

CHA Director Report – Daryl Kirton

Fellow breeders

This year has passed us by extremely fast; it just seems that bonanza in Abbotsford was just a few weeks ago. Over the past year the Canadian board has met twice face to face and have had conference calls when needed. The various committee chairs also hold conference calls when business arises and decisions need to be made. All committees have board directors as well as members appointed by each province. The main committees are Show, Hereford Breed Improvement (HBI) and Pedigree.

Show Committee chairman is Bryan Latimer. This committee has approved 26 MOE shows across Canada for 2018. A new banner award has been approved for the 4 National shows. “Sire of the Show”. This award is presented to the individual or company who owns the sire whose progeny accumulate the highest total points based on the highest six placing in the individual classes. A new regulation for National Shows has also been passed. Judges will be supplied with all show weights on all the cattle and scrotal circumference on all bulls over 1 year of age. This can either be handed to the judge or be written on the show number.

HBI Committee chairman Albert Rimke. In December 2017 a new EPD was launched for udder suspension and teat size. Please make sure you are scoring on the new 1-9 scale. EPD fact sheets are available on the CHA web site. Bolt (single step EPD analysis) launched Bolt EPD analysis with AFA in Dec. 2017. Old traits models were re-evaluated and validated. CHA and AHA have replaced the Satiability Analysis with a much improved Sustained Cow Fertility to predict genetic merit of cow longevity. Feed lot Merit index (FMI) and Maternal Productivity index (MPI) have been revaluated and will be released in early August 2018.

Genomic Pipeline launched along with Bolt analysis. Genomic Pipeline is very powerful database that stores and completes checks and analysis on Genomic data along with pedigree data. It checks sex and parentage (if available) at a very detailed level. This pipeline will be an important tool in the future to ensure correct pedigrees and correct reporting. The pipeline is important for members as storage and access to these genotypes for future research and development is a serious shortfall of all current registry systems.

RFI tested another 300 bulls through winter 2017 and spring 2018. Testing will be available for 2018 and RFI will be developed into a Bolt trait in late 2018 to allow for on-farm testing and genomic enhancement of RFI as a trait. Two RFI testing protocols are approved for on-farm use.

Over the last 3 years CHA has passed along \$150,000 in grants to members in genotyping of animals. This project will come to an end in early fall of 2018.

“NEW “ Cow Research Project The CHA is working with the AHA to genotype large groups of females. Interested farms will be able to genotype females for less than \$30 per animal from now until the end of 2018. You must be a THE member and must test entire cohorts (birth year) of females, breeders cannot select individual females. Goal of this project is to capture more female genotypes in-order to genomically enhance female production traits in Bolt evaluation.

Pedigree Committee is chairman Nels Nixdorff. This committee has the authority to suspend, reinstate or cancel certificates of registration and to suspend and reinstate members. Suspended owners or owners of suspended registrations may apply for reinstatement under procedures outlined in the CHA constitution. The committee has the responsibility and authority to deal with all subjects related to maintenance of the registration and transfer of animals. This committee recommends: collecting hair on all animals as it may come in handy in your future registrations.

Parent Verification is required for AI sires & to register animals after 30 months of age.

Mothers of AI sires need to be tested; Walking bulls & Donor dams need DNA on file.

Keep complete breeding and calving records indefinitely – these can be requested at any time

from the CHA

Monies from transfers go to help marketing funding for each province. Please transfer all bulls as the new owner will receive the Digest for 2 years free of charge.

This past year there have been some constitutional changes just bringing the constitution to current times.

New Strategic Plan Overview to 2020

#1 Financial Security for the future. Focused effort toward growing CHA investments. Increase CHA contingency funds by 5% annually. Ultimately grow contingency fund to 1 year of operating experience.

#2 Member Engagements. Develop universal Hereford Promotion campaigns that can be used in each province. Develop a suite of Hereford Promotion material where provincial Associations can access this material easily. Develop webinars on topics of interest for members.

#3 Hereford Brand Momentums. Continue to improve the optics and uptake of the Hereford Breed through modernizing programs, increasing Hereford focused activities and creating enthusiasm within the industry for Hereford breed. Increase usage of Hereford RFID tags. Increase feedlot engagement on the value of Hereford and Hereford influence cattle in feedlots.

2018 Strategic Projects. Certified Hereford Beef. Hereford Plus. Hereford Steer Showdown.

Future Possible Projects: Canadian Hereford Conference/AGM

Junior National Show (Larger Scope)

Hereford feeder calf program

National junior leadership Program

CHA Awards

This past spring there were many breeders nominated for the CHA Honor Roll and Memorable scroll and membership service awards.

If you think a breeder in your area should be nominated for such an award please look at the forms on the website as there are many areas of the breeder's history to cover in the documents. If you think a member might qualify please contact me and I will assist you with the application.

Annual General Meeting

At the annual meeting at Saint Hyacinth QC, the CHA board had the election of officers who will resume their rolls on January 1st 2019 President elect Albert Rimke from Manitoba

Vice President Nels Nixdorff from Alberta

Pedigree Chairman Daryl Kirton from BC

The board will also have some new faces this next year: Blaine Brost of Alberta has resigned due to realignment of their ranch so a new director is to be nominated at their annual meeting in August.

Murray Andrews of SK has been replaced by Howard Crittenden.

Leon Silk of ON as been replaced by Rob Flack.

Stephen Scott will be with us for at least 3 more years as our Executive Director.

Please come to the BCHA annual meeting in Vanderhoof as the subject of Hereford Plus will be discussed at length, The BC board is not in favor of it and we would like to hear your input. BC was under the understanding that this was a project to recognize commercial ranchers that use Hereford bulls and possibly help them with gaining a greater profit on their calves but the requirements for this project does not do this at all.

Please attend and support your BC directors.

Daryl Kirton