



HOLSTEIN CANADA

Annual General Meeting

Held virtually on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

With the consent of the owners and no objections noted, Gerald Schipper presided as the Chair of the meeting. All present were welcomed and the head table was introduced as follows:

Present:	Gerald Schipper	-	President, Ontario
	Nancy Beerwort	-	Vice President, Ontario
	Ben Cuthbert	-	Vice President, British Columbia
	Willem Vanderlinde	-	Director, Alberta
	Harold Sweetnam	-	Director, Manitoba
	Karen Versloot	-	Director, New Brunswick
	Doug Peart	-	Director, Ontario
	Dennis Werry	-	Director, Ontario
	Gilles Côté	-	Director, Quebec
	Elyse Gendron	-	Director, Quebec
	Angus MacKinnon	-	Director, Quebec
	Benoît Turmel	-	Director, Quebec
Staff:	Vincent Landry	-	CEO
	Lynne Berwick	-	Manager, Human Resources
	Lorna Fothergill	-	Controller
	Brad Eggink	-	Manager, Classification & Field Services
	Jodi Zettler	-	Executive Assistant to the CEO and Board
	Linda Markle	-	Manager, Herdbook and Genotyping Services
Guest:	Barbara Paquet	-	Board Chair, Lactanet
By Invitation:	Sue Robertson	-	Recording Secretary, MinuteTakers Inc.

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

President Gerald Schipper welcomed everyone to the 2021 Annual Meeting of Members and called the 138th AGM to order at 11:13 a.m., with a quorum of voting Members registered.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Chair acknowledged all of the essential workers during the pandemic and called for a moment of silence in memory of the departed Members of the Holstein Canada (HC) family.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair asked for any additions or amendments to the Agenda.

On Motion by Elyse Gendron and seconded by Benoît Turmel it was:

RESOLVED THAT the Agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

4. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President Gerald Schipper delivered a report on behalf of the Association, noting that the past year has been historical given the pandemic. The President acknowledged and thanked the CEO, Vincent Landry, and all of the HC staff for their continued dedication and support to keep everyone safe during the pandemic. The staff were ready to support virtual meetings and many other changes that were required for business operations. Gerald Schipper thanked everyone as it had been a privilege and an honour to serve as President.

5. INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Gerald Schipper introduced the Board of Directors.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Vincent Landry was introduced to deliver the CEO's report with highlights noted as follows:

- (a) Operations and Services – The first year as HC CEO had both challenges and many accomplishments. HC completed a restructuring after analysing all aspects of operations and it was completed using the objectives that HC has set for the future. The semi-regionalization project is in the early stages with the objective to provide a range of options and adapt its services. It also provides employee work/life balance and will create efficiencies that will be beneficial to Members. The Data and Technology Committee is working to identify possible optimizations when data and data exchanges are essential to business. The ConneXXion tool developed by the Business Technology Team was launched and provides interactive reports and herd trends. The Board believes in the importance of providing options for genotyping and HC will soon be announcing a renewed partnership to become a leader in this

sector. The Member Survey was postponed until the Fall of 2021 and HC looks forward to hearing from Producers to assist and guide the future direction of the Association. HC was pleased to work with all the Dairy Breeds on The Industry Summit on Canadian Genetic Improvement as this is aimed at committing to a common vision for the Industry's future.

- (b) Registrations – Many initiatives are underway to improve the registration process. 2020 was the second highest registration year in history. HC is undertaking a registration strategy with three potential opportunities being recover, catch up and new/growth.
- (c) Acknowledgements – The CEO acknowledged and thanked the HC Staff and the Board for all of their efforts and dedication particularly throughout the challenges of a pandemic. He thanked the Producers for being flexible as things were rescheduled, and for their trust in the health measures deployed when the Classifiers resumed farm visits. The Branches were acknowledged for their support.

7. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chair advised that the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on April 29, 2020 were provided with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting. CEO Vincent Landry provided highlights of the meeting.

On a Motion by Karen Versloot and seconded by Willem Vanderlinde it was:
RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of the Holstein Canada Association held on April 29, 2020 be adopted and verified as presented.
Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Chair of the Audit, Risk Management and Finance Committee, Ben Cuthbert, was welcomed to the meeting to provide a financial update for the 2020 fiscal year. B. Cuthbert introduced the Audit, Risk Management and Finance Committee Members and provided a high-level summary of the 2020 financial results.

