

20
24

Resolutions



20
24

Resolution #1



1. **Communication – Bilingualism**

Co-submitted by: Québec, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia/Newfoundland & New Brunswick Holstein Branches

- **WHEREAS** Holstein Canada is a national organization in an officially bilingual country;
- **WHEREAS** 43% of the Association's membership is Francophone, and their preferred primary language is French;
- **WHEREAS** Francophone members struggle to obtain services and communication from Holstein Canada in their primary language;
- **WHEREAS** it would be in the best interest of the National Association and all of its members to have the best representatives on its Board of Directors and its various committees, regardless of their proficiency in a second language;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to ensure that bilingualism does not become an issue for representatives who are not proficient in a second language and that Holstein Canada be a bilingual organization that offers services and communication in both French and English.

20
24

Resolution #2



2. Insurance – Branch Insurance

Co-submitted by: Nova Scotia/Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick & British Columbia Holstein Branches

- **WHEREAS** Directors and/or Officers of any agriculture organization should have appropriate individual and event insurance coverage;
- **WHEREAS** the delegates at the National Joint Branch Meeting held in February 2024 were informed that Holstein Canada's insurance coverage included all the Western and Eastern Branches;
- **WHEREAS** in August 2024, Holstein Canada abruptly cancelled all Director and Officer insurance for the Western and Eastern Branches and sub-committees, including Atlantic Holstein Promotions;
- **WHEREAS** the three Atlantic Holstein Branches have had no Director or Officer insurance coverage since August 2024;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada reinstate the insurance coverage and/or present options for the Eastern and Western Branches, including sub-committees and Atlantic Holstein Promotions.

20
24

Resolution #3



3. National Joint Branch Meetings – Meeting Cadence

Co-submitted by: Prince Edward Island & Nova Scotia/Newfoundland Holstein Branches

- **WHEREAS** the provincial Branches across Canada help support and share in Holstein Canada's Vision of "A healthy Canadian dairy industry for all";
- **WHEREAS** the provincial Branches and Holstein Clubs are the direct point of contact for the membership;
- **WHEREAS** the provincial Branches, Holstein Clubs and their Directors are at the forefront of the membership;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada reinstate the annual in-person National Joint Branch Meeting, cover all expenses of sending two delegates from each provincial Branch, and hold virtual quarterly update meetings.

20
24

Resolution #4



4. Provincial Branch Annual General Meetings – HAC Board and Senior Management Attendance

Co-submitted by: Prince Edward Island & Nova Scotia/Newfoundland Holstein Branches

- **WHEREAS** the provincial Branch AGMs are an integral part of the Breed Association's contact with membership;
- **WHEREAS** the provincial Branch AGMs bring forth ideas from the Holstein Clubs and members;
- **WHEREAS** the provincial Branch AGMs are an annual opportunity for Holstein Canada Leadership to speak to and interact with the membership;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a member of Holstein Canada's Board Executive, Senior Management, the local National Director, and Field Services member attend each of the nine provincial Branch AGMs for the duration of each.

20
24

Resolution #5



5. **Herd Book Recording** – For Tag Activation Reporting and Updating Active Cow List

Submitted by: New Brunswick Holstein Branch

- **WHEREAS** all farms are required under proAction® to report all births of both male and female animals to DairyTrace;
- **WHEREAS** registration of both females and males through Holstein Canada's Herdbook is linked to the dam and sire and also creates a Trace file that is sent to DairyTrace to report the births on the producer's behalf;
- **WHEREAS** birth information from Single White tagged animals is not connected to Holstein Canada's Herdbook;
- **WHEREAS** calving information is required when classifying animals. Many herds use milk recording to transfer information to Holstein Canada, such as calving dates and lactation numbers. For herds that do not milk record, calving information is not automatically available to classifiers as it is not added to their active cow lists;
- **WHEREAS** animals without calving reported by 36 months of age do not appear on a herd's active cow list, and so the active cow list is not able to be utilized to generate mating plans;
- **WHEREAS** many herds that classify use this information to inform their mating decisions;
- **WHEREAS** many producers tend to stop classifying within 2 years of discontinuing milk recording;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada offer an option to record birth/calving information for single white tag activations so that it may be linked to the producer's active cow list. This will create an accurate digital herd file of active animals with lactation numbers and fresh dates for Classifiers, allowing for a more efficient visit. Having an accurate and up-to-date Active list will also add value to the producer as their preferred AI service provider can easily use it to create an accurate mating plan. By adding value to the service, retention could be increased.

20
24

Resolution #6



6. Pricing – Add Polled to Testing Bundle

Submitted by: New Brunswick Holstein Branch

- **WHEREAS** an ever-increasing number of farmers are selecting for the polled gene;
- **WHEREAS** testing for the polled gene currently costs an extra \$35;
- **WHEREAS** Holstein Canada offers multiple traits in the genotyping testing bundle;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada include polled testing in the genotyping bundle.

