetings on the 21st. You will be able to experience first-hand the hard work of the Board as well as participate in the subjects the committees are addressing. Registration is free – we just need a head count for meals. Go to **fallfocus.org to register**.

Breed Improvement. This committee works on programs and projects which would have a bearing on the improvement of the breed. Much time has been dedicated to the new “**quantum leap**” in genetic evaluation using the BOLT technology along with DNA enhanced EPDs, genetic defect research and analysis, stayability, and heifer pregnancy.

Projects currently underway are: MU—Fertility project; MU—Hair Shedding/Environmental Stresses; KSU—Lameness; USDA MARC—breed estimates and differences; UNL—Weight Trait Project; MSU—Carcass QTL and Maternal/Terminal Trait.

This committee considered the possibility of recognizing **two labs for SNP DNA assays** (low and high density). At this time, no action was taken and it will remain under review.

The Board has approved a **50% price discount on LD testing** for receiving carcass and feed intake data which qualifies: ASA will provide a 50% price discount on an LD genomic test per each animal a member provides feed intake and/or carcass data on. To qualify, an animal's record must be viable for use in genetic evaluation (e.g., come from a valid contemporary group) and have been born later than August 31, 2015. Data produced through the Carcass Merit Program is not eligible for this discount

Growth & Development. This committee works on the promotion of the breed. Advertising and Promotion for the current year as well as preparing for the next fiscal year was the main topic discussed.

It was a consensus among the Board the importance of communication with the state associations and to support their advertising needs; for regional advertising, it is the best way to advertise, matching the right message with each region. For state associations who use the maximum of **cost share dollars** in FY2016 (\$4,000 from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) an **additional \$1,000 cost share dollars** will be available for those state associations in FY2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017).

In addition to increase in cost share dollars; another option which went into effect earlier this year under the cost share umbrella: **ASA Representation at a state association sponsored event**. State Associations are able to request ASA representation at one state association sponsored event a year without using their cost-share dollars, but now able to request ASA Representation at more events during the year under the cost-share program, sharing the cost.

This committee also supports the need for more **carcass and feed intake data** and has allocated funds for FY2017 to support the Carcass Merit Feed Intake Project started last year. The first animals are now at Chappell Feedlot, watch for more information on this project as it develops.

First-time nonmembers will receive a welcome informational packet from ASA. If a transfer is received and a new record is created to complete the transfer, we will send a packet encouraging them to join ASA, promotion about programs and services ASA provides, the *Breeders' Directory*, and the *Sire Source*. We encourage you to advertise in the *Breeders' Directory* and *Sire Source* – contact Nancy at 406.587.2778 (nchesterfield@simmgene.com)! If you would to make sure your customers receive *SimTalk* – go to the home page (simmental.org), find the register for *SimTalk* box and enter their names and addresses.

Policy & Procedures. This committee reviews the rules, bylaws, policies and procedures. There is a change in policy regarding the **Fullblood designation from Canadian registered animals** and clarification for authorized representatives and qualifying votes for rule and bylaw changes.

Fullblood Designation: When Canadian cattle are imported to the U.S., if the animal qualifies as a Fullblood in Canada, then it qualifies for the Fullblood designation with ASA without the affidavit.

Points of Clarification:

1. ASA Rules require in order for animals from a qualified foreign registry to receive the designation of Fullblood, satisfactory evidence that the animal has no known ancestry of another breed must be provided to the ASA prior to the registration.
2. The submission of a registration certificate from the Canadian Simmental Association which designates an animal as a Fullblood shall constitute satisfactory evidence that the animal has no known ancestry of another breed. The Canadian certificate must show 5 generations and state 32/32 Simmental.
3. All other countries still need an affidavit from recognized breed associations.

Authorized Representatives. Explanation/Classification of the responsibilities of an authorized representative.

Bylaw section 2-Rules Governing Membership: N. Authorization: Legal partnerships, corporations and individual memberships shall specify the primary membership representative and any additional membership representative(s) who shall be authorized to vote or act in the membership's behalf at any meeting of the Association or to sign registration and transfer applications.

The primary membership representative shall be recognized as the authoritative person in all actions taken by that membership. Each membership will be assigned a user name and password to allow the membership to transact business with the Association electronically. The membership's username, password and primary email address will also serve as the authenticated electronic identification of the membership for the purposes of electronic voting.

In the event a membership wishes to terminate or change the primary or additional membership representative(s), the primary membership representative must notify the Association of the termination or change.

Any signature required by the Rules or the Bylaws of the Association may be satisfied by either a signature in writing or an electronic signature as provided in the Montana Uniform Electronic Transactions Act or the Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act.

Things to know:

1. The same privileges and responsibilities are exists for all individuals listed as representatives for a membership. ASA makes no distinction between authorized representatives.
2. The one exception to item 1: the primary representative has final authorization if a question or conflict arise between representatives. Every membership has a primary representative, either listed as primary or if no primary representative listed (as on older membership) it is the first person listed for the membership. The primary representative must request/sign off on changes to authorized representatives and changes to the membership name.
3. Any representative on behalf of the membership can:
 - a) Submit data and registration requests
 - b) Submit transfer request
 - c) Request other Association services
 - d) Requests reports and data extracts
 - e) Make corrections to existing data
 - f) Incur fees and charges to the membership
 - g) Change address, telephone numbers, email, ASA logon password

4. All authorized representatives are responsible for the accuracy of information supplied by that membership and for the conduct of actions taken on behalf of that membership. All authorized representatives can be individually and/or collectively disciplined as a result of disciplinary action against the membership.

Voting on Bylaw Changes Clarification: By an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the Active Members voting at the Annual Membership Meeting by means of *mail-in ballot, electronic ballot, proxy, or in person at the Annual Meeting*; however, only those Bylaw changes printed in the Official Call to the Meeting may be acted upon.

An invitation! Come to Bozeman for the August 19 – 22 events. Tour ASA's new headquarters, mix with members at the barbecue, attend the education symposium, and participate during the committee meetings! We are waiting to hear from you!