- (a) Operating Fund – There was an operating fund balance of \$3,768,207 at year end. There was \$12.7 million in revenue comprised of 9,115 Memberships, 307,869 registrations and 232,724 classifications. Revenue was \$12.7 million and total expenses were \$12.1 million that resulted in an overall surplus of \$1.7 million.
- (b) Reserve Fund – The Reserve Fund balance was \$5,504,008 at year-end, with \$750,000 transferred in during the year.

- (c) 2020 Expenses – The top five expenses make up 83% of the total in 2020, and were as follows:
- People costs – 55% of total expenses
 - Tag costs – 14% of total expenses
 - Travel – 7% of total expenses
 - Other costs of sales – 4% of total expenses
 - Data exchange services and research – 3% of total expenses
- (d) COVID-19 – The Association received \$1.032 million from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program and KPMG audited the claims as part of the year-end audit.

Ben Cuthbert acknowledged the CEO and Finance Team for their support to the Committee. No questions were raised on the financial report.

9. APPROVAL OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

On a Motion by Ben Cuthbert and seconded by Harold Sweetnam, it was:
RESOLVED THAT the Annual Audited Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report for Holstein Canada for the 2020 fiscal year be adopted as presented. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

10. 2021 BUDGET

Ben Cuthbert presented the 2021 budget. A mid-year forecast will be presented to the Audit, Risk Management and Finance Committee and the Board later in July 2021. No questions were raised.

11. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITING FIRM

On a Motion by Angus MacKinnon and seconded by Harold Sweetnam, it was:
RESOLVED THAT the firm of KPMG LLP be re-appointed as Auditor of Holstein Canada for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2021, to hold office until the close of the next Annual General Meeting. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

12. CENTURY OF HOLSTEINS

Doug Peart presented the Century of Holsteins to honour two families that achieved 100 years of Holstein Canada Membership. Doug Peart explained the award selection process and congratulated the Jenkins and Dickout families.

13. 2019 AND 2020 RESOLUTIONS

Gilles Côté and Dennis Werry presented the 2019/2020 Member resolutions for approval. The final resolution results will be posted on the HC website after the meeting.

13.1 **GENETICS: Publication of Parent Averages [WITHDRAWN]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2019)

- Whereas the loss of DGV publication deprives breeders and those involved in genetic selection of a valuable tool;
- Whereas the parent average (pedigree index) is available on index records from different countries (United States, Germany, Switzerland, etc.);
- Whereas it would be easier to have an overview of the impact of genomics and the transmission potential in animals with a comparison between the genomic index and the parent average.

RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada and Lactanet publish the parent average for all traits of each genomically tested animal on the genomic reports sent to breeders, as well as on the Holstein Canada Animal Inquiry results and Lactanet (CDN) genetic evaluation summaries. Motion was withdrawn.

13.2 **GENETICS: Inbreeding Calculator [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2020)

- Whereas the genetic data present on Compass are the most updated source of information available to users;
- Whereas the Compass tool is presently not as popular as expected and that another feature would help set this tool apart;
- Whereas, according to Lactanet data, inbreeding in the Holstein breed is 7.47%* and has increased by 0.25 in the last decade;
- Whereas there is currently no independent sire selection tool available on the market.

On a Motion by Benoît Lafond and seconded by Louis St-Aubin, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Lactanet and Holstein Canada take the necessary steps to integrate the Lactanet inbreeding calculator into Compass to allow for a quick calculation of inbreeding between a user-selected sire in the "My Sires" list and an individual or group of individuals selected by the user in the herd inventory. This addition would be to validate inbreeding and genetic indexes of the potential progeny, not to suggest a mating. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.3 **GENETICS: Extraction of Data in Compass [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2020)

Whereas the genetic data in Compass is the most up-to-date source available to users;

- Whereas, currently, the Compass tool is not as popular as expected;
- Whereas, currently, the extraction of data from the herd inventory is only exported in PDF format, which does not allow users to analyze the data, only to view them.

On a Motion by Benoît Lafond and seconded by Pascal Martin, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada and Lactanet take the necessary steps to allow the tables generated in Compass under "Herd Genetics" to be exported in Excel format instead of PDF to allow users to conduct their own analyses of the data. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.4 **GENETICS: Compass Mating Capabilities [ACCEPTED]**

Co-Submitted by New Brunswick, Nova Scotia & Newfoundland Branches (2019)

Whereas the Compass program is a great foundation to assist Canadian dairy breeders;

- Whereas giving breeders the flexibility of customizing their breeding program would be a huge benefit to the program;
- Whereas the current program only offers a list of bulls for the herd and not for individual cows, creating an extra step for producers;
- Whereas breeders are becoming increasingly focused on the benefits of A2 milk.