20
24

Resolution #7



7. Education – Scurs

Submitted by: New Brunswick Holstein Branch

- **WHEREAS** scurs differ from horns;
- **WHEREAS** scurs can only be expressed in heterozygous polled animals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada educate farmers about scurs.

20
24

Resolution #8



8. **Classification** – Consistency of Classification

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** Classifiers have two discretionary points (+ or -2 points) on the score for each part of the cow once individual traits have been evaluated;
- **WHEREAS** the evaluation of each trait should be the most objective evaluation of a cow's conformation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to make the necessary representations to assess the possibility of decreasing the discretionary point to plus or minus 1 and/or to make any other changes to the classification to make it more consistent.

20
24

Resolution #9



9. **Classification** – Classification of First Lactation Cows

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** more and more producers do not classify all cows in first lactation;
- **WHEREAS** it is possible to ask for an estimation of the cow's score without necessarily agreeing to have her classified;
- **WHEREAS** it is possible not to have the bottom-end cows classified and that several producers do so;
- **WHEREAS** the Classifier can spend a considerable amount of time evaluating cows that will not be classified in the end;
- **WHEREAS** the classification of all cows in the first lactation is essential to ensure accurate bull proofs;
- **WHEREAS** Holstein Canada's classification service is in deficit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to assess the possibility of requiring the classification of all classifiable first lactation cows and/or to offer a classification fee based on the number of classifiable first lactation cows.

20
24

Resolution #10



10. **Classification** – Classification Autonomy

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** our classification program has an outstanding reputation that extends far beyond our borders;
- **WHEREAS** this good reputation is strongly linked to the experience and training of the Classifiers who assess our animals;
- **WHEREAS** the independent judgment of these Classifiers is essential to maintaining the quality of their work;
- **WHEREAS** the Classifiers are able to assess whether an animal is suitable for classification and do not have to be influenced by a breeder to confirm whether or not an animal is classifiable;
- **WHEREAS** some breeders ask Classifiers to only classify animals above a certain score. For example, 83 and 85 points for first lactation cows;
- **WHEREAS** this practice undermines the reputation of the integrity of our classification system, as well as the reliability of the data in the classification results.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to quickly restore all the autonomy necessary for a fair and just classification for all animals in a condition deemed suitable for classification.

20
24

Resolution #11



11. Report – Components and Dollar Value per Day of Life at Anniversary Date

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** breeders are constantly looking for better-performing cows and ways to select the right individuals for breeding;
- **WHEREAS** Holstein Québec and its clubs are always looking for the best awards to honour the cows for their productions;
- **WHEREAS** Lactanet now publishes an annual report with kg of components and production and \$ per day of life on the animals' anniversary date;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to work in collaboration with Lactanet to make it possible to have lists of the best cows, either in \$ per day of life, according to the anniversary date, or in kg of components per day of life, according to the anniversary date, by province and by club.

20
24

Resolution #12



12. **Report** – Inclusion of Crampiness in Bull and Cow Genetic Proofs

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** the crampiness issue is one that has been known for many years, particularly in the Holstein breed;
- **WHEREAS** this problem was the subject of initial research work, but insufficient data made it impossible to present satisfactory results for breeders;
- **WHEREAS** the lack of transparency and concrete action taken in the industry to prevent the condition from spreading have made crampiness a problem whose prevalence is neither negligible nor without economic consequences for breeders;
- **WHEREAS** the limited data available, particularly the condition's prevalence in a sire's progeny, is relatively inaccessible as it is presented in a format that is not easily understood by the majority of breeders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to work with Lactanet and the various partners involved to modify the display of genetic proofs by improving the transparency and accessibility of information concerning crampiness in bulls and cows.

20
24

Resolution #13



13. Research – Continued Data Collection and Research on Crampiness

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** the crampiness issue is one that has been known for many years, particularly in the Holstein breed;
- **WHEREAS** this problem was the subject of initial research work, but insufficient data made it impossible to present satisfactory results for breeders;
- **WHEREAS** the lack of transparency and concrete action taken in the industry to prevent the condition from spreading have made crampiness a problem whose prevalence is neither negligible nor without economic consequences for breeders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to make the necessary representations to Lactanet and various industry partners to continue the data collection and research effort on crampiness, including (but not limited to) the use of trained personnel to visit farms and collect more detailed information on affected animals, phenotype specificities observed in these animals, and additional pedigree study and data collection related to the pathophysiology of the condition in different affected animals.

20
24

Resolution #14



14. **Master Breeder** – Changes to the Calculation of Master Breeder Points

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** the Holstein breed is constantly evolving;
- **WHEREAS** over a period of 20 years, the number of VG first-calf cows has more than doubled. 2004 = 4,437 cows vs 2024 = 9,371 cows;
- **WHEREAS** over the same period, the same evolution can be seen in VG cows with two calves and more. 2004 = 23,482 cows vs 2024 = 47,163 cows;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to revise the scoring system for the Master Breeder Award, in order to take into account the evolution of conformation in the calculation of points, as was done on the production side.

