



136th Annual General Meeting of Members

Holstein Canada Minutes

Location: Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Date: April 27, 2019

1. Welcome and National Anthem

President Harry Van der Linden welcomed everyone to the 2019 Annual Meeting of members. Holstein Canada's past National Director of Atlantic Canada, Alan McIsaac introduced as the day's parliamentarian. Mr. Van der Linden stated there would be extensive Social Media throughout the day. Young Leader Emily den Haan led us in the singing of our National Anthem.

2. Call to Order

President Van der Linden called the 136th Annual General Meeting of Members to order at 9:15 a.m. with a quorum of voting members registered.

3. Approval of Agenda

On a motion from the floor: the membership accepted the agenda as presented. Moved by Germain Lehoux, LEHOUX; Seconded by Jean Bissonnette, VAL-BISSON – Carried.

4. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was held in memory of Holstein Canada members, family and friends, departed over the past year.

5. Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting of Members

Ann Louise Carson, Chief Executive Officer, provided a synopsis of minutes from the previous AGM held on April 14, 2018 in Québec City, Québec.

On a motion from the floor: the membership accepted the minutes of the 135th Annual General Meeting of Members. Moved by Glen McNeil, HEATHERHOLME; seconded by Eric Iversen, INNISLAKE – Carried

6. Address of the President

President Harry Van der Linden began his address by stating it was an honour to host this AGM in his region of Atlantic Canada. President Harry summed up the year with the following highlights.

Our Changing Industry

- Producers are called to change and adapt to new realities quicker than ever
- The best way for Holstein Canada to adapt to a changing world is to ask members what they want
- Holstein Canada planned for the future, listened to members across Canada, and evaluated core services and programs that contribute to the profitability of members' herds
- The result is a new Strategic Plan – with a new emphasis on service, being more inclusive
- President Harry assured the members we are not giving up our role as a Breed Association – we are simply modernizing it, adjusting to today's reality

President Van der Linden gave a brief synopsis of the new Strategic Plan:

Vision: A healthy Canadian dairy industry for all

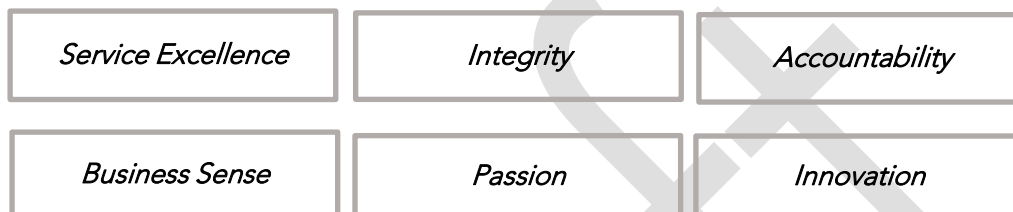
Holstein Canada wants healthy/successful/financially sound environment for farmers, cows, farm businesses and the industry for all dairy producers. Our services are for everyone.

Mission: Delivering progressive services and programs for dairy herd management

Holstein Canada's role is to provide state-of-the-art services and customer service to allow dairy producers to be successful in whatever style of herd management works for them.

Values:

President Van der Linden noted the values, which represent who we are. Holstein Canada represents the members and hold ourselves to the same values our members do:



6 Main Areas of Focus:

- *Producer Engagement* – cultivate two-way business relationships with producers
- *Youth Engagement* – engage with the next generation of producers
- *Growth & Value* – evolve Holstein Canada services in a changing dairy industry
- *On-Farm Service Excellence* – consistently deliver efficient & effective on-farm services
- *Value Added Technology* – deliver timely, strategic & data-driven solutions
- *Business Connections* – build & maintain strategic business connections

People remain the basis of the Strategic Plan and our business. Grassroots input from Clubs, Branches and Committees shape Board decisions. The industry is all about the people. As an example, President Harry stated including youth members on Board committees will be a focus.