On a Motion by Roy Ethridge and seconded by Karen Versloot, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada and Lactanet, complete a sixth module and add functionality to the Compass software to customize an index, making mating program recommendations, sort bulls for the A2 gene, and identify matings that could result in undesirable haplotypes. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.5 **GENETICS: Data Sharing [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2020)

- Whereas the Holstein Association has the duty to defend and represent the interests of its Members;
- Whereas dairy producers pay to generate and to provide the data allowing the calculation of genetic indexes;

- Whereas Holstein Canada provides reports that can help producers make decisions for good management of their herd;
- Whereas a large part of Lactanet's funding comes from dairy producers or organizations funded by producers;
- Whereas a very large proportion of Lactanet funding comes from dairy producers or organizations funded by producers.

On a Motion by Olivier Leclerc and seconded by Pascal Martin, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Lactanet recognize that the genetic indexes obtained through the collection of data on our farms also belong to the producers and that the producers can consent to sharing this data with Holstein Canada and the stakeholders of their choice. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.6 CLASSIFICATION FEES: Fees [DEFEATED]

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2019)

- Whereas calvings occur at a younger age in 1st lactation animals and the growth and improvement of these animals continues throughout their lactation;
- Whereas Classification rounds are more frequent and allow Classifiers to see the improvement of cows at their first calving as their lactation progresses;
- Whereas breeders who contribute to Classification pay for the service and the data obtained benefits the entire industry.

On a Motion by Pascal Martin and seconded by Benoît Lafond, it was:

RESOLVED THAT breeders only pay for one classification per 1st lactation animal and no additional fees be charged should the score of the animal increase during the same lactation. Motion defeated.

Confirmation of the defeated vote will be posted on the HC website after the meeting.

13.7 AWARDS: Master Breeder Title [ACCEPTED]

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2019)

- Whereas Holstein Canada is looking for functional and profitable cows;
- Whereas the Master Breeder title reflects the standards the Association is looking for in Holstein cows;
- Whereas such standards of profitability and functionality are evolving among Holstein Canada Members;
- Whereas Master Breeder herds have a great influence on the breed.

On a Motion by Francis Paquet and seconded by Stéphane Alary, it was:
RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada conduct a complete review and modernization of the criteria for the Master Breeder title to include profitability criteria. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.8 **AWARDS: Lifetime Production Award [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2019)

- Whereas approximately 90% of the revenues are made up of kilograms of fat and protein;
- Whereas 0% of the revenues come directly from the kilograms of milk produced.

On a Motion by Pascal Martin and seconded by Benoît Lafond, it was:
RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada base Lifetime Production awards only on kilograms of fat and protein. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.9 **AWARDS: Long-time Fat Production [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by PEI Branch (2020)

- Whereas the average butterfat test for Holstein 2yr olds born in 1990 and 2018 (Lactanet December 2020) has raised from 3.75 % in 1990 to 4.03% in 2018;
- Whereas Star Brood Cow and Master Breeder points are awarded to cows producing 60,000 kg of milk and up to 120,000 kg of milk, there are also categories for composite deviation and composite BCA;
- Whereas the Canadian quota and milk price is based on kg of butterfat produced;
- Whereas the average protein % has held steady at 3.25% from 1990 until 2018 (Lactanet Dec 2020).

On a Motion by Wayne Dickieson and seconded by Roy Ethridge, it was:
RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada's Honour and Awards Committee consider adding a fourth Production category to their Star Brood Cow and Master Breeder point schedule that recognizes long-time fat production similar to the points that recognize long-time milk production. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.10 **GOVERNANCE: Holstein Canada Board of Directors [DEFEATED]**

Submitted by British Columbia Branch (2019)

- Whereas the Canadian dairy industry is experiencing significant changes due to the impact of recent agreements and domestic market influences;

- Whereas the Supply Management policy in Canada is the cornerstone of our industry's strength in addressing these challenges and providing stability;
- Whereas Holstein Canada and its Membership directly benefit from this stability.