20
24

Resolution #15



15. **Shows** – Inclusion of Calving Information in Judging Catalogues

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** Judges rely on the dates and number of calvings during judging to assist them in deciding between certain animals;
- **WHEREAS** the information must be accurate and transparent to be fair to all animals in the class;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to record the dates and number of calvings in judging catalogues.

20
24

Resolution #16



16. **Shows** – Overbagging

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** in general, too many cows show signs of overbagging in animal judgings;
- **WHEREAS** a negative public image is associated with overbagging;
- **WHEREAS** this practice goes against animal welfare rules;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to work towards resolving the problem of overbagging at dairy shows.

20
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Resolution #17



17. Pedigree – Addition of an Abbreviation to Quickly Identify Superior Productions

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** the addition of an abbreviation would make it possible to quickly highlight Superior Production just below the animal's name in the pedigree header, in the same way as classification;
- **WHEREAS** this method is already used in other breeds and promotes better visibility of performances;
- **WHEREAS** for bulls, abbreviations such as “ST”, “SP” and “EXTRA” already exist and make it possible to identify bulls that stand out positively in the breed;
- **WHEREAS** this designation would allow quick comparison between individuals and highlight Superior Production;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to add an abbreviation in the pedigree header to quickly highlight cows with Superior Production.

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24

Resolution #18



18. Board of Directors – Eligibility Requirements for Directors on the Holstein Canada Board of Directors

Submitted by: Holstein Québec

- **WHEREAS** members of the Board of Directors are called upon to make decisions for the good of the breed associations' members;
- **WHEREAS** members of the Board of Directors act as the voice of Holstein members on various issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to ensure that the members of their Board of Directors hold a milk quota. Members who do not should not be eligible to sit on present and future Boards of Directors.

20
24

Resolution #19



19. Awards – 100 Excellent (EX) Cows

Submitted by: Nova Scotia/Newfoundland Holstein Branch

- **WHEREAS** Holstein Canada recently recognized herds that have classified over 100 Excellent cows from their prefix during the last 100 years;
- **WHEREAS** this is a remarkable achievement, a testament to herd longevity and the breeder's passion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada continue to recognize herds/ prefixes with 100 Excellent cows classified and routinely publish their names in the *infoHolstein* for these major milestones (100EX, 200EX, etc.).

20
24

Resolution #20



20. **Communication** – All-Canadian Contest

Submitted by: Nova Scotia/Newfoundland Holstein Branch

- **WHEREAS** Holstein Canada now coordinates the “All-Canadian” competition, having taken over responsibilities from the Holstein Journal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada print the All-Canadian results in the “Info Holstein”, with one class per page, which includes the animal’s picture, Breeder, Owner and Show Placings.

20
24

Resolution #21



21. Animal Care Assessments – Tie Stalls

Submitted by: Nova Scotia/Newfoundland Holstein Branch

- **WHEREAS** a high proportion of Holstein Canada members farm in tie-stall barns;
- **WHEREAS** Holstein Canada and Dairy Farmers of Canada have a close working relationship;
- **WHEREAS** Animal Care in tie-stall barns can be positive, as proven by data collected by Animal Care Cattle Assessments for proAction;
- **WHEREAS** drastic changes to existing tie-stall barns may be costly or impractical or unnecessary given each individual farm's unique situation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada stand up against regulations banning the existence or alteration of tie-stall facilities as a whole, including the discouragement of building new tie-stalls that may be put forth by Dairy Farmers of Canada.

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Resolution #22



22. HAC Financials – Detailed Financial Statement

Submitted by: Ontario Holstein Branch

- **WHEREAS** Holstein Canada is funded by its members;
- **WHEREAS** financial transparency is vital to maintaining confidence with the membership;
- **WHEREAS** financial transparency is important for accountability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada commit to presenting a detailed financial statement and a detailed budget at its Annual Meeting.

20
24

Resolution #23



23. **Awards** – Cow of the Year

Submitted by: Alberta Holstein Branch

- **WHEREAS** we as breeders and producers have access to large fields of data;
- **WHEREAS** the focus of milk components (fat, protein) needs to be included as a significant requirement for this exceptional award. Producers are paid on this information, so this data is relevant;
- **WHEREAS** other awards have been created to recognize outstanding production achievements, these awards should be used in conjunction with show results. Not every breeder or producer shows, which would allow for a larger scope of cattle to be included;
- **WHEREAS** the proposed resolution could create a point system and eliminate the need for national voting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Holstein Canada create an unbiased formula to determine a more modern and balanced Cow of the Year award.

20
24

Resolution #24



24. Awards – Cow of the Year

Submitted by: British Columbia Holstein Branch

- **WHEREAS** Holstein Canada already recognizes several important achievements individually for a single cow;
- **WHEREAS** combining three such outstanding achievements would create an even more elite award;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the base levels of 100,000 kg lifetime milk production, an Excellent score, and at least one Brood Star be combined to create a new inspiring award.