

The ASA Board of Trustees met for their April Board Meeting on April 20 – 21.

During the opening of the board meeting several standard items are reviewed and kept in mind as the board and committee meetings progress:

1. Mission Statement and Vision Statements (posted on ASA's website, <http://simmental.org/site/index.php/asa-trustees>).
2. Core Policies and Main Strategic Plan items (also posted).
3. Stats and Measurements – information we review each meeting to see how we are doing in the industry and within the SimGenetics community.

Here are some of the facts reviewed:

- Percent Simmental Registrations – 2014 showed a 5.6% increase, 2015 showed a 15.0% increase, and 2016 showed a 4.5% increase.
- Animal records with phenotypes is up by 7,960 records looking at the same time period the last two years.
- Bull Transfers (reported to ASA) going to non-members: 81.6% (2016); 81.3% (2015) and 78.6% (2014).
- Domestic semen sales: ASA listed as #2 in 2016 showing sales in 2016 as 271,610 and 261,300 in 2015.
- Total Herd Enrollment program remains strong; 2016 enrollment has 1,332 different members with 104,089 females enrolled. 80% of the animal data comes from THE herds with 98.9% of the data submitted by members electronically using Herdbook Services.
- There were 17,434,906 records included in the Spring 2017 genetic evaluation database with 5,309,328 SimGenetic records.

The next fiscal year's budget is a big part of the April board meeting along with working plans coming from each committee. ASA is in good, solid financial shape (you'll find the end of year financial reports posted on ASA's website) and able to move forward on programs and research to support members and their customers.

Here are items committees are moving forward with:

1. AJSA National Classic 2018 – will add an additional contest relating to the genetic evaluation component of the industry.
2. The Denver "Meet and Greet on the Grounds" will return to a chili feed, make sure to attend. Other "Meet and Greets" are being considered as well.
3. PTP Program has been under review for several months to ensure that we are up-to-date with the program. Possible Points Program with the four major PTP shows to be developed.

Using this link will take you to the PTP section on ASA's website:

<http://simmental.org/site/index.php/progress-through-performance> .

Changes to the PTP Show program:

- Stayability will be added.
- Judge's program will show percentile rank and color coded quartiles.
- Audience program will use actual numbers and percentile rankings.

4. ASA will be one of the foundational stakeholders supporting the establishment of the Beef Improvement Federation's Beef Cattle Research Fund.
5. Genotyping all carcass merit calves with DNA currently on file and continue this program for the next three years. We collect DNA and phenotypes on these calves (including feed intake and carcass data) and have the staff to analyze the data. This will improve the evaluation for the carcass merit bulls, but also provide DNA markers for economically relevant traits, and improve genomic predications for intake and carcass traits on the Simmental population.
6. Increase the advertising and promotion this next year.
7. Investigate and promote electronic voting. The process will be moved under Herdbook services to allow for easier access to vote electronically (instead of paper ballots). A third-party will still review and tabulate the results for any voting.
8. Annual Service Fee (ASF) – a \$50 reinstatement fee will go into effect this year. On July 1, if you paid your annual service fee in 2016 you will automatically be billed for this year's ASF. You have until October 23, 2017 to pay your ASF. If no payment is received, the ASF charge is reversed. If a member would like to be reinstated at a later time, a \$50 reinstatement fee in addition to the annual service fee will be invoiced. This is to encourage members to pay their ASF when invoiced.
9. Procedure for misconduct complaints will be documented and posted on ASA's website for member's access.
10. Update the Rules and Bylaws to reflect that reporting color and horned/polled status are required. This will require a membership vote in January.
11. Clarification to assist in members' understanding the Simbrah breed qualifications: The registration of cattle resulting from Simmental-Simmental cross and Brahman-Brahman cross parents shall extend to and be available to male and female cattle having not less than one-eighth (1/8) Simmental blood and one-eighth (1/8) Brahman (or equivalent) blood, with a combination of Simmental and Brahman not less than five-eighths (5/8), and not over three-eighths (3/8) maximum of other breeds.

The ASA Board of Trustee and committee meetings are open to the membership and encourage you to listen in as they work. eNews will provide you with the committee meetings dates and agendas in the future – just let us know you would like to attend and we will get additional information sent to you to join.

Watch for more information regarding Fall Focus 2017 hosted by the North Dakota Simmental Association and ASA in Bismarck, North Dakota on September 17 – 20. Complete details will be in the July/August Register and posted: www.fallfocus.org. There is no registration fee; however, pre-registration is required to plan for meals and refreshments.