

The Fall 2016 ASA Board of Trustees' Committee and Board Meetings followed a successful and well-attended open house and educational symposium last week. While the board meetings are always open to the public, the fall meetings focus not only on the business at hand, but reaching out to members and encouraging member interaction during the committee meetings.

During the committee meetings it is often opened to the floor to include members in the committee discussions. This year, there were many good discussions. Below is a quick listing of the major topics; continued discussion with the Trustees is encouraged, just give them a call.

Topics Discussed during the Interactive Committee Meetings last Sunday (August 21):

- Increasing SimGenetics Semen Sales.
- Total Herd Enrollment options available to seedstock and the commercial industry.
- Feeder Profit Calculator.
- DNA Services / Genetic Testing Resources.
- BOLT / Advancing ASA's Genetic Evaluation/ Education for all to understand the upcoming transition.
- EPDs and Indexes / Detailed discussion regarding API and TI.
- State Associations.
- Youth Steer Profitability Competition. Watch for more details on this exciting program for AJSA members!
- National Classics / Corporate Sponsorships.
- PTP Shows / Trustee "Meet and Greet" events
- Foundation Auction.
- World Simmental Federation. Just announced last Friday, ASA Trustee Fred Schuetze elected as the president of WSFF and the 2018 WSFF Congress will be held in the U.S.
- Breeder Outreach.

The committees then reviewed their past work and set the following policies and/or directives.

Activities & Events.

- AJSA - modifications for an AJSA Bylaw change for electing AJSA Trustees. Electing AJSA Trustees will have a two-step process to include write-in nominations. At the National Classic all candidates will go through an interview process. Membership quorum at the annual AJSA membership meeting will complete the voting process. Watch for more details from the AJSA Board.
- AJSA – Bred and Owned Shows at the Regional Classics. The regional classic events will have separate bred and owned shows. There is a difference with the regional classic bred and owned shows from the national classic: exhibitors will not be allowed to double enter their cattle. Watch for more details from the AJSA Board.
- AJSA – Members are now able to sign up nine head and bring six to the Regional Classic events starting in 2017 if the host states agree. This will coincide with the National Classic rule change currently in effect.
- AJSA – 2017 Regional Classics will be held in: Western, Klamath Falls, Oregon; Eastern, London, Ohio, and South Central, Springfield, Missouri.
- AJSA – National Classic. Corporate Sponsorship to help alleviate the financial impact for host state associations will be sought. Discussion of venues for the National Classics and responsibilities of ASA and the host state is ongoing.

- PTP Shows – Discussion and corporate sponsorships for Trustee “Meet and Greet” events for Denver (continuing), NAILE, Kansas City and Fort Worth is ongoing. Emphasis is to target conversations with the SimGenetics community – Trustees, Staff and Members.

Breed Improvement.

- BOLT / Genetic Evaluation. Subscription/working agreement completed to continue working with Theta Solutions for ASA’s genetic evaluation.
- Collection of feed intake and/or carcass data. 50% priced discount on LD genomic test per each animal which an ASA member provides feed intake and/or carcass data. This is available for animals who have been born later than August 31, 2015 and come from a valid contemporary group. The 50% price discount will be available for any GGPLD testing under the member’s account (membership).
- DNA Services. Staff to do further review and cost analysis regarding the potential use of two labs.
- Index. An adhoc committee has been created to explore the possibility/need for a new index.
- Feeder Calf Profit Calculator. ASA has begun to move forward on this program now that the patent challenge has come to fruition and the patent board ruled in ASA’s favor. All IGS entities will be invited to be involved with the final development and launch of this program.

Growth & Development.

- Pilot Project. ASA will pursue a pilot project, in conjunction with the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association, to incentivize progressive commercial producers within Missouri to enroll in THE – Commercial Option. If successful, this will allow for development of a format which could easily be packaged and adjusted for additional states.
- NCBA Tradeshow. ASA will expand its promotion of services and include Simbrah booth.

Policy & Procedures.

- Bylaw Change: Bylaw: Section 4: Subsection B: Part 4. Currently, in the case a board member can’t fulfill his/her position, the Board may appoint a successor to complete the term. There is greater interest in board seats at each election. It is felt that the members should have a voice in the board replacement earlier. This bylaw change would have the successor on the board only until the next election cycle. At which point a special election would be held to fulfill the remainder of the term. The special election would not count as the consecutive regular term. This bylaw change must be passed by the membership. More information will be sent to each active member with the Call to the Meeting.

September, 2017 Fall Focus, Interactive Committee and Board Meetings will be held in North Dakota! Representatives from North Dakota will be at the Chairman’s Reception in Denver, January 15, to extend their invitation and give you more details. Make plans to join us in Denver and North Dakota!