Partnerships

President Van der Linden indicated that partnerships with fellow industry stakeholders continue to grow and evolve. Holstein Canada wished all the best to the new industry partnership of Lactanet (CDN/CanWest/Valacta) and assured them of our full support.

He thanked all industry partners for their presence at our AGM, specifically DFC National President Pierre Lampron and CEO Jacques Lefebvre. President Van der Linden emphasized the importance of supporting the DFC Blue Cow campaign in promoting Canadian quality dairy to consumers.

Challenges Remain

President Harry outlined some of the remaining challenges – such as facilitating data exchange. In this era of technology, of data being king, we as an industry need to be quicker to react to accessing and using that data from on-farm systems. There is progress, but the pace of that progress needs to quicken.

More producers are discovering the incredible value of genotesting, but not enough especially when compared to US. President Harry noted we need to assist producers in realizing full potential of genomic results. Ensuring Holstein Canada services are seen as important management tools, by all producers, continues to be a challenge. HC services are management tools - they can be marketing tools but are first and foremost to assist producers in herd management.

In concluding his remarks on remaining challenges, President Van der Linden pointed out there exists a financial inequity regarding genetic services. 100% of Canadian producers are benefitting from the fact that 80% are using them and contributing to genetic evaluations and the progress of the breed. Every producer who buys a dose of semen benefits – but not all contribute. This has been the source of irritation and of great discussion among Branches. President Harry added the industry would need to be strategic to demonstrate the shared responsibility.

Mr. Van der Linden introduced members of the Board of Directors acknowledging they met 6 times in 4 different provinces, Québec, Ontario, B.C. and P.E.I. He was grateful for their dedication and time spent on the road, on the phone, in meetings, and with members. He thanked executive members Vice-President Gerald Schipper and 2nd Vice-President Elyse Gendron for working closely at his side.

A special thank you went to outgoing Alberta Board member Mr. Orville Schmidt. President Harry extended a warm welcome to new Board members Willem Vanderlinde (Alberta) and Benoît Turmel (Québec). He thanked Branches, members and producers for sharing information during the cross-Canada tours at Branch meetings, barn meetings, events and shows. Mr. Van der Linden thanked his family, who made it possible for him to serve in this capacity and express his great passion for the Holstein cow.

President Van der Linden concluded his report with the following parting thoughts: We all strive to breed the true-type Canadian Holstein cow who will give lots of milk, with great components and strong health traits to make positive contributions to our bottom line. Holstein Canada is proud to be your partner in achieving that dream.

7. Chief Executive Officer Report

In her report, Ms. Carson expressed Holstein Canada is a direct reflection of the Canadian dairy industry. As our industry constantly changes, as dairy producers do, HC frequently ask the question “How we can do better, do more, be more efficient, and be of greater service to clients?”

2018: A Year of Success & Growth

Thanks to producers seeing the value of Registration and Classification, Holstein Canada established two significant new records in core services. Ms. Carson shared 2018 was a record year of growth:

- 305,143 Registration (+4%)
- 271,272 Classifications (+3%)

CEO Carson clearly stated focus is not on breaking records but on delivering services to producers as efficiently as possible as HC continues to grow. Helping producers manage their data in the most efficient manner is a top priority. From new features on web accounts, the upcoming launch of *Compass*, a web-based tool designed to manage herd genetics (in collaboration with CDN) and launching a new software integrating field service, cattle assessments and classification, are prime examples of how HC is keeping on top of industry needs to provide producers with the tools to succeed.

Ms. Carson advised on an international level, HC supports Canadian exporters and international work via the *Canadian Livestock Genetics Association* (CLGA) and offers training sessions on classification in Australia and Mexico. HC leadership also plays an important role in various parts of the World Holstein Friesian Federation (WHFF) structure.

Working Together

CEO Carson stated working in close collaboration with Industry Partners, such as DFC, continued to be of great importance. She thanked DFC and its provincial members for their support in entrusting our team to be sole provider of animal assessments in their Animal Care module proAction®. Ann Louise

showed her appreciation for colleagues from sister breeds and Industry Partners, stating 'we are stronger together'.

