

Minutes

Canadian Brown Swiss & Braunvieh Association
Annual General Meeting
Hotel Quality Inn, Lévis, Quebec
Thursday, March 16, 2017

1.0 Call to Order

Ken Drummond called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

2.0 Identification of Members

Each individual present introduced themselves and gave details of their operation.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

- Ken Drummond reviewed the agenda. The BH1 and BH2 projected was added to Other Business and Other Business was left open. The meeting will be paused at 3:00 p.m. for our guest speaker Vincent Landry to give his presentation on genomics. There was a request to add page numbers to the annual report for ease of locating reports.

Renald Dumas motioned and Serge Bilodeau seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

4.0 Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were summarized in French by Chantal Leclerc as the majority present were French speaking.

- Amendment #3 from last year's minutes was submitted as an amendment however should not have been an amendment and did not receive ministerial approval. Follow up is necessary to ensure the Registrar is processing registrations properly.
- For the Amendment #5 from last year the line "Breeder point according to ownership and not by prefix" should not be listed in the minutes.
- The point scores now available for excellent cows will help with making an accurate bull proof should be removed from the minutes as the proofs are only for first lactation animals.

Serge Bilodeau motioned and Renald Dumas seconded to accept the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at Holiday Inn & Conference Centre, Guelph, ON with the above changes. Motion carried.

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

- Off Coloured Spots are now being recorded at the Registrar. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure the off coloured spots information is forwarded to Registrar.
- The concern regarding the scoring on the rump will be dealt with at the upcoming classification workshop in Quebec. It is important Brown Swiss are being classified according to the breed measurements and linears. There has not been any changes to the score card at this point.
- Ken Drummond gave an update on the Breed Goals. Even though we haven't had a full year of data, the average age of first calving has lowered slightly from 26.7 to 26.0. The production goal levels have increased nicely as well. For 2015: 305 Fat and 257 for Protein, to 2016: 327 Fat and 273 Protein with an increase of 22 kg Fat and 16 kg Protein. The breed goal highlights will be mentioned where possible.
- CDN will not change the age from 42 months for the list of top cows that are genotyped as this standard is used for all breeds.
- There was a question asking how many animals are required for the Pro\$ index. Pro\$ is only available for Holstein and Jersey as the research showed there wasn't enough of a difference to offer for the smaller breeds.

6.0 Secretary Manager Presentation of Financial Statement

Jessie Weir presented the financial report for 2016.

There were a number of questions regarding the financial statements. There was a question regarding the member balances at CLRC. The money was forward to our new Registrar and added to the individual member accounts. The cost of translation was a concern. The translation expense is directly related to the documents needing to be translated. Any other options for translation should be forwarded to the office for review. The auditor fee is a concern with such a small budget. There was discussion on the various options for review of the financial statements. A comment was given the administration fee is higher than compared to the Quebec association. EastGen could be contacted to reduce the amount of money however the amount of time would need to

be reduced. Markus Mueller indicated when the agreement with EastGen was made 17 years ago, the administrative amount was higher at that time than it is now. At this point Holstein Canada has simply replaced CLRC and other than the addition of the DNA the other duties still remain as part of the administration responsibility. If the work level reduces then there would be the opportunity to lower the percentage of time charged. We are currently still on Holstein Canada's old system and there will still need to be time spent to switch to the new system. If there are concerns with the administration of the office they should be forwarded to the Board for further review. The contract is with EastGen not with Jessie Weir and includes other professional staff and resources. We may need to look at increasing revenue and not always cutting expenses. The cost of rent is very low compared to other locations. There may need to be more detail on the financial statements.

Roger Vannod motioned and Jean Yves Goulet seconded to accept the financial statements and the review report with further details listed next year. Motion carried. 19 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstained

7.0 **Appointment of Auditors**

There was discussion indicating the fee for reviewing the financial statements was much too high. It was felt necessary to have the review of the statements sent for tender and to also look for other options. The suggestions should be forwarded to the Board for their decision.

Emanuel Vincent motioned and Sylvain Boulanger seconded to set a date for suggestions from the membership for individuals to review the financial statements. The Board has the power to select the company/individuals reviewing the statements. Motion carried.

8.0 **Committee Reports** – As printed in the Annual Report **President's Report** – as printed in the Annual Report

Show Reports

Quebec – Chantal Leclerc presented as printed in the Annual Report.

