

AYRSHIRE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Annual General Meeting

Thursday March 2, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.
Salle Royal 3, Hôtel Le Dauphin, Drummondville, Québec

Present: François Beaudry, President, Caroline Couture, Mario Lacerte, Hendrick Larouche, Jonathan Lemay, Robert Powell, Duane Tolhurst, Mary-Ellen Trueman, Michel Boudreault, Ayrshire breeders, special guests, and sponsors.

Secretary: Lucie Lecomte, administrative assistant.

Absent: Robert Saville

Minutes

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

François Beaudry, President, calls the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. and welcomes everyone. He indicates to the members a few guidelines to follow for the proper conduct of this meeting.

He thanks everyone attending for coming to the meeting and welcomes everyone again.

2.0 MEMBERS IDENTIFICATION

François Beaudry asks all members to identify themselves with their voting cards and, having observed more than 25 members' voting cards, declares the Annual General Meeting to be legally constituted.

3.0 NOMINATION OF THE SCRUTINEERS

François Beaudry asks those in attendance to nominate scrutineers.

Jean-François Simard / Mario Lacerte moves and seconds Dany Germain and Jean-François Bournival to act as Scrutineers.

Both motions are:

CARRIED
2017-0302-006

4.0 READING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

François Beaudry reads out the agenda and asks whether any items need to be added.

Andrew Shufelt / Jean Morency moves and seconds the adoption of the agenda as presented.

CARRIED
2017-0302-007

5.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 9, 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Michel Boudreault quickly reviews the Minutes.

There is a call to vote.

Hendrick Larouche / Claude Laroche moves and seconds that the Minutes from the March 9, 2016 Annual General Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED
2017-0302-008

It is asked whether there are any questions. No questions.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Michel Boudreault reads out last year's resolutions follow-up, available on pages 20 - 21 of the Annual Report.

Question:

Resolution #1: We have taken a position and we agree to continue with the system. Valacta is working on distributing the information at a low cost and we will confirm the information that will be made available.

It is asked whether there are any questions. No questions.

7.0 PRESIDENT REPORT

François Beaudry reads out his Report, presented on pages 20 - 21 of the Annual Report.

Michel Boudreault specifies that Holstein Canada's registration system will not be ready in 2017 and that we will have to wait at the very least until 2018. We are making sure that the work is being done well. Holstein Canada is currently working with our ABRI system, which is serving us well, and we shall evaluate Holstein Canada's proposal when the time comes.

8.0 GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Michel Boudreault reads out his Report, presented on pages 22 - 23.

9.0 BREED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Pascal Morneau presents the Breed Improvement Committee Report, presented on pages 24 – 25 of the Annual Report.

10.0 FINANCES

Guests' presentation:

Mr. Daniel Côté, CIAQ
Mr. Doug Evans, President of the U.S. Ayrshire Association
Mr. Dany Germain, CIAQ
Mr. Scott Hartwell, DCC Waterbeds
Mr. Steve Lacroix, Club Ayrshire des Appalaches
Mr. Gérard Landry, Agrinova
Mr. Guillaume Massé, Purina
Mr. Jean-Marc Pelletin, Jersey Canada
Mr. Antoine Riverin, MAPAQ
Mr. Christopher Studer, CIAQ

Auditor's Report.

Auditor's Report on page 26 of the Annual Report. Michel reads out the Auditor's Engagement Review Report.

Financial Statements presented on pages 27 - 41

Michel Boudreault reads out the financial summary and provides explanations on assets and liabilities.

It is asked whether there are any questions. No questions.

Reading of the results.

Products

- Breed Improvement: a decrease in registrations; we will have to do a closer follow-up to make sure breeders do their registrations more regularly;
- Breed Promotion: one (1) less trip to Finland in 2016 and increase in the numbers of ads sold in the Review;
- Administration: \$10,000 grant received from the New Brunswick Government for the organization of the AGM in this province;
- Loss realized in investments, due to a book entry made during mid-year transfer. More secure investments, and greater services from our financial planners. Included in the line item Investments is a revenue from TAG (ST Genetics), obtained from the \$1 per dose of semen sold in Canada agreement. No formal agreement has been signed yet concerning the sale of these doses, but we eventually wish to sign a contract with them.

