



2017 NON-BINDING RESOLUTIONS: ACTION UPDATE

INDUSTRY VISION

1. Submitted by Branch / Club: Manitoba

- Whereas, it is essential for the continued development and improvement of our breed that we continue to make reliable health, production and confirmation records to verify predicted genomic information;
- Whereas, the cost of producing this information is being borne by a rapidly shrinking number of producers;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada take the lead in investigating the possibility of providing milk recording, classification and registration at no cost with all semen sales being levied to cover the cost with the aim of spreading the financial burden across the whole industry and encouraging as wide as possible data collection sources, mindful not to create a new layer of bureaucracy.

Action Update: Holstein Canada acknowledges the spirit and vision of this resolution, and it is noted for future discussions with our Industry Partners.

CLASSIFICATION

2. Submitted by Branch / Club: Manitoba

- Whereas, Holstein Canada conducts a mid-round in between all regular rounds at an additional cost to breeder using the service

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada discontinue the mid-round and make every round a regular round at the same cost to every breeder for the visit.

Action Update: Following analysis and review of this resolution with the Board of Directors, the fees for both regular and mid-round classification visits have been set at \$125, effective January 1, 2018. Standardizing the herd visit fees makes the mid-round option more accessible to all clients.

ANIMAL IMPORT FROM USA

3. Submitted by Branch / Club: Prince Edward Island

- Whereas, an increasing number of USA cows are entering the Canadian market;
- Whereas, traceability and Herdbook integrity are of utmost importance for all Holstein Canada members;
- Whereas, all USA cows currently have to be transferred through Holstein USA;
- Whereas, this is a cumbersome process for Holstein Canada members that results in a delay of proper identification and tagging;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada take the lead to facilitate all transfers of USA Holsteins for its members.

Action Update: Holstein Canada investigated options to simplify the transfer process for Canadian producers when animals are purchased from USA. Being a service provider to Holstein USA on behalf of Canadian producers is not an option for us at this time, however, Holstein Canada will continue to offer assistance to Canadian buyers, in both official languages, as they complete transfers with Holstein USA. For more information on how to submit transfers to Holstein USA and how we can assist, refer to the article titled "Transfer of Animals Imported from USA" in the 2018 Mar/Apr infoHolstein.

BREED IMPROVEMENT

4. Submitted by Branch / Club: Québec

- Whereas, crampiness is increasingly prevalent in the Holstein breed;
- Whereas, crampiness seems to be passed on from generation to generation;
- Whereas, animal welfare is our key concern and crampiness symptoms can lead to serious injuries;



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- Whereas, crampiness results in heavy economic losses caused by early culling of severely affected animals;
- Whereas, there is little data available in order to identify the sires that may pass on crampiness;
- Whereas, Holstein Canada classifiers compile data on the crampy cows they identify;
- Whereas, there are available indexes that are not associated with the genome;
- Whereas, Steven Larmer's study from the University of Guelph concluded that crampiness is multigenic and that genomics is therefore not sufficiently reliable to identify carrier sires;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada and the Canadian Dairy Network develop a genetic trait for proven sires with observation data gathered by Holstein Canada. The aim being to identify sires with the best resistance to crampiness and by doing so, to start tackling this serious problem until new research findings on crampiness be sufficiently reliable to help us.

Action Update: Background data currently exists as a defect trait on bulls: CDN displays this defective characteristic as "Crampy" on its website. The majority of cattle shown for classification are 2 year olds, while crampiness tends to present itself more frequently in older cows – as such, this trait may not be observed or these cows may not be presented to classifiers. Further discussion is needed with respect to collecting more accurate data and data for older cows.

JUDGES

5. Submitted by Branch / Club: Ontario

- Whereas Ontario and Québec have provincial Judges committees and judging programs in place to enhance the training of Judges;
- Whereas we need to develop, promote and utilize our Canadian Judges domestically and internationally;
- Whereas a national committee could advise on: national Judges listings, judging and showmanship manuals / videos, content for National judging schools, International judging assignments and promoting Judges at domestic and international levels;
- Whereas, the importance of continuity and communication between the Branch and Holstein Canada is paramount for the success for any program;

Be it resolved that a National Judges Committee be formed similar to the following:

The National Judges Committee would comprise 8 committee members; 2 members from Ontario Judges Committee, 2 members from Québec Judges Committee, 1 judge representing Western Canada judges, 1 judge representing Maritimes judges, 1 Holstein Canada director and 1 Holstein Canada staff member (non-voting). The committee would meet annually and additional meetings could be held by conference call. Committee member judges would serve a minimum 3 year term provided they are an active judge and are a committee member of their provincial branch judges committee, if applicable. The committee would annually elect a chairman. The committee would report annually to the Holstein Canada Board of Directors.

Action Update: At the time of writing this update/report, this resolution is pending action; it has been referred to the Holstein Canada Show and Judging Committee for review and discussion.

VOTING PROCEDURES

6. Submitted by Branch / Club: Ontario

- Whereas Holstein Canada was founded as a member association that values accuracy and transparency;
- Whereas Holstein Canada conducts annual membership voting concerning Director elections, National Judge selections for RAWF, and annual award selection for Cow of the Year;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada's Board of Directors implement a secure system that ensures proper identification of members on ballots, transparency and accuracy of voting procedures involving all Holstein Canada membership votes.



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Action Update: Voting procedures and processes were reviewed at both the Holstein Canada Awards and Governance Committees to ensure the process is secure reliable, and has integrity. The Cow of the Year (COTY) voting will remain the same. Ballots for National Directors will be sent to the office of the Holstein Canada auditor. Options are currently being analyzed for Royal judge voting with a goal of being implemented for the selection of the 2019 Royal Judges.

COW SIGNS

7. Submitted by Branch / Club: Ontario

- Whereas "Cow Signs" are an important part of promotion in barns and at shows;
- Whereas the required information is on the web on a cow's animal information sheet;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada develop a printable "Cow Sign" section on the web page to allow access to instant, up to date sign for easy use on farm and at the show.

Action Update: Printable "Cow Signs" will be considered after analysis for feasibility according to priority, resources (staff/time/cost), and development projects.

SHOWS

8. Submitted by: On the floor at the AGM

- Whereas the number of shows is declining;
- Whereas the the number of opportunities for judges is declining;
- Whereas the number of animals being exhibited at the remainder of the shows is increasing;
- Whereas larger shows are a great opportunity for associates to aid in placings;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada recommend that any show with more than 150 entries have an associate judge.

Action Update: This resolution is pending action at this time; it has been referred to the Holstein Canada Show and Judging Committee for review and discussion.