- There was only 2 shows and the club worked very hard to encourage participation and were disappointed with the participation. Brown Heaven was commended for their marketing of the breed at World Dairy Expo and congratulated for their success with Brown Heaven Glenn Fantasy.
- If the number of animals exhibited is available it should be printed in the annual report.

Ontario – Harold Jelinski presented as printed in the Annual Report.

- Harold also indicated there were 51 animals at Hanover and 17 at Kincardine.

National Show – as printed in the Annual Report

World Dairy Expo

- Dave Rousseau presented as listed in the Annual Report.
- There were 3 exhibitors from Canada, a very small representation but really good quality animals. Dave encouraged members to participate at World Dairy Expo.
- World Conference will be in 2020 in Madison. It would be nice to have a group from Canada as well as a group of cattle. It is a great opportunity to promote the breed.

Breed Improvement Committee Report

- Ken Drummond reported on behalf of the Breed Improvement Committee. The report listed in the Annual Report was the same as last year. The superior production awards have been for 1 year now. There will be Breed Improvement Committee conference calls if necessary however not just for the sake of having a meeting.

Patrice Fortier from Valacta spoke regarding a project with Quebec Brown Swiss to compare the different production levels between the herds. There will be 15 herds representing the top, middle and bottom levels comparing various items such as production, comfort, management and feeding program. The project will also compare the quality of Fat and Protein between the different breeds. The project will help give suggestions for the Brown Swiss breed. There needs to be a minimum of 5 animals of a breed within a herd to make the comparison for the breed otherwise the animals are merged with the remainder of the herd. Congratulations to Ferme Pauferlou Inc., Louis Rousseau, Pohenegamook, QC for having the 2nd herd in the country for achieving superior performance across all aspects of herd management and the top tie stall herd across all breeds in Canada.

Amendments to the Constitution**Amendment #1: Amendment to By-Laws 19 3.a.iv and 20 4.a.iv**

- Whereas the animals over 12 months old at the time the registration application is submitted will be subject to a parentage test at random (at least one animal for every ten registration applications submitted);
- Whereas Holstein Canada applies essentially the same ratio for the animals aged 24 months and over.

It is proposed that Brown Swiss and Braunvieh Canada abolish the By-Laws 19 3.a.iv and 20 4.a.iv. Animals over 24 months of age at time of application for registration shall be subject to a parentage test.

Proposed by Chantal Leclerc, Seconded by Serge Bilodeau

The Board discussed earlier and were not in favour of Amendment #1. The Board felt for the integrity of the by-laws it was important to continue with testing the over 24 months of age animals.

There was discussion regarding why it was felt to be necessary to have the change made. Holstein only has 1-10 tests for over 12 months of age. There was a wish to move to the same regulations as Holstein Canada. Implementation of DNA for parentage on the Braunvieh side is important as breeders are not separating their herds for breeding and using multiple bulls. For Braunvieh, all animals are DNA tested at either 6 months to a year of age. In the dairy industry it is not usual to have more than 1 bull and if it does happen a parentage test is completed. Braunvieh does not want the change to the constitution. For the animals over 24 months it gives a red flag for the Board when they are not registered and having a parentage test provides further clarification and confirmation. This is a question over integrity not over finances. Integrity is important and especially with bulls. This causes a concern with the members who do not keep accurate herd records. There is more of a concern with the animals who come in at a lot older age than 24 months. There is a larger chance of error in parentage with the older animals and they would not be caught with only a 1-10 random testing. On average, there are only up to 5 animals over 24 months brought to the board for testing and approval within a year. In a Holstein herd on a catchup program, the animal must test to both parents. If the animal's parentage did not qualify, the animal would be registered at 50%.

It was mentioned, animals will now be tested according to 19 3.a.iii - The animals over 12 months at the time the registration application is submitted will be subject to a parentage test at random (at least one animal for every ten registration applications submitted). A more frequent verification can be requested at the discretion of the registrar.

Renald Dumas motioned and Jean-Yves Goulet seconded to accept the amendment to the constitution. Motion carried. 12 in favour, 6 opposed, 3 abstained.

Amendment #2: Amendment to By-Laws 19 3.a.iii and 20 4.a.iii

- Whereas to be eligible to production certificates, an animal must have a purity level of 75% or more;
- Whereas to be eligible to shows, an animal must have purity level of 75% or more.