Expenses

- Breed Improvement: as discussed, we will put a greater emphasis on farm visits, to catch up on registrations.

We end with a deficit of \$38,459, which includes the \$14,700 loss in investments (book entry mentioned above). Our expenses have decreased and, now that we know approximately when Holstein Canada's registration system will be ready, we will be able to plan and decide on immediate and future actions.

Questions:

ABRI License: it is specified that our contract ends at the end of 2017 and that we will be renegotiating another contract with them, which is typically a 3-year contract. Our needs may change in terms of services. ABRI's cost is listed under Breed Improvement and Administration.

François Beaudry highlights that the Board of Directors is well aware of the deficit and that Michel Boudreault is doing excellent work on getting our finances back on track.

11.0 NOMINATION OF AN AUDITOR FOR 2017

Attendees are asked whether they wish to nominate an auditor.

Robert Powell / Patrick Riordon

moves and seconds to nominate the same accounting firm as last year, that is BDO Canada, for the Financial Statements ending November 30, 2017.

CARRIED
2017-0300-009

12.0 BYLAWS CHANGES

Michel presents the major changes proposed as part of the Bylaws' rewrite. He explains the rationale behind new groupings, why some paragraphs have been removed or added, and gives some examples for ease of understanding.

He emphasizes that bylaws are an evolving process and that they have been rewritten for ease of reference, while keeping in mind the Association's welfare. Members have been able to consult the bylaws' rewrite and its major changes on our website.

It is asked whether there are any questions.

Philippe Marcoux congratulates François and Michel as well as the Board of Directors for the colossal work accomplished.

Jimmy McOuat also congratulates everyone for the work accomplished. Mr. McOuat asks whether it is possible to do transfers without sending in the official registrations, why it isn't possible to complete transfers electronically, and whether this option will be available in the future. Michel explains that we are working toward making this option available and, in the event of an emergency, advises to communicate with the Association.

It is asked how the definition of the Ayrshire breed was established. François Beaudry mentions that, as part of the World Federation Board Meeting held in South Africa in 2012, a request had been made to better define the Ayrshire breed and for Viking Genetics to respect a certain discipline with their Ayrshire designation. Following trips to Finland and discussions with Sweden and some other countries, it was found that several animals were now being designated as Viking Red (red breed). The WAF had to establish breed standards upon these countries' request. At the WAF Board Meeting in Wisconsin, these standards were accepted by the majority of the country members.

Mr. Robert Tolhurst and Mr. Peter Falk worked on tracing back genealogies and the origins of the Ayrshire breed, in order to be able to come up with these Ayrshire standards. By accepting these standards, we will improve the reliability of our genomic data.

Philippe Marcoux / Marcellin Therrien

moves and seconds that the bylaws' rewrite be accepted as presented, without having read it out in its entirety.

There is a call to vote.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED
By more than 2/3 of members present
2017-0302-010

Break: 1:05 p.m.

Resumption: 2:10 p.m.

We thank all of the partners who participated in our event and present the schedule of the remaining activities.

13.0 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution # 1

Considering that, at the recent WAC in the USA, word was passed the Ayrshire Breeders are looking to come back to Canada for a WAC;

Considering that this undertaking does take a lot of time and will benefit the Canadian Ayrshire cow and their breeders;

Considering that Ayrshire Canada is limited in resources;

Be it resolved that, when the Canadian WAC committee is formed, that it be a working committee. That the National office be the hub for the administration, but the leg work be the responsibility of the committee. Which would include but not be exclusive to: Plan itinerary, seek sponsorship, negotiate accommodations, and travel.