On a Motion by Ridley Wikkerink and seconded by Thomas Cuthbert, it was:

RESOLVED THAT to be eligible for election to the Holstein Canada Board of Directors, the Director must be a registered quota holder or the son or daughter of the registered quota holder in the province they reside, and actively engaged in the day-to-day operation of the dairy farm, and furthermore; Holstein Canada's Board create a 3-year term for a non-quota holding Member to be filled at the Board's discretion. Motion defeated.

Confirmation of the defeated vote will be posted on the HC website after the meeting.

13.11 **MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS: Canadian Genetics [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2019)

- Whereas the reputation of Canadian genetics is positive around the world;
- Whereas the efforts made by Canadian Breed Associations.

On a Motion by Jimmy Perreault and seconded by Stéphane Alary, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada develop a strategic action plan to promote the reputation and values of Canadian genetics. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.12 **TOOLS: Classification Options [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2019)

- Whereas the rapid evolution of genetics makes breeding tools and objectives more important;
- Whereas there are different types of breeding which Compass does not allow you to choose from;
- Whereas breeders want to know about and work with certain cow families.

On a Motion by Pascal Martin and seconded by Benoît Lafond, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada and Lactanet adjust Compass to give producers the ability to use conformation (classification of the dam) as a selection on this tool. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.13 **TOOLS: Herd Results [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2020)

- Whereas the information on cow awards is provided by Holstein Canada;
- Whereas the classification results are recorded by Holstein Canada;
- Whereas all this data is used by Holstein Canada to calculate the Master Breeder points;

On a Motion by Pascal Martin and seconded by Benoît Lafond, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada to create a herd results tab on producer's web account that displays classification results (compilation of EX and VG cows). Also, displays the total number of awards received (superior production, lifetime production, star cows and others). Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.14 **TOOLS: Independent Selective Mating Software [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2020)

- Whereas producers want an independent choice of bulls;
- Whereas producers want a more personalized selective mating program;
- Whereas producers contribute the data used to create the genetic indexes for sires;

On a Motion by Stéphane Alary and seconded by Louis St.-Aubin, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada develop selective mating software for its Members. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.15 **OTHER: Milk Recording Data Rights [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2019)

- Whereas Members have no control over the data they generate through the use of various tools, which is granted to Lactanet for free through the Data Use Consent form;
- Whereas Members do not receive any income from data used by the industry;
- Whereas this data is currently sold in the form of genetic indexes to A.I. centers;

On a Motion by Francis Paquet and seconded by Benoît Lafond, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada take necessary steps to withdraw the right to use data generated through milk recording and reclaim control of the significant amount of data they generate. Holstein Canada serves its Members as a non-profit organization, and thus should be entrusted with the control of this wealth of information to protect the interests of those who provide quality data that benefits

the entire industry. Any person or organization seeking access to this data would have to negotiate the right and cost of use with Holstein Canada. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.16 OTHER: Traceability [ACCEPTED]

Submitted by Ontario Branch (2019)

- Whereas a national livestock traceability process plays an important role in the protection of our dairy industry into the future;
- Whereas farmers have a responsibility to follow traceability guidelines and regulations;

On a Motion by Tara Bullock and seconded by Cole Verburg, it was:

RESOLVED THAT DairyTrace initiates the process to have the ear tag number from shipped animals associated with the cheque stub and/or receipt, to ensure traceability is maintained. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.17 OTHER: Gene Editing [ACCEPTED]

Submitted by Ontario Branch (2019)

- Whereas Semex and Recombinetics have partnered to develop a precision breeding program that requires editing of the genomes of these animals;
- Whereas a precision breeding program may be perceived as producing genetically modified animals and, as a result, the perception may be that the milk produced by Canadian dairy producers would come from genetically modified animals;
- Whereas consumers have a negative perception associated with genetic modifications in relation to their food, as well as Canadian milk producers wanting to offer a quality product of which the consumer is not afraid;
- Whereas this gene editing would be a first in the Canadian dairy industry, and may bring into question purity of the Holstein breed;

On a Motion by Brad Lowry and seconded by Cole Verburg, it was:

RESOLVED THAT a Task force consisting of industry stakeholders (processors, retailers, producers, breeders, Dairy Farmers of Canada, and CFIA) be formed to determine if this is in the best interest of the dairy industry, providing recommendations to either cease gene-editing projects or provide guidelines to regulate and identify the animals involved in gene editing. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

13.18 OTHER: Reliability of Data [DEFEATED]

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2020)

- Whereas genomic bulls too often come from young parents with no proof of reliability and with increasingly high inbreeding;
- Whereas many producers would like to make their bull selections using more reliable data;

On a Motion by Benoît Lafond and seconded by Louis St.-Aubin, it was:
RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada and Semex work together to re-establish a place for classified 1st lactation sire dams in production to increase the reliability of young sires being offered. Motion defeated.