It is proposed that Brown Swiss and Braunvieh Canada modify the By-Laws 19 3.a.iii and 20 4.a.iii as follows:

Animals over 12 months of age at time of application for registration shall be subject to a random parentage test of a minimum of one in every ten animals. More frequent testing may be requested at the discretion of the Registrar.

Change to:

Animals with a purity level of 75% and more, over 12 months of age at time of application for registration shall be subject to a random parentage test of a minimum of one in every ten animals. More frequent testing may be requested at the discretion of the Registrar.

Proposed by Chantal Leclerc, Seconded by Serge Bilodeau

The Board felt more clarification was required for this amendment. The wishes for this change is to include 75% and higher animals not just all purity animals. There is a feeling that it isn't necessary to test the 50% or lower animals. It seems unfair to penalize members who have an unknown dam and unknown sire. Possibly wait to register the calf from the 0% animal instead of doing the testing of the 0% animal. It is also testing the integrity of the farms as there isn't a field person to police the Brown Swiss herds. This allows the Board to have faith in the system and the integrity of the herd book.

Serge Bilodeau motioned and Chantal Leclerc seconded to accept the amendment to the constitution. Motion defeated. 5 in favour, 7 opposed, 7 abstained

10.0 **Fee Schedule**

- The Board did not recommend fee changes as a number of changes were made last year.
- The Star Brood cow is listed on the fee schedule as we are planning to implement shortly. The cost for the program may change with the new system with Holstein Canada.
- There was a comment to have a \$250 fee for whole herd transfer outside of family. The owners of Ferme Zimo who purchased the Bertnor herd mentioned his interest to transfer the herd to their ownership. In other breeds you have lower price options, especially for young breeders who are trying to get their start in farming.
- The lower fee for a family transfer is due to no certificates reprinted which makes it cheaper to transfer. When it is outside of the family, all papers are returned to the registrar, each paper updated and breeding information included if necessary, reprinted and sent back to new owner.
- According to the constitution the seller must pay for the transfer of the animals. The constitution was read in both English and French for clarification. It would be a help to new members to allow for the reduction in fees for transfer. There are cases where herds are sold and the transfers are being paid in full.

Serge Bilodeau motioned and Dave Rousseau seconded to change the whole herd transfer within family to whole herd transfer at \$250 as long as no registration papers are reprinted retroactive to January 1, 2017. Motion carried. 18 in favour, 4 against, 0 abstained.

Serge Bilodeau motioned and Renald Dumas seconded with the whole herd transfer if the herd wishes to have the papers printed the amount is \$500. 14 in favour, 2 against, 0 abstained.

Chantal Leclerc gave a review of the details for the banquet and for tomorrow. Cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m. and Ferme Lehmann is providing Brown Swiss cheese for sampling. There will be a special quiz organized by Markus Mueller, the banquet, awards and silent auction. Barn tours begin on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. to Ferme Goulaise, lunch and then Ferme Rencie. The lunch is \$20 per person.

Vincent Landry from CIAQ gave a presentation on genomics. Viewing a tremendous animal makes it easy to believe she is an amazing animal. It is harder to accept the thought of an animal being great by looking at the inside as we are unable to view. Genomics makes it easier to understand the ability of an animal by looking at the various genes. Genetics continue to evolve. Over the last 100 years there has been a huge change in the appearance of the dairy cow. Ideal type will continue to change over time. The consumer also will dictate the kind of milk they drink and the environment the cows are housed. The performance of an animal is 25% genetic and 75% is tied to the management of the herd. Reliability of proven bulls increases 10% and young sires by 21% with genomics. The Brown Swiss breed is lucky to have a large amount of genomic information outside of Canada which is combined with the Canadian information. There are higher prices for genomic young bulls as there is less semen produced from the young bulls so less available for sale making the price listed according to demand. It is a challenge to locate young genomic bulls in the Brown Swiss breed. The genomic young bulls were compared to the mature proven bulls. There was discussion on whether the risk was worthwhile to use young genomic bulls. Reliability increases from 1 bull at 51% to 94% if you use 5 bulls or 97% for 10 bulls. Select a bull which fits your program. There are 4 questions to ask before deciding to use genomic young bulls - Is the bull the best for the criteria you are looking for, do you want to progress faster, do you want the next generation to be more profitable, and are you willing to take risks. Otherwise it would be best to use a proven bull. Vincent Landry was thanked for his presentation and the discussion continued regarding the fee schedule.

