

Minutes

Canadian Brown Swiss & Braunvieh Association
Annual General Meeting
Days Inn & Suites, Lindsay, ON
Friday, March 16, 2018

1.0 **Call to Order**

Ken Drummond called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. Ken Drummond welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated he was looking forward to a great day of making decisions to move the breed forward.

Ken Drummond called on the Ontario Club President, Dale Phillips for his comments. Dale welcomed everyone to Lindsay and to the Brown Swiss Annual General Meeting. He indicated he was looking forward to a couple of great days. Dale gave the details of the day and the tours the next day. Dale recognized the sponsors of the meeting – Platinum: Semex, EastGen, Gold – Conestogo Agri Systems, New Holland, Nieuwland Feed & Supply, Silver – Maitland Mobile Vet Clinic, Dauphin Feed & Supply, ABS Global, Grand Valley Fortifiers, Farm Credit Corp, Dupont Pioneer, TD Canada Trust, Royal Bank of Canada, Bronze – McGavin Farm Equipment, Select Sires Canada, Masterfeeds, Sunderland Feed Supply, Maisex Seeds, Pride Seeds, Brown and Bethour Insurance, Green Tractors, Alliance Agri Turf, Kawartha Dairy. Dale thanked the sponsors for their generous support.

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 registration form and classification meeting were added to the agenda.
Renald Dumas motioned and Serge Bilodeau seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried with all in favour.

4.0 **Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were summarized in English by Ken Drummond as the majority present were English speaking.

Serge Bilodeau motioned and Ernst Gubelmann seconded to accept the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at Hotel Quality Inn, Levis, QC. Motion carried with all in favour.

5.0 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- None

6.0 **Secretary Manager Presentation of Financial Statement**

Jessie Weir presented the financial report for 2017. RLB provided a notice to reader for the financial statements which gave a significant cost savings for the association.

There was discussion on whether the Quebec club received all the payment for the BH project. Serge Bilodeau will work with Holstein Canada and send a list to the office. Translation fees were down as less translation was required. The new idea for translation did not work out and we have been using the translator who provided the translation over the last number of years.

Renald Dumas motioned and Dave Rousseau seconded to accept the financial statements and the notice to reader report. Motion carried. All in favour.

7.0 **Appointment of Auditors**

Ken Drummond indicated RLB would be a good suggestion to have some continuation moving forward.

Ernst Gubelmann motioned and Dave Bates seconded to appoint RLB to provide a notice to reader report of the financial statements. Motion carried. All in favour.

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

Show Reports

Quebec – Dave Rousseau presented as printed in the Annual Report.

- 2 shows in the summer for Quebec. Open show in Victoriaville with 21 head. Supreme show with 45 head from Quebec.

Ontario – Shirley Dortmans presented as printed in the Annual Report.

- 2 shows in Ontario with 39 in Hanover and 22 Kincardine. Hoping to increase the numbers to keep these shows running.

National Show – as printed in the Annual Report

World Dairy Expo – Ken Drummond reported.

- There was a small number of Canadian animals however fantastic results for the animals exhibited. There were a lot of fans for Fantasy. Ken thanked the breeders for taking their time and animals to the WDE and for all their efforts. The exhibitors this year were Brown Heaven, Lookout & Gerald Halbach, Alana McKinven & Matthew Pacheco, Bradner Farms and Golden Gate Farms.

Breed Improvement Committee Report

- Ken Drummond reported on behalf of the Breed Improvement Committee.
- Master Breeder – recommendations from the Breed Improvement Committee were forwarded to the board for final approval. Adjustments to the program may be required. There was a time limit on having the award calculated. Ken did not vote and stood back on any decision as he felt there was a conflict. The program will be reviewed for another year. The program should be split by the number of registrations instead of the number of publishable records. The group was happy to have a Master Breeder Award and wish to have the Star Brood Cow award automated. There was a comment to review the program, make the necessary changes and then stick with the program for a number of years.
- It was great to have a classification workshop however there was feedback there was not much time spent on Brown Swiss. There were comments from the classifiers stating there needs to be a Brown Swiss true type to help the classifier evaluate the Brown Swiss animals. It was felt to be important to have a classification workshop every year either at the AGM or with one of the summer shows. May need to consider having judges for the breed.
- Ken Drummond mentioned the breed objective production goals are different from the breed improvement statistics reported in the annual report. Brian Van Doormaal has been contacted for his comments on the difference.

