Holstein Canada

2019/2020 Provincially Submitted

Non-Binding Resolutions

VOTING RESULTS

GENETICS:
1. Publication of Parent Averages [WITHDRAWN]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;

Be it 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.

2. 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;

Be it 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.

3. 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;

Be it 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.

4. 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;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada and Lactanet, complete a sixth module and add functionality to the Compass software to customize an index, making a mating program recommendations, sort bulls for the A2 gene, and identify matings that could result in undesirable haplotypes.

5. 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;

Be it 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.

CLASSIFICATION FEES

6. 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;

Be it 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.

AWARDS

7. 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;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada conduct a complete review and modernization of the criteria for the Master Breeder title to include profitability criteria.

8. 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;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada base Lifetime Production awards only on kilograms of fat and protein.

9. 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 Dec 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);

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada 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.

GOVERNANCE

10. 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;

Be it 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 board create a 3-year term for a non-quota holding member to be filled at the Board's discretion.

MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

11. 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;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada develop a strategic action plan to promote the reputation and values of Canadian genetics.

TOOLS

12. 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;

Be it 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.

13. 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;

Be it 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).

14. 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;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada develop selective mating software for its members.

OTHER

15. 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;

Be it 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.

16. 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;

Be it 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.

17. 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;

Be it 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.

18. 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;
- Whereas the inbreeding is increasing in the Holstein breed;

Be it 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.

19. 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;

Be it resolved that Holstein Canada works with Semex to diversify their genetic choices by placing more emphasis on young sires from Canadian lineage.

20. 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;

Be it 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.