Confirmation of the defeated vote will be posted on the HC website after the meeting.

13.19 OTHER: Canadian Lineage [DEFEATED]

Submitted by Quebec Branch (2020)

- Whereas CIAQ and SEMEX have a list of bulls that is based on crosses from the best - solely based on indexes;
- Whereas their catalogue currently puts a lot of emphasis on TPI (American Genetic Index) for young genomic sires, and this index does not necessarily favour Canadian lineages;
- Whereas Semex is owned by three insemination centres in the country, was founded by producers and is still owned by producers, and that the feeling of belonging with these producers is important and must be maintained;
- Whereas Lactanet generates the list of the best females in Canada and that many of them come from Quebec and Canadian lineages;
- Whereas many producers believe in these cow families and wish to acquire genetics from these families;

On a Motion by Benoît Lafond and seconded by Louis St.-Aubin, it was:
RESOLVED THAT Holstein Canada works with Semex to diversify their genetic choices by placing more emphasis on young sires from Canadian lineage. Motion defeated.

Confirmation of the defeated vote will be posted on the HC website after the meeting.

13.20 OTHER: Bulls – RED [ACCEPTED]

Submitted by Ontario Branch (2020)

- Whereas AI companies have begun marketing bulls with the word “RED” or “-RED” at the end of their names, and;
- Whereas, in most cases, these bulls do not carry any Red Genes, but instead are considered Variant Gene Red, and;
- Whereas Variant Gene Red and Red Genes are unrelated, meaning the sire can be bred to a red cow, and still have a black calf, and;
- Whereas this can be perceived as misleading to breeders when making semen purchasing decisions;

On a Motion by Dann Brady and seconded by Brad Lowry, it was:

RESOLVED THAT the terms “RED” or “-RED” be included only on animal names carrying the required Red Genes, providing reliability in the likelihood of offspring being red. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

14. INTRODUCTION TO COMMITTEE REPORTS

Angus MacKinnon introduced the Committee Reports. The Holstein Board relies on eleven Committees for direction and recommendations, as Committee input is vital to the Board’s decision-making process. Each Committee has a mandate that is reviewed on an annual basis. A new ad hoc Committee was established regarding Data and Technology, which was a direction from the Board to respond to the Membership. HC will often consult Branches for suggestions to seek quality candidates for the various Committees. Starting in the Fall of 2021, the Holstein Board of Directors will be inviting various Industry Partners to Board meetings on a rotational basis to encourage healthy dialogue.

14.1 **Classification Advisory** – Dennis Werry provided a report on behalf of the Classification Advisory Committee with highlights noted as follows:

- (a) Meetings – The Committee meets every Fall.
- (b) 2020 Recommendations – The Board approved three recommendations from the 2020 Fall meeting that included a reduction in rear attachment height and changes to chest width and body depth. These changes will be implemented in classification in the near future.
- (c) Committee Suggestions – Members were encouraged to contact Dennis Werry or other Members of the Committee to provide any suggestions for discussion at the Fall 2021 Committee meeting.

- 14.2 **Show and Judging** – Nancy Beerwort provided a report on behalf of the Show and Judging Committee with highlights noted as follows:
- (a) Committee Mandate – The Committee mandate covers Code of Ethics, Classes and Awards and Best Practices.
 - (b) Show Class Changes – The Committee had made show class changes with a promotional and implementation plan for 2020; however, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, most shows were cancelled, and as a result, presentation and consultation opportunities were lost. Therefore, implementation was paused, and the final Class structure will be going to the Board later this year and changes will be ready for the 2022 season.
 - (c) Rules and Regulations Review – The Committee continues to review the rules and regulations for the All-Canadian Show to ensure it is inclusive.
 - (d) Feedback from Members – A Member queried where and when the exhibitors will have an opportunity to comment on the Show Class changes. **Response:** Nancy Beerwort noted that there are several ways that exhibitors can provide their feedback including: by phone to N. Beerwort or other Committee Members, email, and personal discussions at smaller Shows that Committee Members attend. N. Beerwort further noted that if the Royal Winter Fair goes ahead, an open meeting will be held for exhibitors or other interested persons to provide input and opinions.
 - (e) Class Structure – A Member tabled a motion to decline the new class structure for the 2022 Shows. **Response:** The Chair noted that the motion would need to be submitted to the Show and Judging Committee for their review and would not be voted on at this meeting.
 - (f) Parallel Genetics – A Member suggested that the Committee consider parallel genetics with the United States for marketing reasons.
 - (g) Categorization – A Member inquired into categorization by age groups, opposed to dates. **Response:** N. Beerwort noted that the Committee has discussed this and decided to not make any changes as this would require a major overhaul to coordinate with the 4H Association.
 - (h) Acknowledgements – N. Beerwort acknowledged and thanked the Committee Members and Linda Ness for their work.