Ms. Carson invited the membership to participate in an interactive electronic questionnaire to give their input on the Strategic Plan, introduced earlier by President Harry. Members were asked to select their favourite of the 8 Core Values and Key Responsibility Areas (KRAs).

Education Award Winners

With Youth engagement as a KRA of the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan, Ms. Carson emphasized the importance of investing in the Young Leaders (YL) program. She congratulated the six Education Award winners. President Harry and YL Committee Board Chair Angus MacKinnon presented a scholarship to Ryan Porter, from Atlantic Canada.

Dedicated Leaders

Ann Louise thanked the Board of Directors for their ongoing support, in particular President Harry for the depth of his support. In conclusion, Ms. Carson took a moment to thank the Holstein Canada team, those in attendance and those who remained at the office and in the field during the Convention week.

On a motion from the floor: the membership accepted CEO Ann Louise Carson's report as presented. Moved by Mariette Gagnon, BOULET; Seconded by Daniel Mackinnon, SANDYRAE – Carried

8. 2018 Financial Report

Chair of the Audit, Risk Management & Finance Committee, Elyse Gendron presented the Financial Report. Ms. Gendron introduced the Audit, Risk Management and Finance Committee members. Chairperson Gendron noted the Association remained strong and outlined the following:

2018 General Highlights

- Income from Operations – \$12.7M
- Total Expenses - \$13.5M
- Deficit - \$783K
- Revenues 2% higher than previous year
- Expenses higher than 2017, 6% below budget
- Association planned for a deficit in 2018
- Deficit was significantly better than budget

5-Year Activity Summary

- Memberships were down (-8%)
- Registrations were up +11%
- Classifications were up +4%
- Genomic testings were down (-17%)
- Animal Assessments were up +100%

2018 Top Five Expenses

- People Costs – 50%
- NLID Costs – 10%
- Other Costs of Sales – 10%
- Travel – Classifiers & Assessors – 8%
- Travel – Other – 6%

Ms. Gendron added HC used the Reserved Fund to invest in technology projects that increased our efficiency, enabling to increase work output with staff reduced by 6 people in the Herdbook

Department. Elyse indicated that using these funds allowed HC to not raise registration fees since 2010 and classification fees since 2006.

Reserve Fund Investments

Elyse shared the Reserve Fund investments were secure and low risk financial instruments that conform to established guidelines outlined in the Association's financial policies. The categories of investments:

- Guaranteed Investment Certificates – 19%
- Bonds & Debentures – 44%
- Preferred Shares – 4%
- Cash & Equivalents – 9%
- Common Shares – 24%

The Reserve Fund totalled just over \$4.3M. Ms. Gendron shared that our Auditors were more comfortable with this total as they felt it had been too high in the past.

On a motion from the floor, the membership accepted the 2018 financial report, as presented. Moved by Angus MacKinnon; Seconded by Wayne Dickieson BIRKENTREE - Carried

9. Presentation of the 2019 Budget

In the spirit of transparency with members, Chair Gendron gave a brief overview of Holstein Canada's 2019 Budget.

- Revenue of \$13.6M predicted, representing a 6% increase over 2018
- Expenses also projected to be 3% higher at \$14.1M due to significant investment in IT projects such as classification software in 2018
- Deficit is predicted at (-\$481K)

10. Audit Firm Appointment

Ms. Gendron stated the Board of Directors felt it was time to go to market for an auditor, inviting three CPA firms to submit proposals for the December 2019 audit engagement. She added there was no issue with current auditor (BDO) and this is simply a good business practice. The Board requested Membership to "exceptionally" delegate responsibility of appointing audit firm to them. A recommendation from the Audit, Risk Management & Finance Committee would be presented to the Board of Directors in July 2019.