The intent is to have this event Breeder driven, not Association run. Since Canadian breeders ran a successful 1996 WAC. That more recently Canadian Ayrshire breeders have run successful international youth conferences, which have seen young Canadian breeders participate internationally, plus the technology available today is there to enable breeders from distances to work together. Breeders have the ability to make this a special event that will forever reflect the strengthening of the Canadian Ayrshire Cow and her breeder.

**Ayrshire Ontario
Seconded and carried**

The Board does not support this resolution.

Mary-Ellen Trueman points out that the Board does not support this resolution because of its wording and that it would be preferable to shorten it as such: Ayrshire Ontario is asking that a committee be formed to evaluate the possibility of hosting the 2024 WAC.

REJECTED

Resolution # 2

Whereas at Canadian shows, the 8 best results are compiled to win the Breeder and Exhibitor Banners;

Whereas at the WDE, the 6 best results are compiled to win the Breeder and Exhibitor Banners;

Whereas the number of head of cattle at shows is decreasing year after year;

Whereas there is a greater number of exhibitors with fewer head of cattle;

The Club Ayrshire des Appalaches proposes to change the number of best results compiled at Canadian shows from 8 to 6 to allow a greater number of exhibitors to enter the competition.

CLUB AYRSHIRE DES APPALACHES

The Board of Directors supports this resolution.

Jonathan Lemay / Frédéric Collard moves and seconds the adoption of this resolution.

Discussion:

Explanations are requested with regards to the procedures and regulations. Yves specifies that, for the Royal and the Dairy Supreme, the number is eight (8). However, at several regional shows, the number is ten (10) and show regulations have to be complied with.

There is a call to vote.

This resolution is:

CARRIED BY MAJORITY
2017-0302-011

It is specified that show organizers will be informed of this resolution.

Resolution # 3

Whereas it is important to feature the best Ayrshire animals at the Royal in Toronto;

Whereas the Dairy Supreme Show takes place after the Royal registration deadline;

It is proposed by the Club Ayrshire de Bedford/St-Hyacinthe that animals having placed first and second in each class at the Dairy Supreme be eligible for regular registration fees to enter the Royal in Toronto. The Club Ayrshire de Bedford/St-Hyacinthe is thus asking Ayrshire Québec to forward this proposition to Ayrshire Canada.

CLUB AYRSHIRE DE BEDFORD/ST-HYACINTHE

The Board of Directors supports this resolution.

Andrew Shufelt / Christian Bilodeau moves and seconds this resolution.

Discussion:

It is pointed out that, last year, this resolution had been refused by the Royal organizers, but a new request shall be made again. It is mentioned that Assist Expo is now used by the Royal and, as such, the work should be easier.

There is a call to vote.

This resolution is:

CARRIED BY MAJORITY
2017-0302-012

Resolution # 4

Whereas it is important to show our appreciation for the improvements made;

Whereas efforts were made by the Royal at its 2016 edition with regards to the wood shavings' quality, the show ring's location, and the logistics' improvement during the Ayrshire show;

It is proposed by the Club Ayrshire de Bedford/St-Hyacinthe to send a congratulatory letter to the Royal in Toronto. The Club Ayrshire de Bedford/St-Hyacinthe is thus asking Ayrshire Québec to forward this proposition to Ayrshire Canada.

CLUB AYRSHIRE DE BEDFORD/ST-HYACINTHE

The Board of Directors supports this resolution.

Claude Larocque / Mario Lacerte moves and seconds the adoption of this resolution.

Discussion. No discussion.

There is a call to vote.

This resolution is:

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED
2017-0302-013

Resolution # 5

Whereas it is important to have an All-Canadian Contest featuring strong participation and credibility;

It is proposed by the Club Ayrshire de Bedford/St-Hyacinthe that Ayrshire Canada's Breed Improvement Committee review the current All-Canadian formula. The Club Ayrshire de Bedford/St-Hyacinthe is thus asking Ayrshire Québec to forward this proposition to Ayrshire Canada.