- 14.3 **Breed Advisory** – Benoît Turmel provided a report on behalf of the Breed Advisory Committee with highlights noted as follows:
- (a) *Introductions and Mandate* – Benoît Turmel introduced the Members of the Breed Advisory Committee. The Committees mandate is to advise the Board of Directors on all matters of genetic improvement including Breed strategy, index review and tools for genetic predictability and improvement.
 - (b) *Committee Meetings* – The Committee met in the Fall of 2020 and again in the Spring of 2021 and will be meeting twice per year going forward. One meeting will be in-person and include a farm visit, and this will be followed by a virtual meeting to focus on writing and approving actions and motions. Having two meetings per year will allow for quicker response to industry needs and also aligns with the Genetic Evaluation Board meeting frequency.
 - (c) *Recommendations* – The Committee made recommendations to the Board after the last meeting including:
 - A public call for vacant positions on the Committee;
 - Targeting the regions that have Members leaving with better Member engagement and awareness;
 - HC support Producers reviewing genetic property ownership contracts and take a proactive role informing about the benefits;
 - More tools are required for controlling the increase of inbreeding in the Breed and further research on how to implement a system that can effectively slow down the upward trend.
 - (d) *Future Meetings and Suggestions* – The next meeting is planned for Fall 2021 and the Committee will discuss inbreeding management and automated milking systems. Members were invited to contact any of the Committee Members to ask questions or provide suggestions.
- 14.4 **Data and Technology** – Elyse Gendron provided a report on behalf of the Data and Technology Committee with highlights noted as follows:
- (a) *Committee Mandate* – The Committee assists the Association with addressing data issues, for example, data ownership, data flow and how it is used. HC, together with Ayrshire and Jersey, submitted a formal request to Lactanet to receive non-publishable data from Members who would give their consent. A working group has been tasked to identify the necessary steps to achieve this.

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- (b) Legal Requirements – The Committee is working with the Association’s Solicitor to better understand the legal requirements for the protection of sensitive data and to validate our internal processes. Gaps that have been identified will be corrected to better protect the Members.
- (c) Data Review – The Committee recently performed an in-depth review of the data journey that contributes to genetic evaluations and have estimated the value of this data based on the costs invested by the breeders and the partners in the process. Producers have voiced their perception of unfairness towards those that do not contribute their data but who benefit from the overall improvement of the Canadian herd. HC is looking at how the Industry can reward contributors while respecting everyone’s management decisions.
- (d) Phone Application – A Member queried when the phone application will be available. **Response:** E. Gendron stated that while no official date has been set, 2022 would be a realistic expectation.
- 14.5 **Young Leader Advisory** – Karen Versloot and Willem Vanderlinde provided a report on behalf of the Young Leader Advisory Committee with highlights noted as follows:
- (a) Committee Mandate – The role of the Committee is to provide guidance and facilitation to the Board from the Young Leaders group. HC promotes activities and learning opportunities to support Members that are 19 through 30 years old.
- (b) Meetings and Events – The Committee met frequently throughout the year to stay connected as no in person events were held. W. Vanderlinde noted that a variety of webinars were hosted. Due to the cancellation of the Convention, those that were going to participate will be contacted to participate in the 2022 Convention.

15. **LACTANET MESSAGE**

President Gerald Schipper introduced Barbara Paquet, Chair of the Lactanet Board of Directors to provide a report. Highlights were noted as follows:

- (a) Feed Efficiency Evaluation – Introduction of feed efficiency evaluations to Dairy Producers are now available free of charge to Lactanet milk recording and classification customers. For others, they will be available for a fee.
- (b) Robotic Milking Systems – The number of herds equipped with robotic milking systems continues to increase and it is estimated that now approximately 15% of clients and 20% of all cows on milk recording are robotically milked. Lactanet introduced their new electronic milk recording service last year and it continues to

grow with over 15,000 cows enrolled.