9.0 **Amendments to the Constitution**

None

Quebec Resolution #1: Return to the Branches the \$2 Holdback on Classification

- Whereas the \$2 holdback on classification was initially for the promotion of the breed on the provincial level;
- Whereas the club is proactive in the field and promotes classification to its members, and the only potential economic benefits are the \$2 per classification:

It is proposed that Brown Swiss and Braunvieh Canada return the \$2 on animal classification to each provincial club.

Proposed by the Quebec Brown Swiss Club

There was discussion on the above resolution. It was mentioned the levy was put in place to generate revenue for the association not for promotion for the breed. Giving the levy money to the provinces would put the national association in a negative financial position. On the invoice it indicates it is for promotion of classification and the wording should be changed if it is not for promotion of breed. There were 1264 classification at an amount of \$2 per classification.

The Board's position is to not accept the resolution. As the association is not in a positive financial position it will not be paying the classification levy or the provincial levy amount for this year.

10.0 **Fee Schedule**

- The group reviewed the fee schedule. Last year the whole herd transfer (no reprinting of registration papers) for \$250 was added to the fee schedule. The star on the fee schedule will be changed to 1 in 10 animals over 24 months require DNA or genotype for parentage verification.
- The Board recommended one fee change to the fee schedule. Holstein Canada negotiated a reduction in the fee for LD genomic test to \$33 from \$45. The board motioned to increase the LD genomic test levy from \$5 to \$7 bringing the fee to \$40.
- There was discussion on the fees charged for imported animals. Annie Cote indicated the process of transferring imported animals. There is still a transfer charged as the original owner is input into the herd book and then the transfer to the new owner. There would be a small percentage of owners to which this would apply. Currently there is a new member free transfer option or a bulk transfer option in place.
- In the constitution it is the breeder/seller responsibility to transfer the animal. There was a comment it is not the national office's responsibility to pay for the transfer of the imported animals.

- With an association in a breakeven situation, it is very hard to be giving funds away without putting money back in the association. The association appreciates the animal buyers who are bringing the animals into Canada and wish the association was in a position to be able to help them financially. There is a desire to have the imported animals in the herd book.

Ernst Gubelmann motioned and Renald Dumas seconded to accept the fee schedule with the increase to a \$7 levy for LD genomic testing going to the association and to update to 1 in 10 animals over 24 months require DNA or genotype for parentage verification. Motion carried. 1 abstained.

11.0 **Location of Annual General Meeting**

- Pat Donaldson was contacted and they wish to host the AGM in B.C. in the spring of 2019. The Quebec Club would host if BC is not able.

Mark McConnell motioned and Dave Rousseau seconded to accept the above suggestion for the location of the AGM. Motioned carried with all in favour.

12.0 **Other Business**

Registration Form

Holstein Canada will be contacted to eliminate one of the two locations on the registration form where they ask for the sire information. It was also discussed to add a request for genotype on the electronic form. Holstein Canada will also be asked to add the DNA number to the registration paper.

Renald Dumas motioned and Serge Bilodeau seconded to only have one location for the sire name on the registration form, to add the request for a genotype to the electronic form and to add the DNA number to the registration paper. Motion carried with all in favour.

Classification Workshop

There was a feeling the classification workshop did not facilitate everything the membership had hoped. There is a desire to have a classification workshop at the AGM or at one of the summer shows. There was a comment, the scale was too hard on the cow and the spread needs to be wide enough to recognize the really good cows. The classifiers will be contacted to determine which parts of the animal need to be worked on. It is a concern when the classifiers are changing scores to get the final score they are looking for. The classifier should be doing the measurements and give proper scores. They need to be better at having the classifier train their staff. The manager Brad Eggink had been contacted in the past. The classifiers need to be trained differently and to measure & classify the Brown Swiss consistently. Each individual trait needs to be evaluated. Consistency is necessary. Some classifiers may only see one herd of Brown Swiss a year however still need to follow the Brown Swiss measurements and linears. The association will work toward having a classification workshop in the summer.

Master Breeder Award

The Master Breeder and Star Brood Cow rules and regulations were distributed for the members to review. The board is open to changes however once the changes are made the board wishes to keep in stone for a few years to have it as a prestigious award for members each year. Having 2 groups is great but should be based on registrations instead of publishable records. Herds that sell a number of animals into herds that do not register, classify or milk record causes a problem. On the other hand, if the herd sells a lot and only keeps the good ones would increase their points as well. Holstein Canada has a number of groups however maybe the association is not large enough to have 2 groups and should just have one group. The points table follows the rules for the Star Brood Cow award. There was a desire to move the points down in order to be closer to the Holstein Canada scale. There was discussion on possible changes. Serge Bilodeau will provide a listing of the changes he wishes to see for the board to review at the Incoming Board meeting.

