

***For Immediate Release***  
**Ayrshire Breeders' Association**

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**US AYRSHIRE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

COLUMBUS, OH – The US Ayrshire Breeders' Association Board of Directors and Committees met in Columbus, Ohio December 1-3. Over 40 Ayrshire enthusiasts participated in some or all of the weekend activities.

In the directors' meeting, great care was spent addressing ideas, concerns and plans for the future. The ABA is projected for a small net profit in 2017; and a positive budget for 2018 was approved.

A presentation was made on a newly identified haplotype (AH<sub>2</sub>) affecting early embryonic loss which results when a carrier of the mutation is mated to another carrier. Details of the presentation will be printed in the January/February *Ayrshire Digest*.

In an effort to simplify the registration process, the rules for identification and registering ET progeny were updated. The complete rules are available at [usayrshire.com](http://usayrshire.com) under the 'News' section.

There was in-depth discussion on indexes, including how to read and understand the US Ayrshire system as a composite, weighted ranking of specific traits to be utilized as a tool. The formula will be reviewed professionally in 2018 for potential updates for the Breed Improvement Committee to consider.

A goal was set for 2018 to genomic test more Ayrshire females to gain genetic reliability. The ABA is making genomic test awards available for anyone who would like to purchase them for that special person that has everything, as show awards, etc. Contact the ABA office for this information.

The ABA published three new promotional brochures that are available upon request for breeders to use at events to promote Ayrshires and how they fit into today's dairy industry. Additional promotion projects are underway and will be revealed this spring.

The World Ayrshire Event Sale at World Dairy Expo will undergo some changes for 2018. We will be working with Jersey Marketing Service so Ayrshire consignments will be stalled with the other protein breeds in the sale tent for increased breed and sale promotion. The commission will be 15%.

There is work being done behind the scenes with some other dairy breeds to gain efficiencies. The ABA is excited about this progress, although slow at times, and will report to the membership as news is available.

The Board of Directors reopened discussion about the World Ayrshire Federation resolution of September 2016. The Board addressed the public letter released in January 2017 that was intended to inform our breeders and members of the US Ayrshire Breeders' Association herdbook policies. We also reviewed the historical information and data recently provided by Per Falk that was used as the basis of the resolution. The Board admits it was an emotional discussion and hasty decision to release the letter in January 2017. The salutation did not reflect our intended audience, and we regret any misunderstandings. The US Ayrshire Breeders' Association fully accepts the resolution that passed during the World Ayrshire Federation meeting. However, after lengthy discussion, the Board feels it is in the ABA's best interest to continue with the current Herdbook policies that govern our registration process, which is fully compliant with the by-laws of the World Ayrshire Federation. It is the Board's

ardent desire that all Ayrshire breeders can work together and strive to build a bigger and brighter future for our wonderful Ayrshire cow!

The work of the ABA Board of Directors and committees is ongoing. As progress is made throughout the year, announcements will be made and presentations given at the upcoming National Ayrshire Convention to be held June 27-30, 2018, in Branson, MO.