American Brahman Breeders Association

Show Committee Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2026, 4:00 PM CST

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Val Walters called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm CST.

Present

Val Walters
Pasquale Swaner
Lanna Hensgens
Natalie Herzog
Steve Hudgins
William Deaton
Jim Williams

Staff

Paul Maulsby
Iridiana Ibarra
Kylie Koster

Guests

4G Farms
Alyssa B
Ama
Amie Nunez
Ashley
B H
Benton England
Bethalan B
Blain Peerson
Bobby Terry
Brad Gonce
Brad Hinze
Burnett
Camren Meaux
Catherine Neumayr
Cattlewoman1
Ce Cattle
Chad Phillip
Christina Tucker
Christine
Clawrence
Clayton
Clyte Best
Coby
Dakota Smith
Dan Thomas
David Miller
David Raskosky
Debra
Derrick Smith
Djwilll
Dylan
Dylan Scheider
Ernie Dominguez
Es
Evan
Forestier Cattle Co
Grasyn Hinze
Guest
Haley Herzog
Heather Garner
Jake Dixon
Jaquito Perez
Jason Scanlan
Jennifer Parker
Jessica Hill
Jessica Worrell
Jh
Joe P
Josefina C Lecuna
Jp
Justin Garner
Jw
Kaleb
Kally Felcman-Anderson
Kassie
Kathy Baily
Katie K
Kaysee Schulte
Kim
Kristi Patterson
Kt
Kyle Fontenot
Lana
Laura
Laura Cooper
Lee Woods
Leslie Jennings
Lindsey
Logan Roper
Luann
Lw
Madison
Mandy
Margo Mansell
Martin Yrahan
Matt M
Mckenna
Mckenzie Heim
Michael Martin
Mike West
Miki Buford
Moreno
Nic
Nicole E. Wilson
Patricia Collins
Petrek
R. Bruce Van Meter
Rachel Cutrer
Ramsey Ranch
Raymond Doreck
Riptide Cattle
Rm
Rob
Rob Chamberlin
S. Watkins
Sally White
Sara
Savannah Allen

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Sbridges	Tim Everitt	V 6 Ranch
Skinny Brahman	Tmw Cattle	Victoria Lambert
Stacie Lee	Toro	Will Detering
Susan Perkins	Trademark Genetics, LLC	
T.Hargraves	Tyler Salazar	

Val Walters asked Iridiana Ibarra to read the minutes from the May 15, 2025 meeting.

A motion was made by Bill Deaton to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Lanna Hensgens, and the minutes were approved.

The committee first discussed approval of the Tulsa State Fair as an ABBA Point Show for September 2024. Committee members noted that the fair had completed the necessary preparations and requirements to become part of the official ABBA-sanctioned show circuit.

A motion was made by Natalie Herzog to recognize the Tulsa State Fair as an official ABBA point show beginning in September 2026. Seconded by Bill Deaton, motion carried unanimously.

The committee then transitioned into a lengthy discussion regarding group classes and scheduling flexibility at sanctioned shows. Members present emphasized the importance of maintaining group classes as a key component of Brahman shows because they showcase breeding consistency, predictability, and the strength of breeding programs rather than focusing solely on individual show animals.

Several members present, expressed that group classes remain one of the best ways to evaluate the overall quality and consistency of a breeding operation. The committee generally agreed that eliminating group classes would negatively impact the educational and promotional aspects of Brahman cattle exhibitions.

Discussion then shifted to concerns raised by show managers regarding congestion and cattle movement during shows, particularly at smaller events with limited facilities and tighter scheduling. Members referenced prior shows where allowing flexibility in the placement of group classes helped reduce congestion and improved the overall flow of the event.

Jim Williams noted that previous flexibility trials worked well and reduced bottlenecks within the show schedule. Other members stressed the importance of providing clear communication and a reasonable adjustment period so show management understands the flexibility allowed under the rule.

A motion was made by Jim Williams to maintain group classes as mandatory at sanctioned shows while allowing show management flexibility to schedule those classes at the beginning, middle, or end of the show based upon logistical needs. Seconded by Bill Deaton, motion carried.

Houston was specifically exempted from the flexible scheduling approach due to its unique and established show schedule.

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The committee agreed that additional communication and education regarding the scheduling flexibility would be important to avoid confusion among show managers and exhibitors.

The committee held an extensive discussion regarding awards presented at major ABBA-sanctioned shows, specifically focusing on concerns surrounding award quality, rising costs, and budget limitations.

Iridiana Ibarra provided information regarding the current cost of awards for Houston and noted that the association spent approximately $12,000 on bronzes alone for the Houston show this year and that was only for the 8 grand champions. Members discussed the historical use of higher-quality awards and bronzes and compared them to more recent resin-style awards that were implemented due to financial constraints.

Several members expressed disappointment in the reduction in award quality over recent years. Members emphasized that the awards presented at major ABBA events are symbolic and prestigious within the Brahman breed and should properly reflect the significance of the accomplishments being recognized.

The committee discussed the current arrangement with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which now covers class winner awards, reducing a significant portion of the previous financial burden carried by ABBA. However, division and grand champion awards remain the responsibility of the association and continue to represent a substantial expense.

Members emphasized the iconic nature and historical value of the Elkin Anaya bronzes and stated that exhibitors and breeders strongly associate those awards with the prestige of major ABBA shows.

Discussion also included the increasing financial impact created by the expansion from four divisions to seven divisions, which significantly increased the number of major awards required.

An idea was proposed of forming a fundraising effort or committee specifically dedicated to raising money for awards so that the association could potentially return to higher quality trophies without negatively affecting the association's operational budget.