CLUB AYRSHIRE DE BEDFORD/ST-HYACINTHE

The Board of Directors supports this resolution.

Richard Lagacé / Andrew Shufelt moves and seconds the adoption of this resolution.

Discussion.

Richard Lagacé explains that, for several years now, photos have been digital and photoshopped, and the judging is done based on these photos, so animals appear almost perfect. It is asked whether our formula could be updated taking into consideration this reality.

There is a call to vote.

This resolution is:

CARRIED BY MAJORITY
2017-0302-014

Resolution # 6

The Show Committee is asking Ayrshire Québec to forward the following resolution to Ayrshire Canada: "Ayrshire Canada is asked to not feature a Non-Milking Senior Yearling class at the RAWF Show".

SHOW COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors supports this resolution.

Jonathan Lemay / Jonathan Lagacé moves and seconds the adoption of this resolution.

Discussion:

Doug Evans mentions that the U.S. Ayrshire Association also made the decision of withdrawing this class, which was successful for them.

Florent Foley believes that, by adopting this resolution, the number of heads of cattle would decrease at the Royal.

Richard Lagacé believes that we need to update ourselves and bring ourselves closer to the dairy industry reality, and make a decision reflecting this.

It is asked that this resolution also apply to the Dairy Supreme. It is specified that this request has already been made to the Dairy Supreme.

There is a call to vote.

This resolution is:

CARRIED BY MAJORITY
2017-0302-015

Resolution # 7

Whereas animal judging shows represent showcasing opportunities to promote the breed;

Whereas to reach the purebred status, the number of generations differs from one breed to another, and from one country to another;

Whereas to properly represent the Canadian Ayrshire breed at our agricultural exhibition shows;

The Show Committee is asking that the percentage status of exhibited animals be equal or superior to 87% to properly represent the Ayrshire breed at animal judging shows.

SHOW COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors supports this resolution if it is amended to include the word "Ayrshire" in "exhibited animals": the Show Committee is asking that the percentage status of exhibited Ayrshire animals be equal or superior to 87% to properly represent the Ayrshire breed at animal judging shows.

Jonathan Lemay / Christian Bilodeau moves and seconds the adoption of this resolution.

Discussion:

Jamie McOuat mentions that this has already been discussed in the past. He specifies that Holsteins at 75% are accepted and finds ridiculous that Ayrshire would demand 87%. Some nominations this year were below this percentage; what would happen with this new standard? Mario Lacerte explains that, in the Holstein breed, more than 3 generations are required to reach 75% and that, at Madison, the percentage required is 87%.

It is specified that the percentage should be 87.5% and that it isn't necessary to add the word "Ayrshire" to the last sentence, as, in the preceding paragraph, it is stated: "to properly represent the Canadian Ayrshire breed at our agricultural exhibition shows".

Alex Cumming says he is surprised by this discussion, since, in his mind, these activities are meant to bring people together and shouldn't exclude those who do crossbreeding and such.

There is a call to vote.

This resolution is:

CARRIED BY MAJORITY
2017-0302-016

Resolution # 8

Florent Foley proposes a motion:

Whereas there are a sufficient number of Ayrshire breeders in Canada, the United States, and other countries;

Whereas there are very good breeders capable of judging all of the Ayrshire shows;

I move that Ayrshire Canada remove all of the Holstein breeders' names from the official Ayrshire judging list and aspiring Ayrshire judging list.

It is asked whether someone would second this proposed motion. No seconder.

PROPOSED MOTION FALLS TO THE FLOOR

Resolution # 9

Jonathan Lagacé / Marie-Hélène Labrie moves and seconds to evaluate the impact of less than 30 days lactations on BCA's.

Jonathan Lagacé specifies that the goal of this resolution is to not penalize efficient herds that have a shorter calving interval. Ayrshire Canada could be a leader in this area and collaborate with other breeds and industry partners.

Marie-Hélène Labrie mentions that we are always asking more from breeders, and that this has to change.