On a motion from the floor, the membership voted to delegate responsibility of appointing and audit firm to the Board of Directors for the year 2019. Moved by Ron Sleeth, EILEVALE; Seconded by Brian Slaughter, WILLOWLANE.

11. Introduction of Industry Partners

National Director Ron Boerchers gave a special welcome to our many guests, beginning with Holstein Canada Past Presidents:

- Richard Bosma from British Columbia;
- Orville Schmidt from Alberta, also a current Board member;
- Keith Flaman from Saskatchewan;
- Glen McNeil from Ontario;
- Pascal Lemire and Germain Lehoux from Québec.

Branch Representatives were also recognized along with fellow Breed Associations, Industry Partners, Media Representatives and Young Leaders.

12. Remarks from International Guests and Dairy Farmers of Canada

President Harry Van der Linden welcomed our International guests:

- From Holstein Mexico: President Esteban Posada and CEO Dr. Felipe Ruiz López
- From Holstein USA: President Boyd Schaufelberger, Vice-President Corey Geiger, CEO John Meyer and their spouses

Holstein Mexico President Esteban Posada greeted the membership on behalf of Holstein Mexico, thanking Holstein Canada for its hospitality and expressing Holstein Canada is welcome to Holstein Mexico's 60th anniversary. President Posada showed his personal gratitude for having the honour of judging the Convention Show.

Holstein USA President Boyd Schaufelberger thanked Holstein Canada for its hospitality and congratulated Holstein Canada for a great Convention stating he enjoyed the farm tours, sale and show. He mentioned both the US and Canada can celebrate the success of the Holstein cow. He extended an invitation to the 2019 Holstein USA Convention.

Pierre Lampron, President of Dairy Farmers of Canada was invited by President Harry in a previous section of the AGM to share a few words with the members. Mr. Lampron spoke about the proAction® link with Holstein Canada as well as having the same members. Holstein Canada remained an important partner sharing the same vision for our industry. Mr. Lampron thanked HC for supporting the Blue Cow campaign. Mr. Lampron concluded with the announcement of the new Blue Cow Award that is in its final stages of planning and will be awarded in 2020. This new award will recognize the exceptional contribution of an industry ambassador among the Holstein Canada membership.

13. Presentations of Century of Holsteins Award

National Director Doug Peart introduced the Century of Holsteins Award. The Century of Holsteins award recognizes Holstein breeders whose family has maintained a Holstein Canada membership for 100 consecutive years. Recipients of the Century of Holstein award will have their family's name engraved on a plaque that is located at head office in Brantford, Ontario.

Mr. Peart invited the two recipients of the 2018 Century of Holsteins Award to receive their certificates: the Fawcett family, FAWCETTDALÉ, of Winchester, Ontario; Ms. Karen Velthuis accepted on behalf of the Fawcett family. Patty-Jo, Andrew & Ron Godfrey accepted on behalf of the Godfrey family, LILAC LODGE, North Wiltshire, Prince Edward Island. National Directors Dennis Werry and Harry Van der Linden read biographies of each family.

Holstein Journal

President Van der Linden presented a special recognition to Peter English and Bonnie Cooper of the *Holstein Journal*. The historic Journal, in print for 81 years, saw its last publication in March 2019.

14. 2019 Proposed By-law Amendments

National Director Doug Peart declared Holstein Canada By-laws are rules and regulations established to ensure the Association meets its legal obligations. By-laws provide directives under which the owners determine how the Association operates. Proposed amendments to By-laws can only be approved at

the AGM. A majority is deemed 2/3 of participating voters. To respect its obligation to members, the Association published its intent to change By-laws in the January/February and March/April 2019 *InfoHolstein*.

Proposed Amendment

Section 9.3.3 which reads:

A member who has served as a director for nine (9) years is not eligible for election with the exception that those persons who were directors on April 15, 2013 remain eligible for future election so long as they have not served as a director for more than ten (10) years as of the date for completion of election balloting. Once a person has served as a director for nine (9) years, or ten (10) years in the case of persons who were directors on April 15, 2013, that person is deemed to resign as director.

