

# What Kind of Member Are You?

Membership type impacts various aspects of your account and activity

BY JODI HOYNOSKI

**H**olstein Association USA boasts 18,000 adult members and 8,000 Junior members who all have a common interest in the great Holstein cow. Membership provides key benefits like reduced rates on registration fees, a network of progressive dairy producers, and a voice in the future direction of the association. Aside from that, your Association strives to provide superb customer service, timely information, products and services to help you, Holstein Association USA members, be more profitable.

When joining the Association, one question asked is, “what type of membership is right for you?”

Holstein Association USA offers a variety of options, which we will describe here. Though not all our members are breeding and registering cattle, the thing to always keep in mind is, when or if you register cattle, how do you want to do business with the Association? How do you want the ownership of your cattle listed on the registration paper? That will help you get thinking in the right direction.

Our membership application asks for a **prefix** you’d like to use when registering cattle you bred. If you don’t plan on registering Holsteins, you don’t need to have a prefix. We can take your membership, and you can add a prefix later if you need to.

## Individual

For the individual interested in Holstein cattle, an “Individual” membership is likely the one for you.

## Partnership

For those that have other Holstein business partners, the “Partnership” membership offers the entire group, including

all partners, to combine into one entity for a partnership membership. This is a common membership type used by a husband and wife, father and son, or siblings that farm and own cattle together. It is different from a “joint” account, which we will describe shortly.

## Corporate

For those farms or businesses that are incorporated, a “Corporate” membership is most appropriate. It gives the farm a consistent identity for the animals registered or any business done under that membership account.

## Associate

For those with religious beliefs prohibiting membership, the “Associate” type offers the membership benefits without actually becoming a member.

Other types of membership offered include:

Syndicate, Estate, Trust, Institution, and Limited Partnership.

If you feel one of those types may be most appropriate for

your situation, call Customer Service and they can walk you through the process.

**Did you know...  
Holstein Association USA offers  
40-year membership recognition  
annually at National Convention to  
those members who have reached  
40 years of continuous membership.  
Annually, over 100 members join  
this prestigious group.**



You may occasionally hear the term “**joint**” membership used, though it technically is not a membership type. Joint accounts are used in the Holstein USA database to link multiple accounts that have their own paid membership. Joint accounts do not pay any additional membership fees. Commonly, joint accounts will be set-up when friends own cattle together.

## Membership Dues

Annual Holstein Association USA membership dues are \$25. You pay when you join and are billed every December going forward to continue renewing your membership. If you join in July through October you only pay \$15 for the remainder of the year. Those joining in November or December pay \$25, which includes the remainder of the calendar year, plus the whole following year.

Holstein Association USA membership is not just for adults! **Junior membership** is available for a one-time fee of \$15. Youth can join at any age and it is good until their 21st birthday. For your Holstein friends, consider it as a unique and useful baby gift. Youth do not have to own Registered Holsteins to become a member.

Junior members get some perks when looking to join the adult association, too. If you are a Junior member, and you turn 21 from January to June, you are offered complimentary adult membership for the remainder of the year. If you turn 21 from July through December, you are offered a complimentary adult membership for the remainder of that year, and the entire following year. Following the complimentary offering, Junior members can join the adult association at the normal \$25 a year rate.

### The Real Deal

If you are registering Holstein cattle, Holstein Association USA's membership dues are a great deal. For a non-member to register a calf under three months of age, the cost is \$24. State and National members pay just \$8. With just a few registrations, the dues pay for themselves. Holstein Association USA encourages membership with your state association to maximize savings, and gain access to more services and networking offered at the state level.

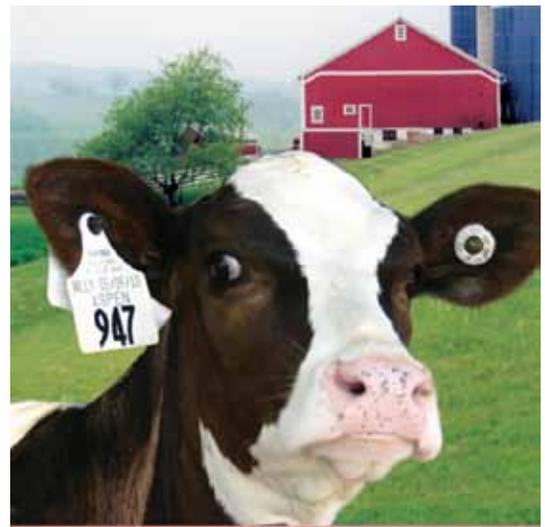
### How Membership Type Affects the Delegate Process

One key benefit of membership is having a voice in Association affairs. Holstein Association USA is governed by a board of directors, which are elected by delegates. A delegate election is held annually, where states are allotted delegate seats based on their "active" membership; the more active members a state has, the more delegates they are allowed. The delegates convene at National Holstein Convention each summer for the Annual Meeting where they vote on bylaw amendments, resolutions, and elect directors and officers.

We'll delve into the delegate process more in a future "Know Your Association" article, but the reason we bring this up in regards to membership types is that it somewhat impacts how you are counted towards your state's active membership numbers. I like to clearly define it by paid memberships. If you have a partnership or corporate membership, which includes multiple people, but only pays one membership, that is considered "one member." Also, when it comes to being nominated as a delegate, only one person can be nominated per membership. So if you are part of a partnership or corporate membership now, you might want to consider taking out an individual membership, too.

It is your Association, and we encourage all members to learn about the governance processes and become involved.

— Jodi Hoynoski is the State Association Liaison and Holstein Foundation Programs Manager



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