- (c) National Non-binding Resolution Process – Earlier this year, Lactanet introduced a National non-binding resolutions process. Lactanet received 28 resolutions for consideration. A total of 27 of these were supported by the voting process and are currently being reviewed by the Board of Directors. These resolutions will help Lactanet plan our activities for the future.
- (d) Lactation Records – B. Paquet announced that Lactanet is planning to expand the eligibility of lactation records available for publication. This initiative is moving forward with the unanimous support of the National breed organizations including Holstein Canada which has provided great leadership since the discussions began. Industry partners are having discussions to define and implement an Industry approach and while it is in the early stages, it is expected that this work will be completed for the entire Industry in 2022.
- (e) Thanks – B. Paquet thanked Holstein Canada for the opportunity to provide an update on Lactanet’s activities. President Gerald Schipper thanked Barbara Paquet for her remarks.

16. MEMBERS’ INPUT SESSION

President Gerald Schipper opened the floor for questions and Member input.

- (a) Acknowledgements – Congratulations and acknowledgements were extended to President Gerald Schipper.
- (b) Show Class Changes – A Motion was tabled to decline the new class structure for the 2022 shows. **Response:** Unfortunately, we do not have the technical capabilities to address Motions from the floor. This Motion will be raised with the Awards Committee for discussion.
- (c) Classification – A Member suggested that the Classification Advisory Committee consider when a Classifier reclassifies that he or she has access to the earlier report to see exactly where an animal has improved. An example was cited that when a Classifier reclassifies an animal upwards and when you look at the earlier classification and study it point by point, what sometimes happens, is it does not make sense when a Classifier takes an animal at 82 and takes it up to 85 points, when you realize for example when the animal was at 82, she was classified as very good at the rump, but at 85, scores are at 81 or 82 for rump.

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- (c..) **Response:** When an animal is rescored, in same lactation or later, environments change, and other things can change. The previous codes on traits are not always going to be identical from Team Member to Team Member. It is preferred that the Team Member does not access previous scores as they have to view the animal that day, the animal may have matured, or for other reasons, and that is why the animal is re-evaluated each time. Consistency is at the forefront of the Team.
- (d) Robotic Data – A Member stated that robotic data should be considered more accurate as it is collected on a daily basis and is more accurate than the data that comes out once per month. It was suggested to monitor this so that robotic data can be published. **Response:** Thank you for the comment. This is the sentiment of a lot of our Members.
- (e) Master Breeder Gala Event – Congratulations were extended to HC for the virtual event. Once we return to face to face meetings, it is requested HC take the opportunity to hold another Master Breeder Gala. **Response:** This was one positive thing out of the pandemic and HC used technology as much as possible to remain connected to Members. The HC team and CEO were acknowledged for their efforts. HC is looking forward to returning to in person events.
- (f) AI Centres – A Member raised a concern and asked HC to have a look at the fact that AI centres are asking for control over animals, for example, patent on genetics. **Response:** The Breed Advisory Committee will take this under advisement.
- (g) Genetic Evaluation – A comment related to genetic evaluations was raised, noting that there are many new traits being added to the system and there is concern that some of the traits do not have extremely high heritability. Because of this, and the information collected, they end up lower or lower reliability. **Response:** The Classification Committee will take this under advisement.

President Gerald Schipper thanked Members for their comments.

17. UNVEILING OF COW OF THE YEAR

Harold Sweetnam and Elyse Gendron presented the Cow of the Year. The 2020 Cow of the Year was awarded to Idee Windbrook Lynzi EX-95. Joël Lepage and Mireille Lavoie joined the meeting by video to accept and celebrate the award.

18. 2022 CONVENTION IN SASKATCHEWAN

Gerald extended the invitation to the 2022 Convention in Saskatchewan being held on April 20 to 23, 2022.

19. TERMINATION OF MEETING

There being no further business brought before the meeting, the Chair requested a Motion to conclude the meeting.

On a Motion by Elyse Gendron it was:

RESOLVED THAT the Annual General Meeting of Holstein Canada be concluded.

Motion carried.

The meeting was concluded at 2:55 p.m.