Be amended to read:

A member who has served as a director for twelve (12) years is not eligible for election

On a motion from the floor, the membership approved the proposed By-law amendment. Moved by Doug Peart, PEARTOME; Seconded by Nancy Beerwort, CHERRYCREST – Carried

15. 2019 Member Resolutions

President Harry Van der Linden introduced National Directors Angus MacKinnon and Dennis Werry to present the 2019 Resolutions.

A. SUBJECT AREA: AWARDS

1. Submitted by Branch: Québec - defeated

- Whereas the Master Breeder Award needs to remain prestigious and recognize elite herds that stand out both in type and production;
- Whereas it is becoming more and more frequent to obtain a GP-83 and GP-84 score at 1st calf, due to the constant improvement of the breed;
- Whereas production criteria have already been adjusted and increased to promote high-producing cows and longevity;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada set higher classification criteria so that only VG-85+ animals contribute points towards the Master Breeder Award.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Mariette Gagnon, BOULET; Seconded by Stéphane Alary, STEPIDO – Defeated

B. SUBJECT AREA: SERVICE FEES

2. Submitted by Branch: Québec

- Whereas Holstein Canada charges the same late fees (\$20) for all animals over 3 months of age;
- Whereas the longer one waits to register their animals, the more errors can occur;
- Whereas breeders who wait until their cows are 24 months of age can do so on purpose to register only their best cows;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada review the late registration fee formula so it is fair to all and awards retain their credibility.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Rolland Dubois, ROLANDALE; Seconded by Louis St-Aubin, FIESTAL – Carried

3. Submitted by Branch: Ontario

- Whereas sales play an important role in our dairy industry;
- Whereas a percentage of Holstein Canada's revenue is made by sales (e.g. transfers);
- Whereas it is beneficial for buyers to see the official extended pedigree;
- Whereas a large percentage of sale managers are Holstein Canada members;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada make the price per extended pedigree discounted for bulk orders for Holstein Canada members, with a bulk order of 30 pedigrees or more reducing the price from \$10 per pedigree to \$5 per pedigree.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Brad Lowry, PENLOW; Seconded by Herb Henderson, HENDERCROFT – Carried

C. SUBJECT AREA: TAGS

4. Submitted by Branch: Ontario

- Whereas there have been numerous issues with ear tags breaking and/or falling out;
- Whereas it is causing a tremendous amount of frustration amongst our breeders;
- Whereas it is detrimental to our identification system, both for Holstein Canada and the CCIA database;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada find an acceptable solution to the problem of ear tags breaking and/or falling out.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Brad Lowry, PENLOW; Seconded by Herb Henderson, HENDERCROFT – Carried

D. SUBJECT AREA: INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS

5. Submitted by Branch: Québec

- Whereas technological advances and many milking systems provide daily data on milk weights, components and somatic cells;
- Whereas the cost of milk recording services is high, in spite of the context of milk production;
- Whereas the concept of BCAs adds no economic value to the profitability of dairy farms;
- Whereas more and more producers are no longer using official and unofficial milk recording systems in order to save money;
- Whereas we lose a lot of data when producers discontinue milk recording, which in turn reduces the reliability of bull proofs;
- Whereas milk recording agencies often offer on-farm registration services;
- Whereas certain clubs already give recognition awards to herds that do not use official milk recording;
- Whereas it is of the utmost urgency for us to act;

a) **Be it resolved that** Holstein Québec and Holstein Canada put pressure on Valacta to reduce their costs related to using milk-recording services over the next year.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Louis St-Aubin, FIESTAL; Seconded by Mariette Gagnon, BOULET - Carried

b) **Be it resolved that** milk recording find quick and achievable solutions to deliver a service adapted to clients using daily data collection systems in order to collectively retain members and to keep the importance of being able to compare themselves to others.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Louis St-Aubin, FIESTAL; Seconded by Mariette Gagnon, BOULET - Carried

