American Brahman Breeders Association

Research and Breed Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2025, 4:00 PM

GoToMeeting

Todd Schindler called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

Present
Todd Sschindler
Rodney Roberson
Adelyn Allen
Jake Dixon
Mark Forgason
Corey Ladner
Wes Schneider

Staff
Paul Maulsby
Iridiana Ibarra
Dr. Mark Allan
Allison Hajny

A motion was made by Jake Dixon to approve the minutes from the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Wes Schneider, and the motion carried.

Paul Maulsby provided a comprehensive update on genomic partnerships with Neogen and Zoetis, noting that bi-weekly meetings are being held to enhance DNA testing protocols and improve EPD accuracy. He reported that the DigitalBeef software platform will be replaced by 701X beginning in August, with free access for members and improved interface capabilities. Dr. Mark Allan has been engaged as a consultant to build confidence in DNA profiles and EPD systems through technical analysis. He also noted that the field representative position is being considered as a hybrid model due to budget constraints resulting from unexpected legal fees.

Mr. Maulsby explained that a $7,000 check was approved for Dr. Gill's research project at Texas A&M, noting that proper university processing protocols must be followed for transparency. He further reported that the committee has $2,500 in its allocated budget available through December for additional research needs if required.

Allison Hajny presented registration and performance data reports, noting significant drop-offs in data collection beyond birth weights. She explained that 2023–2025 registration data reflects performance-only animals that are not captured in full registration numbers due to DNA

protocols. She further reported that ultrasound data uploads primarily occur during the summer months, with historical data dumps impacting year-over-year comparisons.

Jake Dixon raised concerns regarding enforcement of branding requirements prior to registration, noting that many breeders are registering calves without proper permanent identification. The committee agreed to add consideration of tattoo acceptance as a form of permanent identification to the agenda for the next meeting.

Paul Maulsby explained Basecamp that is mostly used for document storage and transparency, while noting the committee's preference for email communication. He reported that all committee materials, meeting minutes, and reports are being stored in a centralized documents and files system.

The committee discussed the Bull Development Program, noting that contact has been established with the new manager of the Graham Research Station, Mike English, regarding the potential continuation of the program, which was estimated at a 50/50 probability. The historical program operated from March through October with 200+ day tests compared to the typical 100-day industry standard and yielded mixed success rates at sale. Dr. Mark Allan emphasized the importance of contemporary groups and explained the limitations of centralized testing compared to evaluation within home herds. It was also noted that ST Genetics offers feed efficiency testing at $1.80 per pound of gain, with additional fees for ultrasound and entry. The committee further discussed university progeny testing programs as potentially more valuable for genetic evaluation than individual bull contests.

Dr. Allan outlined his background in genomic development and reported on his current work reviewing Neogen's evaluation protocols for American Brahman. He noted that multiple DNA laboratories, including Neogen and Zoetis, are being utilized to avoid dependency on a single provider, with opportunities for pricing leverage also discussed. He addressed issues related to contemporary grouping and accuracy, emphasizing the importance of complete data recording rather than selective submission.

The committee discussed expanding the Performance Breeder of the Year criteria beyond the current limited nominations. It was agreed to develop a narrative definition of performance breeder qualifications that would include data submission and DNA testing requirements.

The committee discussed potential agenda items for the next meeting, including consideration of ear tattoo acceptance as an identification method, exploration of university partnerships for steer and progeny testing programs, and development of ideas to stimulate data collection through accuracy-based incentives.

Wes Schneider made a motion to develop a narrative for the performance breeder of the year, seconded by Mark Forgason, motion carried.

With no new business, Wes Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jake Dixon, and the meeting was adjourned.