American Brahman Breeders Association

Research & Breed Improvement Committee Meeting Agenda

May 16, 2025, 10:00 AM CST
L'Auberge Resort and Casino, Bluebonnet/Magnolia Room
Lake Charles, LA

Todd Schindler called the meeting to order at 10:00 am CST.

Present
Todd Schindler
Rodney Roberson
Mark Forgason
Corey Ladner
Johnny Jeffcoat

Staff
Paul Maulsby
Allison Hajny

Guests
David Miller
Luke Neumayr

Rodney Roberson moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Forgason and carried unanimously.

The first item of discussion was the hiring of a new performance field representative. Paul Maulsby confirmed that previous roadblocks had been cleared and that he would proceed with the hiring process.

Next, the committee discussed DNA parentage verification. While the current level of testing meets industry standards, there are occasional cases where multiple potential sires are identified. In such instances, members may contact Allison Hajny to request higher-resolution testing for more definitive results.

The committee also reviewed the status of funding previously earmarked for Dr. Gill's work on the horn/poll gene project. Paul Maulsby confirmed the project is ready to proceed and that the association is awaiting an invoice from Texas A&M to move forward.

Additional discussion included gathering information for performance programs in the upcoming year. This includes the E.A.R. Program for purebred Brahman cattle and the possibility of expanding to include F1s. They also reviewed the bull development program. Mr. Schindler encouraged breeders to view the bull test not as a way to sell lower-performing bulls but as a tool to identify and retain potential herd sires through meaningful performance data.

Mr. Schindler informed the committee that the requirement to include a weaning weight for carcass scan data to be used in EPD calculations was implemented to encourage breeders to

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collect weaning weights. However, this has resulted in many animals—despite being scanned—being excluded from EPD evaluations because their weaning weights were not recorded.

A motion was made by Rodney Roberson to eliminate the requirement for a recorded weaning weight in order for carcass scan data to be used in EPD calculations. The motion was seconded by Johnny Jeffcoat and carried.

Todd Schindler addressed the next item, noting that while ABBA currently has a yield grade EPD, its usefulness is questionable. Unlike most EPDs, where higher or lower values indicate genetic advantage or disadvantage, the current yield grade EPD can be misleading—meaning the "best" value might actually represent a less desirable animal. He pointed out that most major U.S. breeds have already discontinued this EPD, and if ABBA chooses to retain it, a new and more effective method of calculation should be considered.

Rodney Roberson moved to remove the yield grade from the EPD panels. The motion was seconded by Johnny Jeffcoat and carried.

With no further business, Rodney Roberson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Forgason and carried. The meeting was adjourned.

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