6. Submitted by Branch: Québec

- Whereas Holstein Canada's recognition programs are based on production, longevity and classification;
- Whereas the Master Breeder title and the Superior Production Award need to be maintained to encourage breeders to continue improving the breed;
- Whereas the number of herds no longer using milk recording and classification services continues to increase;
- Whereas more than 11% of herds in Canada use robotic milking and that this percentage continues to increase;
- Whereas robotic milking systems gather accurate daily data from 2 to 3 milkings per cow, recording approximately 900 pieces of data per cow per year;
- Whereas the Holstein breed needs to keep breeders who use robotic milking systems as members because they are key to maintaining the vitality of our clubs;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada work with the various relevant organizations to update and modernize data collection from robotic systems with the goal of promptly providing an official milk recording option that is publishable.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Stéphane Alary, STEPIDO; Seconded by Louis St-Aubin, FIESTAL - Carried

7. Submitted by Branch: Québec - defeated

- Whereas Semex and Recombinetics have partnered to develop polled animals;
- Whereas the development of polled genetics requires modifications of the genome of these animals and that, as a result, the milk produced by Canadian dairy producers would come from genetically modified animals (GMOs);
- Whereas consumers have a negative perception associated with having GMOs in their food, as well as the fact that Canadian producers want to offer a quality product of which the consumer is not afraid;
- Whereas this genetic modification would be a first in the Canadian dairy industry and would therefore open the door to further genetic modifications in the future;
- Whereas the polled gene is already present in the Holstein breed and that breeders who are working at developing it would lose marketing opportunities should animals genetically modified for this trait be introduced;

Be it resolved that Holstein Québec and Holstein Canada put pressure on Ciq and Semex Alliance to stop the gene-editing project to create polled animals.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Stéphane Alary STEPIDO; Seconded by Rolland Dubois JOLIBOIS - Defeated

8. Submitted by Branch: Québec

- Whereas the Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) made the decision, without consulting the producers, to stop publishing the Direct Genomic Value (DGV) Index rather than to provide education about its interpretation and its use;
- Whereas dairy producers pay for milk recording, pay for Holstein Canada services, pay AI units and also pay to have genomic tests done, they therefore have a right to be able to use the data and indexes of their choice, especially since most of them help gather this data;
- Whereas the dairy production and high genetic animals (offspring) context is becoming

increasingly difficult, it is therefore not the right time to take work / selection tools away from producers;

Be it resolved that Holstein Québec and Holstein Canada make the necessary recommendations to CDN to keep the DGV Index available, as dairy producers never asked for it to be removed.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Rolland Dubois, JOLIBOIS; Seconded by Mariette Gagnon, BOULET - Carried

E. SUBJECT AREA: SHOWS AND JUDGING

9. Submitted by Branch: Ontario

- Whereas an app for your phone or tablet to register calves would be a one-stop shop and thereby quicker and easier;
- Whereas a member would login into their account via the app, allowing all information to be uploaded immediately and easily, and with the potential to provide the option of scanning ear tag data directly with a cellphone;
- Whereas photos are an important option for ensuring accuracy for both Holstein Canada and CCIA's identification systems, and an app would allow photos to be uploaded more efficiently and effectively to pedigree;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada develop an app to allow easier registration of animals.