Mario Lacerte asks to reassess the possibility of 365-day lactations instead of 305-day for calculations.

Pascal Lemire, who sits on CDN's Industry Standards Committee, mentions that they have had this discussion before concerning BCA's and that the problem lies with the animals declared dry with a less than 305-day lactation period and that could calve again within the same year. How do we not penalize these animals? He mentions that a cow loses 1 point every 3 days with regards to her BCA.

According to Jamie McOuat, we should be targeting fat kilograms, and not BCA's.

Richard Lagacé puts forward that we should update ourselves to the market and work with the newest technologies, and not rely so much on BCA's.

François Beaudry mentions that BCA's are simply comparisons between individuals and that they could be done using 280-day averages if we so wished.

Andrew Shufelt wonders about the importance of making a change, owing to the fact that we can choose and stop at any number of days we wish, and that BCA's are simply a working tool.

The impact having been assessed, there is no need to call for a vote.

Resolution # 10

Mary-Ellen Trueman emphasizes that the 2024 World Ayrshire Conference would be a great showcasing opportunity for the Canadian Ayrshire breed.

Andrew Shufelt / Jonathan Lemay moves and seconds that a committee be formed to organize the 2024 World Ayrshire Conference.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED
2017-0302-017

14.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

15.0 NOMINATION OF THE 2018 ROYAL AND DAIRY SUPREME JUDGES

It is asked to proceed to the nomination of the 2018 Royal and Dairy Supreme Judges.

Royal (most popular names suggested by voting exhibitors)

Rock Hébert and André Richard.

Dairy Supreme (most popular names suggested by voting exhibitors)

Neil Kittle and André Richard.

It is specified that, in the event of a conflict, the Dairy Supreme shall make the final decision, but, to this day, our choice has always been respected.

Vote for the 3rd name added on the voting ballot for the 2018 Royal Judge

Jonathan Lemay / Jonathan Lagacé moves and seconds André Gagné.

It is asked whether they are any other nominations. No other propositions.

Mr. André Gagné is chosen.

Vote for the 3rd name added on the voting ballot for the 2018 Dairy Supreme Judge

Richard Lagacé / Andrew Shufelt moves and seconds André Clavet.

Jamie McOuat / Jonathan Lemay moves and seconds Doug Evans.

It is asked whether they are any other nominations. No other propositions.

There is a call to vote, for the 2018 Dairy Supreme Judge: Mr. André Clavet is chosen.

16.0 NEW BUSINESS

Doug Evans takes the floor. Key points:

- He congratulates the Board of Directors for the Bylaws rewrite and states that the U.S. Ayrshire Association also accomplished this work previously;
- He thanks all of the Canadians who participated in the meetings and shows at the World Conference held in the U.S.;
- He congratulates all of the breeders present in Madison, more particularly Ferme Margot;
- He is thankful for the opportunity that was given to him of judging the 2016 Royal. Classes exhibited were impressive, and it was a very good show;
- He congratulates Mario Lacerte, breeder of the Grand Champion in Toronto;
- Same financial challenges in the U.S. Association;
- Loss of their President last year to cancer, as such he will be continuing this mandate;
- Haplotype : selection efforts to eliminate this defect;
- Increase in sexed semen;
- Polled gene: more and more requests made to Mr. Studer, asking for Semex to take this gene into consideration.

Mary-Ellen Trueman mentions that the New Brunswick Ayrshire Club wishes to thank all of the participants who attended the 2016 AGM. She invites people to participate to the Charlottetown Show held August 15, and the Judge will be Mr. Greg Edmunds, President of the World Ayrshire Federation.

François Beaudry thanks everyone for attending; the members' participation was truly appreciated. He thanks sponsors and the Bedford/St-Hyacinthe Ayrshire Club for their wonderful work.

17.0 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Hendrick Larouche / Mary-Ellen Trueman moves and seconds the adjournment of the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

CARRIED
2017-0302-018