Classification Scorecard Changes

The old Breed Improvement Committee was emailed and will be the group to provide their comments as the new committee is not in place in time for the Holstein Canada April 7th deadline. Ken Drummond reviewed the below changes.

- 1) Ideal code for Bone Quality to be changed to include both linear code 8 & 9
 - a. Note: Holstein Canada will also be decreasing the discrimination on codes 5-7
- 2) Weighting for Height at Front End (FE)
 - a. Severe discriminations for codes 8 & 9
 - b. Decrease discrimination for code 4
- 3) Ideal code for Stature to be changed from 6, 7, 8 to now be 5, 6, 7
 - a. Change discriminations for code 8 & 9 - severe discrimination for code 9, moderate to severe discrimination for code 8
 - b. Same discriminations for all lactations

4) Ideal code for Chest Width to be changed to include both linear code 6 & 7 for 1st lactation

a. Change discrimination for codes 1, 2, 3 – severe discriminations for all

5) Trait Name Change

a. Change trait name ‘Angularity’ to ‘Dairy Capacity’

i. Common misconception that Angularity means ‘frail’, as a result and in an effort to better explain the trait, the trait previously known as ‘Angularity’ will now be called ‘Dairy Capacity’ and will be represented on all scorecards

b. Definition of the trait remains the same

i. Openness of rib, spring of rib and angle of rib

6) Add Research Trait – Foot Composite (FC)

a. Linear score from 1-9 and will evaluate the whole foot

b. 75% weighting within trait for heel depth, 25% weighting within trait for foot angle

c. Research trait will be in all scored cards

In an effort to better capture the needs of today’s producers and in reflection of past research done by Dr. Gord Atkins, we will follow this trait for an undetermined time to evaluate if it more correctly assesses the foot of the cow

7) Add Research Trait – Front Leg View (FLV)

a. Linear score from 1-9 and will evaluate the proper formation of the front legs of our cows

b. Research trait will be in all score cards.

i. Classifiers have noticed an increase in front leg deformities. We will follow this trait for an undetermined time to evaluate if the issue is significant.

It was felt to be important to have the production information from the robot herds included in our system. Often time the robot herds quit milk recording. The board should contact CDN/DHI/Valacta to ensure the robot herd information is included and research what is being done. The breed is losing registrations and the board wishes to ensure this project is being worked on. It is necessary the information is accurate from these robot herds.

Registration Catch-Up Program

The Registration Catch-Up Program was reviewed. The program was implemented on June 1, 2017 for one year. Ken Drummond gave a review of the program. The program has had 1 herd take advantage of the program and registered 12 animals. Annie Cote indicated there are two new herds filling out the paperwork with one herd having 50 animals. There was discussion on whether to continue with the program. There is a need to have the provincial clubs encourage this program and help the herds to complete the paperwork. The idea of the program is good but it needs to be supported. There was a comment to work with the other breed associations to see if there are herds where Brown Swiss registrations could benefit from the Registration Catch-Up Program. Linda Markle indicated the herd support is provided through the provincial clubs with a levy charged for the service. *Serge Bilodeau motioned and Dave Rousseau seconded to continue with the Registration Catch-Up Program for another year with support offered. Motion carried with 1 abstained.*

World Brown Swiss Conference 2020

The World Brown Swiss Conference in 2020 will be at the same time as World Dairy Expo. The association was approached by the American Brown Swiss association to co-host the conference however the board declined the opportunity. The group discussed if a booth was a possibility, a larger string of animals and to encourage more members to attend. There was discussion on how to encourage more animals. Dave & Josee offered to host some animals and possibly have a group of Canadian animals. Members need to push ahead to encourage more animals to attend. An idea was to have a display promoting the Canadian Brown Swiss. Members need to plan now for the cost involved to participate. Information will be provided in the newsletter to promote the World Conference. World Dairy Expo is important to attend, separate from the conference. If anyone is interested in participating Dave Rousseau and Josee Charon would be a good contact for information on showing at Madison. Even sending one good animal is better than none. Annie Cote indicated a letter could be put in the registration envelopes as well. It was thought to be a good idea to have a booth with pictures of the high production cows beside the quality Brown Swiss on the show string. Participation at the World Conference is important to realize Brown Swiss are the majority in other countries, to meet and talk with breeders from other countries.