On a motion from the floor: Moved by Brad Lowry, PENLOW; Seconded by Herb Henderson HENDERCROFT - Carried

16. Committee Reports

a) Classification Advisory

Chair of the Classification Advisory Committee, Ben Cuthbert presented an overview of the upcoming changes in the Classification Program. He introduced the Classification Advisory Committee members and shared how the Classification Advisory Committee works. The changes:

- Stature Defect
 - 1st Lactation
 - Animals exceeding 62.5 inches auto-defect "Too Tall"
 - Animals exceeding 63.5 inches double auto-defect "Too Tall"
 - 2nd Lactation
 - Animals exceeding 63.5 inches auto-defect "Too Tall"
 - Animals exceeding 64 inches double auto-defect "Too Tall"
 - 3rd Lactation
 - No defect for "Too Tall"
- Mammary System
 - Rear Udder
 - Increase Rear Udder Width weight from 10% to 12% within Mammary system section, taking 2% from Rear Udder Height
 - Teat Length
 - Increase Rear Teat ideal measurement by 0.25 inch

- New ideal teat length 1.75 inches
- Dairy Strength
 - Front End Height
 - All weighting (3%) removed from Front End Height;
 - Still evaluated, just not weighted
 - Body Condition Score
 - Increase BCS from 5% to 8% within Dairy Strength
- Feet & Leg Section
 - Bone Quality
 - Reduce weighting from 10% to 5%
 - Rear Leg Side View
 - Increase weighting from 14% to 19%
- High scoring 1st Lactation Animals
 - New MAX score for 1st classification on 1st lactation is VG-87
 - Requires mandatory revisit by acting Classifier
 - 1st Lactation cows can receive VG-88 on 2nd classification within lactation
 - Mandatory revisit by 2 Classifiers, 1 being a Senior Classifier
 - 1st Lactation animals will no longer be eligible for VG-89

b) Show and Judging

Nancy Beerwort, Chair of the Show & Judging Committee shared it had been another busy, successful year for the Show industry. She stated The National Show and Judging Committee met three times and the Ad Hoc Committee met once. Ms. Beerwort introduced the Committee members and thanked them for their diligence.

Ms. Beerwort shared that as part of the Judging Program, an Ad Hoc committee was formed to discuss the National Judging Program and the opportunities for show class structure changes. She added various approaches are being used to better promote our Canadian judges and communicate topics to Branches for discussion at judging schools. Improvements are already being seen. Nancy added the 2020 National Judge's conference would be held in Ontario.

2018 Royal Updates

- Nancy gave updates on the new **ethics** rules at the Royal:
 - Spot Painting: Performing alterations of any kind to change the visual appearance of an animal, except the painting of spots smaller than six (6) inches in length on either side, is prohibited. In 2019, there will be education on excessive use of black paint.
 - Electro-shock machines permitted until 24 hours before the start of the show (except in Québec where they are prohibited). The complete rules are available on the Holstein Canada website.
 - The research project on over-uddering and body condition was expanded in 2018 to include the Friday heifer classes. In 2019, the Thursday evening classes will also be evaluated.

- Royal Winter Fair National Shows

Ms. Beerwort noted the new schedule went well in November 2018 and there were record numbers of exhibitors. She congratulated the owners of the Grand Champions: R & W: *Anita Absolute Joline* and B & W: *Jacobs Windbrook Aimo*.

Nancy informed the participants on the judges for the 2019 Royal and spoke on the new electronic voting procedure, which worked extremely well. She shared names of the judges for the 2020 R & W and B & W ballots.

In closing, Nancy thanked the Committee members noting their input and contributions had been enormously beneficial.

c) Breed Advisory

Breed Advisory Chair Gilles Côté reported this committee monitors everything from performance, health, impact on the environment to consumer perception. It discovers tools that can better predict the genetic future, all to help evolve our great Holstein Cow. Mr. Côté noted the following main highlights of the Committee's busy year:

- LPI
 - To evolve our national indexes simultaneously with the direction of the industry is vital to success and profitability at the farm level
 - The committee proposed LPI changes in % fat and % protein for early 2019. This change was implemented – and now stands 60% F, 40% P, which is a direct change from previous index
- Other Issues
 - We will remain close to all entities involved in current and future gene editing development due to member concern regarding possible negative consumer reaction
 - Holstein Canada played a role in enhanced communications on ending the publication of DGV due to member concerns requesting further research before the final decision

Gilles concluded his report with a word of thanks and gratitude to the dedicated committee members.

