

Dear RAAA members,

As the summer nears its end, we can see that the drought is lessening in many areas of the country and, at the very least, the heat of last summer didn't strike in that severity this year. With cattle prices remaining high, it's still a great time to be in the cattle business –especially in the great breed of Red Angus.

The 60th Annual Red Angus National Convention is quickly approaching on Sept. 11-13 in Lewistown, Mont. With that in mind, we want to inform you, as members, of some topics that will be covered at convention.

First, the Affiliate Grant Proposal system will be explained during the promotions committee meeting. The grant proposal system will replace the co-op cost-share program for state affiliate advertising and promotions. If you are unable to attend convention and you are involved with your state affiliate's promotional efforts, please be in contact with the national office after the convention to receive information about the new system.

Next, there is a proposal to amend the RAAA bylaws, Article IV & Article VIII as you were alerted to in the 30-day notice of the annual meeting. The suggested amendments would allow for a change of RAAA category system terminology.

The proposed amendments originated in the Strategic Planning Committee and were brought before the RAAA Board of Directors (BOD) in June. The following steps have been taken in this process:

- The Board voted to send the proposed amendments of the RAAA bylaws to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC).
- The CBC replied to the BOD and recommended language amendments to the RAAA bylaws.
- The BOD then voted to send that recommended language to the membership via the 30-day notice in order that a motion may be discussed during open session of the annual meeting to be held in Lewistown, Mont.
- The BOD voted to form a special committee made up of a representative from each of the following committees; Registration, Strategic Planning, Alliance and Marketing to recommend changes to the RAAA category system language.

Language suggested by the Special Committee is provided below for the RAAA membership to review.

The RAAA Board of Directors feels that input from informed members leads to a strong association. Please feel free to contact your board members with any questions, comments or concerns. We hope that if you haven't already made plans to attend the convention in Lewistown, you will do so right away. Our Montana hosts have a great convention planned!

Sincerely,

RAAA Board of Directors

## **RAAA nomenclature proposed changes**

**Purebred (100% AR – 87.5% AR)** – Presently categories 1A and 1B

Registration certificates will have the Red Angus percentages printed on them. Breeders will still have the ability to select what levels of Red Angus percentage that they wish to use.

**Purebred (100% AR – 87.5% AR with disqualifying characteristics such as: color, scurs, white, etc.)** - Presently Category 2

The present Category 2 cattle will also be at the Purebred level. The Red Angus percentage will be denoted, but disqualifying features such as scurs or horns, black hide color, white before the navel or above the underline, multiple sire group or lack weaning data will have these characteristics also denoted on the registration certificate.

**Red Angus Hybrid (Known parentage with known percentages)** - Presently Category 3

Red Angus Hybrid level can only be achieved with both parents being at the Purebred level allowing better genetically described cattle. Below are examples of how the Red Angus Hybrids could be achieved. The Red Angus Hybrids will be required to be Total Herd Reporting (THR) compliant and may exhibit scurs or horns, black hide color or white before the navel and above the underline. Percentages of known breed percentages will be printed on registration certificates.

- Derived from mating Purebred Red Angus with Purebred from another breed
  - Example: Purebred Red Angus sire x Purebred Simmental dam
  - Example: Purebred Charolais sire x Purebred Red Angus dam
- Defined as > 12.5% and < 87.5% Red Angus
  - If less than 12.5% Red Angus then the animal is defined as Purebred Simmental (Other Breed)
  - If greater than 87.5% Red Angus then the animal is defined as Purebred Red Angus
- Subsequent crosses of Hybrid may include:
  - Backcross to Purebred
    - Purebred Red Angus bull x Hybrid (Red Angus x Simmental) cow
    - Purebred Simmental bull x Hybrid (Red Angus x Simmental) cow
  - Hybrid to Hybrid mating:
    - Hybrid (Red Angus x Charolais) Bull x Hybrid (Red Angus x Charolais) cow

**Red Angus Crossbred (50% AR, 50% unknown breeding)** - Presently Category 3

The Red Angus Crossbred is derived from mating Purebred Red Angus to a non-registered animal. These cattle can be moved into the Purebred status once subsequent generations reach a minimum of 87.5% Red Angus. Red Angus Crossbreds are expected to be THR compliant but may have scurs or horns, black hide color, white before navel or above the underline or may have multiple sire.

These changes would still allow RAAA stakeholders who currently raise only 1A cattle the same opportunity to make mating decisions that maintain 100% Red Angus progeny. It will also maintain transparency to customers by communicating percentage Red Angus and simplify the selection process for Red Angus' commercial customers. Plus, Hybrid seedstock that are developed by RAAA members would be of equal value and genetically comparable to competitive hybrids developed by members of other breed associations.

RAAA is a member of World Angus Secretariat. This organization provides a standardized code of practice for Angus associations across the globe. In these standards, Angus genetics must be tracked within the herdbooks of member associations. Therefore, the Purebred percentages of Red Angus would not be rounded up to 100%, even if they are 99.99%. The RAAA FCCP program is recognized by USDA because we are members of World Angus Secretariat.