There was discussion on changing the number of levels of registration to be similar to Holstein Canada. This has been discussed a number of times and Board wishes to leave as is at this point. As the association makes very little money on the young animals so we have the higher dollar amount on the older animals. We have a number of herds who have left the industry as they don't wish to pay the large amount for registration. We can't compare ourselves to Holstein Canada and we need to continue to be financially stable. The fixed cost for a smaller breed are higher than for a larger breed. There will no longer be a breed association if the bills cannot be paid. Having a listing of the number of animals registered at the different age levels would be helpful.

Renald Dumas motioned and Serge Bilodeau seconded to accept the fee schedule. Motion carried. 20 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstained

11.0 **Location of Annual General Meeting**

- Last year at the AGM, Pat Donaldson offered to host the next AGM in British Columbia. If BC is not a possibility, Ontario will host. There was a concern to have quorum in BC. Last time when the meeting was in BC there was a large attendance. *Ernst Gubelmann motioned and Harold Jelinski seconded to accept the above suggestion for the location of the AGM. Motioned carried.*

12.0 **Other Business**

BH1 and BH2 Project

The BH1 and BH2 project, is a program put forth to MAPAQ which has been accepted. There are 1000 animals which will be genomic tested. The program is a \$99,000 project. The Quebec club is asking for the \$5 levy from the genomic testing of the 1000 animals to return to the Quebec club. The project will research the BH1 and BH2 haplotypes in the Brown Swiss breed. The program starts and finishes in 2017. Serge Bilodeau will be collecting and submitting all the samples from breeding age to 2 years of age.

Serge Bilodeau motioned and Antonin Marcoux seconded to have the Board consider having the national office refund the \$5 levy from the genomic testing of these 1000 animals as part of the project. Motioned carried. 16 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstained.

Catch Up Program – was reviewed by the Board. The program submitted was felt to be complicated and needed to be simplified. A program was formulated by the Board however changes will be required according to changes made here today at the AGM. The Board will review the Catch-Up Program once again taking into account the changes made today.

Process Between USA and Canada Regarding Transfer of Registration

The process of transferring a USA animal and having a Canadian paper is too long of a process. The Board wishes to have the registration paper sent directly from Holstein USA to Holstein Canada and have Holstein Canada send to the new owner. The Board would like to have this vice versa for Canadian animals sold to the USA as well. The Registrar will be contacted to ensure this is being done.

Ken Drummond reviewed the Resolutions submitted by the Quebec Club.

Resolution #4 – Name of the Owner of the Animals at CDN

- Whereas there is no consistency in the publication of the owner's name:
 - 1) Former member, no longer member since 2014 : published
 - 2) New owner of Brown Swiss, but non-member : not published
 - 3) Non-member grouping (co-ownership), but the co-owners are members individually: not published;
- Whereas if we want to make a follow up and/or a solicitation to non-member owners;
- Whereas the non-member can get the same services, but at a higher fee (\$25 and over).

It is proposed to ask CDN that all the names of the animal owners registered with the Canadian Brown Swiss and Braunvieh Association be available at CDN, regardless of their status with the Association.

There was discussion on having CDN put all the ownership information on their website. This would not cost the association and provides extra information on these animals. The Board felt this would be in the best interest of the breed and will proceed to having this done.

Resolution #5 – Financial Participation in the Genetic Improvement of Dairy Cattle

- Whereas the government through its MAPAQ program is withdrawing and making more complex the access to financial support for the dairy breed associations;
- Whereas the breed associations have the legal responsibility of the integrity of the herd books, and this integrity is the basis of the genetic evaluations;
- Whereas the dairy breed associations create activities, generate dynamism and develop tools, and the participating breeders contribute by their efforts to maintaining the leadership and promoting our dairy genetics throughout the world;
- Whereas the activities coordinated by the breed associations and the shows are also meeting opportunities and popularization showcases for the consumers of our products, providing a better knowledge of our good practices in animal care;
- Whereas the tools such as registration, classification and data collection are the indispensable basis for the selection of the best sires, allowing for dairy producers to work with more profitable cows;
- Whereas genetic improvement contributes greatly to the improvement of production costs;
- Whereas more than 20 % of dairy producers do not contribute financially, and only those who participate in the genetic evaluations pay for the genetic improvement that benefits all dairy producers;