Concerns were also raised regarding misconceptions about donations and sponsorships related to awards. Clarification was provided that prior sponsorship contributions from groups such as Brushy Creek and Elgin Breeding Services have always been specifically for the International Sale reception.

The committee agreed that alternative vendors and award sourcing options should continue to be explored to identify more affordable but still prestigious award options moving forward.

One of the lengthiest and most debated discussions of the meeting centered around weights and measures at ABBA shows.

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Members discussed growing concerns regarding unrealistic cattle weights and extremely high weight-per-day-of-age gains being observed in certain show cattle. Several members expressed concern that these trends negatively impact the reputation and credibility of the Brahman breed.

Other members noted that some cattle appear to be exhibiting unrealistic growth rates exceeding nine to eleven pounds per day of age, which they felt creates concerns both within and outside the breed.

Visitors and committee members alike stressed the importance of transparency and accountability, especially considering the financial investments junior exhibitors and breeders make in purchasing and preparing show cattle.

Discussion included historical use of weights and measures programs at ABBA events as well as practices used by other breeds, including the Brangus breed. Paul Maulsby referenced similar procedures used successfully in other associations and stated that the national show would be an appropriate starting point for implementation.

Members acknowledged that implementing a weights and measures program creates logistical and financial challenges, including scale rental costs estimated at approximately $4,000-$5,000 per show, staffing concerns, and volunteer shortages. Committee members discussed the need for additional volunteer involvement if the program is to be successfully implemented.

A motion was made by Lanna Hensgens to reinstate the weighing of the first two cattle divisions at the national show and that the weight-per-day-of-age data will be published and made available for informational purposes only. No animals will be disqualified under the initial implementation phase. Seconded by Pasquale Swaner, motion carried.

The committee emphasized that the purpose of the program is to provide transparency and encourage fair competition while allowing judges and exhibitors to evaluate the information at their own discretion. Several members indicated that this initial implementation may serve as a starting point for possible stricter standards or enforcement in the future should the program prove successful and beneficial.

The committee next discussed a proposal to establish Show Sire and Show Dam of the Year awards based on progeny points accumulated through ABBA show competition. The proposed concept would mirror existing show animal awards while recognizing the genetics behind successful progeny in both the red and gray divisions. Although several members expressed support for the concept itself, significant concerns were raised regarding the current state of ABBA point tracking systems and overall administrative accuracy.

Members noted that existing point systems are often delayed, incomplete, or difficult to maintain accurately. Members expressed concern that adding additional award programs before existing tracking issues are corrected could create further confusion and frustration.

Budget concerns were also discussed. Another member noted that even smaller recognition awards and plaques carry additional costs that can accumulate quickly.

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Following discussion, no formal motion was made to proceed with implementation of the award program. The committee generally agreed that improvements to current point tracking systems and budget review should occur before any additional awards are created.

The committee then discussed the upcoming 2027 DNA parent verification requirement and potential impacts on exhibitors and breeders.

Members reviewed concerns related to current scientific limitations involving compatibility between older STR DNA testing and newer SNP testing methods. It was noted that some animals may experience difficulty fully verifying parentage under the current testing structure despite being legitimate animals. Committee members clarified that the current five-year DNA plan primarily focuses on AI and ET calves rather than all show cattle.

Val Walters emphasized the importance of properly communicating upcoming DNA requirements to the membership, so breeders are not caught off guard. Members also expressed concern regarding the feasibility and expense associated with testing older genetics and semen samples. Some breeders indicated reluctance to submit expensive or limited semen inventory for additional DNA testing. The committee acknowledged that the DNA Committee is actively reviewing the matter and agreed that no formal Show Committee action was necessary at this time. The issue will continue to be monitored pending further guidance and clarification from the DNA Committee.

The final portion of the meeting involved extensive discussion surrounding judges' conduct, the frequency of judging assignments, judge eligibility, appointment transparency, and enforcement of existing policies.

Concerns were raised regarding the current code of conduct provision limiting judges to two ABBA shows within a six-month period. Members stated that some judges appeared to have exceeded those limits, resulting in repeated use of the same judges at multiple major events. A judge was specifically referenced during discussion, which prompted concerns regarding fairness, communication, and due process. The judge responded by expressing frustration regarding being publicly discussed without prior communication and stated that he had previously attempted to raise concerns regarding the process without receiving responses.

Committee members generally agreed that judge diversity and broader rotation are important to maintaining confidence and credibility within the show system.

Discussion then shifted to the judge nomination and assignment process. Several members questioned the current practice of providing shows with only a limited number of judge options, which some felt reduced transparency and limited flexibility for show management.

Members present advocated for making broader judge availability information accessible to shows so management can make more informed decisions and better ensure compliance with eligibility requirements.

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Val Walters explained portions of the current nomination and strike process and acknowledged that current procedures differ from past practices where assignments may have been more publicly visible.

Additional concerns were raised regarding the assignment of judges with limited experience judging Brahman cattle at major shows. Members questioned whether certain recent assignments reflected adequate breed-specific experience.

A member discussed difficulties associated with Digital Beef tracking and noted that assignment data is not always current or easily accessible to show managers.

Committee members debated possible enforcement mechanisms for judges who violate code of conduct limitations, including warnings, probationary measures, temporary removal, or other disciplinary approaches. However, no formal motions or enforcement actions were proposed during the meeting.

Several members emphasized that additional discussion time would be necessary to properly address the complexity of the issue. Members suggested scheduling additional meetings or extending future meeting times to fully develop solutions related to judging assignments, transparency, and enforcement.

No final resolution was reached regarding judges' conduct or appointment procedures during this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with several unresolved items remaining under continued review by the committee and associated committees.

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