As a follow up to the BAC report, CEO Ann Louise invited the AGM participants to answer the following questions:

- Do we have a stature issue in our breed?
Answer: 86 % said: YES
- What is the greatest concern in our breed, straight legs or rump angle?
- *Answer: 69% said: RUMP ANGLE*

Members' Input Session

President Harry Van der Linden invited the membership to share their ideas, concerns and comments.

Holstein Québec President Mariette Gagnon, BOULET, reiterated President Harry's message of financial inequity of genetic services. She added we must work together to resolve this issue. Ms.

Gagnon addressed the younger generations sharing that we have reached the breed improvement levels we are at today through a lot of work and contributions and it must not be taken for granted.

Manitoba Branch President Chad Andres, TWINAIRVIEW, echoed the words of Mariette Gagnon on financial inequity of genetic services. Emphasizing that those who no longer use the services because they feel their cows are where they need to be, must remember it was the data provided by a large pool that allowed them to be in this successful position.

Ontario Branch President Brad Lowry, PENLOW, supported Ms. Gagnon and Mr. Andres on the issue of financial inequity of services. He added this was a main discussion point at the March 2019 National Joint Branch meeting. There is currently no solution. Mr. Lowry continued with the example of the Ontario milk check off system where all contribute to milk recording service or not. Mr. Lowry concluded by stating a national solution must be found.

Ron Sleeth, EILEVALE thanked the Board of Directors for their emphasis on technology to ensure we move into the future. He thanked the organizers as well as Harry and Joanne Van der Linden for their great year of service.

Barbara Paquet, newly elected Board Chair of Lactanet, addressed the membership to give an overview of the recently created entity by CanWest, CDN and Valacta. Ms. Paquet shared strengths are being combined in the field of dairy herd management and genetic services. Lactanet will officially begin June 3, 2019. She thanked Holstein Canada for their support in the creation of this new organization. The Lactanet Board is comprised of members of the milk-recording sector as well as key organizations such as Semex, DFC and Holstein Canada. The Lactanet vision is a unified Canadian dairy industry where the producer is at the heart of all decisions. A short video on Lactanet was shared with the participants.

Mark Sweetnam, SWEETRIDGE, on behalf of the Young Leaders, thanked Holstein Canada and provincial Branches for organizing the Youth Leader Convention and making youth a priority. He thanked the organizers, and volunteers for putting together an amazing event. He added it was an educational week and the friendships and connections made will last a lifetime.

Dave Jenkins, HALDREY Farms, spoke on adding the DFC logo (Blue Cow) or the "I love Canadian Milk" logo to our Holstein Canada gear and swag. He also thanked Holstein Canada for their support of the movement to fight childhood cancer.

17. Invitation to the 2020 National Convention and AGM in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Convention Committee invited all to attend the 2020 Holstein Convention to be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This was followed by a lively video and skit featuring the theme "Pulse of the Prairies".

18. Thank You to Joanne and Harry Van der Linden

Vice-President Gerald Schipper and his wife Grace presented Harry and Joanne Van der Linden gifts on behalf of Holstein Canada's membership and the Board of Directors, for their hard work and years of dedication.

21. Unveiling of Cow of the Year

National Director Orville Schmidt, Chair of the Cow of the Year Committee, gave a brief overview of the competition and highlights of each of the four finalists.

Boulet Goldwyn Chalou EX-96-3E-CAN 16* (0/80) was named 2018 Cow of the Year. *Chalou* was bred by Ferme Boulet, Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (Que), co-owned by Ferme Boulet and Ferme Vilmer. Mariette Gagnon and Simon Boulet received the framed print and award.

In conclusion, President Harry thanked all the sponsors for their generous support.

On a motion: Rolland Dubois JOLIBOIS moved to adjourn the 2019 Annual General Meeting of Members.

Attest:



Suzanne Jalbert
Bilingual Executive Assistant & Board Secretary