

2019 PROVINCIALY SUBMITTED NON-BINDING RESOLUTIONS



A. SUBJECT AREA: AWARDS

1. Submitted by Branch: Quebec

- 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.

B. SUBJECT AREA: SERVICE FEES

2. Submitted by Branch: Quebec

- 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.

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.

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.

D. SUBJECT AREA: INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS

5. Submitted by Branch: Quebec

- 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.

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.

6. Submitted by Branch: Quebec

- 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.

7. Submitted by Branch: Quebec

- 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 Ciaq and Semex Alliance to stop the gene editing project to create polled animals.

8. Submitted by Branch: Quebec

- 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.

E. SUBJECT AREA: TECHNOLOGY

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.