The General Meeting of the Québec Brown Swiss Club asks:

That Holstein Québec, the Québec Ayrshire Society, the Québec Brown Swiss Club, Jersey Québec, the Canadian Cattle Breeders Society and the Association des Expositions Agricoles du Québec (Québec Agricultural Exhibition Association) discuss with the Québec Dairy Producers to find solutions as soon as possible for the contribution to genetic improvement that will prove to be lasting and fair for all dairy producers.

The resolution was discussed. They are asking for support from members who aren't registering, classify or milk recording to provide funding even though they are not participating. For CanWest DHI there is an amount charged to their members to pay for a portion of this service (6 cents per 100 litres). The Board feels it is the provincial milk board level responsibility to deal with this situation. The Board supports the Quebec club in this matter.

Resolution #6 – Senior 1 Year Old Class at the Fall Judging (Supreme & National)

- In order to improve age at 1st calving since an animal born in September would be aged more than 26 months at the national show in the month of November.
It is proposed to remove the senior 1-year-old (Senior Yearling) class and to keep only the senior 1-year-old in milk (Milking Yearling) class at the fall judging.
Amendment: It is asked to put only “1 year in milk” (Milking Yearling) class.

The Board agreed with the above and it would at the discretion of the club hosting the national show to implement.

Resolution #7 – Deadline to Order SwissGenetics Doses

- Considering the time delay between the proof publication and the receipt of Swissgenetics doses.
It is proposed to ask Semex to reduce by 2 or 3 weeks the time delay between the semen order and the proof publication.

The Board felt we could ask to have the order time shortened however it would be at the discretion of the Semex Partners.

Resolution #8 – Schmallerberg Virus

- Considering that most Swissgenetics sires show positive results to Schmallerberg and the low impact of such a virus on dairy cattle.
It is proposed to ask the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to reconsider its position concerning the Schmallerberg virus.

The Board will contact CFIA to obtain further information on their position on Schmallerberg.

Resolution #9 – Production Class at the Fall Shows

- In order for the cows having strong productions and the ability to be shown and follow the classes of the All-Canadian and All-American contest to be recognized.
It is proposed to add the production class (3860 kg of fat/protein) at the fall shows.

The Board agreed a production class would be of benefit and agreed with this resolution.

Resolution #10 - Return to Provinces on Transfers

- Whereas we want to make sure that the majority of Brown Swiss animals are registered
- Whereas we want to make sure that the majority of animals are transferred
- Whereas we want to make sure that the majority of animals imported from the United States are registered in the Canadian system
- Whereas we must invest more for a base service (be present in the field) and less on the administrative level
- Whereas the future new members can be traced easily through a follow-up on transfers
- Whereas in the past the Québec Brown Swiss Club has provided out of its own funds this support to members without obtaining a financial return

We ask that Brown Swiss and Braunvieh Canada return to the provincial clubs the money from all the transfers made during the year in each of the provinces (less the fees charged by the registrar).

The Board felt there was not a budget at the national office to allow for this payment to the provinces.

Ontario Club Concern Regarding Classification

The Board reviewed the concern from the Ontario club. The Breed Improvement Committee will research further following the classification workshop in Quebec if necessary. The Ontario Club as well as the Board feels the biggest concern is the consistency between the classifiers. The Board felt it was necessary to give Holstein Canada the window of opportunity to ensure their classifiers are showing consistency in classifying. At the Holstein Canada classification workshop in Quebec, a Brown Swiss herd will be selected for all classifiers to review how to classify the Brown Swiss breed.

There was a comment the breed goal to lower the age at first calving could cause an issue at the time of classification. The Breed Improvement Committee may need to discuss this further.

Dave Rousseau wondered if the Board was interested in new ideas for raising money. He had mentioned Progressive Sires a few years ago however nothing further was brought forth to the Board for further discussion as there was a feeling the Board wasn't interested. Dave Rousseau will bring further information to the Board for their review.

Ernst Gubelmann thanked Ken Drummond for his work today and for the work he does for the breed.

13.0 Adjournment

Ernst Gubelmann motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m.