National Show Location

Two years ago, the Board voted to have the national show for 2 years at the Supreme Show in Quebec. It is now time once again to select the location of the national show. The Supreme Show changed to August 23 to 24 in St. Hyacinthe. The show had the national name however it was not a national show. The national show is required to have the All Canadian contest. There was a comment the All Canadian is now just a picture contest. The Hanover show is August 11 and Kincardine the long weekend in September. Putting the national show in between these two Ontario shows makes it difficult for members to participate. There was discussion on the advantage of calling it a national show or is there a need for a national show? If there is a national show

there is a financial commitment from the board to support the show. The Ontario club considered Hanover, Kincardine, Lindsay and Ancaster for hosting the national show however to start up a new show there isn't a large enough base. The board will take the above comments and make a decision at the Incoming Board of Directors meeting.

Association Office Location and Administration

Ken Drummond mentioned with an upcoming retirement at EastGen, Jessie Weir will be taking on new responsibilities in the EastGen marketing department. EastGen has served notice that it will be terminating the Administrative Services Agreement with the Canadian Brown Swiss and Braunvieh Association on May 31, 2018. Ken Drummond thanked Jessie for her 18 years of support for the breed with a round of applause for her help. The board discussed at the board meeting yesterday and is looking for ideas from the members. Ernst Gubelmann thanked Jessie for her work. The EastGen agreement was an opportunity for the breed which worked well for the last 18 years. The constitution indicates the board will have the final decision. In the past a private individual did the work however it bounced around a lot. CIAQ is beginning to offer breed association support with Ayrshire Canada considering this option. Holstein Canada was the board's first thought to take on some or all of the responsibilities. It was felt to be a good idea to contact Holstein Canada for support but important to still promote our own breed. Holstein Canada has proven they are not working against us as a breed. Holstein Canada would provide industry knowledge and there is a question on whether they can provide our promotion. Holstein Quebec does the administration for the Quebec club. Holstein Quebec will be added to the list. Brown Swiss USA might be a consideration however as our Canadian system is very different this might not work. The integrity of our herd book is very important and must be held in high regard. The position needs to be bilingual. The board brainstormed yesterday on ideas. From the ideas brought forward Holstein Canada was contacted and the list of responsibilities were reviewed. Holstein Canada is interested in considering the possibilities. Some of the items may be able to happen sooner than later as they are natural fits. Both Jessie Weir and Linda Markle offered to leave the room for further discussion. The group wished for them to remain. There was a comment that moving toward Holstein Canada is a natural direction and should be researched. The heart and face of the breed may be hard for Holstein Canada to do for the breed however all the other duties could be performed by Holstein Canada. Maybe having another individual to perform the other duties. It was also mentioned it isn't just the promotion of the breed it is also the administration of the office and the work for the board which requires high consideration.

Website

There was a question, wondering when pedigrees and awards would be available through the website. Ken Drummond indicated when we originally moved to Holstein Canada we thought we would be on the new system. Linda Markle indicated with a number of new items that needed to be prioritized Holstein Canada is now moving the smaller breeds to the ABRI system. There is a chance the breed may be on the new system in the future. Once the breed records are moved to the ABRI system, all the promised items will become available. Improvements are well underway with the ABRI system. The data exchange links are already included and will be able to access pedigrees, awards and all promised items. Currently testing and looking to extra requirements with a hope of the switch in the summer with further upgrades in the fall. There will also be the ability to send back items electronically to the members.

Provincial Levies

Last year there was a motion at a board meeting to pay the provincial levies for 2016 as well as inform the members going forward the provincial levies will only be paid if the association is in a positive financial position. The members were notified in a Member Update following the AGM. Each province with 10 regular full paid members or more would receive \$12 for each regular member. There was discussion on the motion made by the board last year regarding the provincial levies. As the association is not in the black, the provincial levies will not be paid this year. The provincial levies were paid in 2016 as the membership had not be notified of the change.

Turn Around Time on Registration Papers

The normal turn-around time on registration was discussed. Annie Cote indicated there was a slight backlog due to membership renewals however normally within a week of receiving the papers the registration is completed.

Swiss Genetics Semen

Ordering semen from Swiss Genetics is still not arriving in a timely manner. The deadline is the same for all A.I. units at 2 weeks following proofs. The AI units receive the semen and forward to the members who have ordered. The Swiss Genetic listing should only show the bulls that could be purchased by members. Serge Bilodeau will send a list to Stefan Gubelmann and provide on Facebook or email to interested members. It was mentioned to be important to receive the bull genetics in a timely manner as it is the future of the breed. Serge Bilodeau will do an article on the BH project to submit to the newsletter

Ken Drummond thanked everyone for a great meeting and for all the input provided. Ken thanked Jessie Weir for her support of the breed and looked forward to seeing everyone at the banquet.

13.0 Adjournment

Ernst Gubelmann motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:52 p.m.