

Committee Work: Small Groups Discussing Big Issues

In this third in a series of articles, we'll describe the Holstein Association USA's committee structure

BY JODI HOYNOSKI

For anyone looking to get more involved in Holstein Association USA activities, a wide variety of committees are put together each year, which have input to the board of directors on the Association's future direction.

Committee rosters are established annually by the Holstein Association USA president. Each committee is typically chaired by a current Holstein USA board member, with a few additional board members serving on each committee. The bulk of the committees are made up of Holstein USA members with knowledge and interest in the committee area, representing various points of view and geographic diversity, who are open-minded thinkers. Committee members generally have term lengths to allow opportunities for new members to join and bring fresh ideas to the table.

Committees typically meet once a year, and will have additional conference calls if needed. Holstein USA covers the cost of committee members' attendance at meetings. Meetings are sometimes held in conjunction with board meetings or other industry events to save on travel time and costs.

Committees can make formal recommendations to the Holstein USA board of directors. The board takes all committee recommendations under serious consideration, but in the end, the board determines policy. The board of directors meets three times a year, in the spring, summer and fall.

Some committees are put together and meet every year. The president also has discretion to put together ad-hoc committees if so desired. Here's a run-down of Holstein Association USA's standing committees.

Audit Committee

Chairman: Director Boyd Schaufelberger, Illinois
The Audit Committee typically has a spring conference call, and a face-to-face meeting in the spring, in New England. At that meeting, they'll be joined by the Association's auditors and investment firm. The committee reviews Association finances and ensures our legal and fiduciary responsibilities are met.

Genetic Advancement Committee

Chairman: Director Jonathan Lamb, New York
The Genetic Advancement Committee is a required committee, according to Association bylaws. They monitor genetic progress of the Holstein breed, work to ensure continual advancement, and are responsible for overseeing the TPI® formula. The committee is typically made up of breeder members from throughout the country, a few A.I. industry representatives on a rotation amongst organizations, and a USDA representative.

International Marketing Committee

Chairman: Director Gayle Carson, Tennessee
With U.S. Registered Holsteins as the global leader in Holstein genetics, the International Marketing Committee works to maintain our respected status. They also discuss regulatory issues and help determine target market export areas for live cattle, semen and embryos.

Junior Advisory Committee (JAC)

Facilitator: Director Leroy Eggink, Iowa
The Junior Advisory Committee members contribute ideas and suggestions for improvement and expansion of Junior programs. A total of six youth members serve on the committee – four who represent their area and two at-large. Four adults are selected to represent four areas. When seats are open, applications for adults to serve on the committee are due March 15. Two or three board members also serve on the committee, and the staff liaison is Kelli Dunklee, Youth Specialist.

Legislative Affairs Committee

Chairman: Director Corey Geiger, Wisconsin
From milk marketing to animal health issues, the Legislative Affairs Committee takes the strong voice of our dairy producer members to Washington D.C. The committee's mission is to back policy that is beneficial to all our members, regardless of where they live or how many cows they milk. Committee members may make visits to Capitol Hill, or help engage grassroots support when needed.

Show Committee

Chairman: Director James Burdette, Pennsylvania
The Show Committee helps give direction to our National Shows, National Show policy, showing ethics, Judges Lists, Judges Conferences and other show-related topics. The committee generally meets once a year in the fall.

Type Advisory Committee

Chairman: Director James Burdette, Pennsylvania
The Type Committee works with the ideal Holstein cow

in mind. They help direct the breed in continual type improvement, which sometimes involves the Holstein USA Classification program.

Committees are a great opportunity to get more involved in the Association and let your voice be heard on major Association issues, and are a good way to become a part of your Association's decisions-making process.

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

Harvue Roy Frosty Classifies Excellent-97!

June 22, 2012 was a very special day for the crew at Duckett Holsteins in Rudolph, Wis., when a Holstein Association USA classifier nominated Harvue Roy Frosty to be classified Excellent-97, the most elite score that can be given to a U.S Registered Holstein cow. Six days later, two additional classifiers visited the farm and Frosty's new classification score became official. It is Holstein Association USA policy that any time a cow is nominated for a score of 95 points or higher, she must be re-scored within 30 days by two additional classifiers. At least two of the three classifiers must agree before the score becomes official.

Owned by Jim and Nancy Junemann, Mike and Julie Duckett, and Dr. Scott Armbrust, Frosty is the first Holstein cow in the United States to classify EX-97 since the fall of 2004, when both Shoremar S Alicia-ET and Gaike Highlight Tamara both were bestowed the score. Mike Duckett purchased her as a two-year-old from the Hardesty family in Berryville, Va., in partnership with Mark Butz and Rick and Dan Reuter. They knew she was a special young cow from

the beginning, classifying Very Good-89 with an Excellent udder at two years and ten months of age. She received the maximum score of EX-92 during her second lactation, scored EX-95 as a five year old, and EX-96 the next year. On this most recent classification, Frosty scored the maximum trait score of 50 for Stature, Body Depth, Dairy Form, Fore Udder Attachment, Rear Udder Height and Rear Udder Width.

"We're very excited about Frosty scoring 97," said Duckett. "When you think back at cows you've seen over the years that have scored 97, they are few and far between. This is a very special time for us."

A daughter of Roylane Jordan-ET EX-95, out of Harvue Sam Heidi EX-93 DOM, Frosty has four more generations of Very Good cows behind that. She is no stranger to the showing, first coming into the spotlight on the colored shavings in 2007, when she was named Intermediate and Reserve Grand Champion at the International Holstein Show in Madison, Wis. After taking a year off, she was back in 2009, taking home Grand Champion honors, and again the following year in 2010.

Not only does she excel in her physical conformation, Frosty is an outstanding milk producer. Her best record, as a five year old, is 44,710 pounds of milk in 365 days, with 5.0 percent fat and 2.8 percent protein. She calved again this past April and is doing well. She is currently open, and the partnership will decide whether they will breed her back or put her on a flush program later this fall. Visit the Duckett Holsteins web site for more information about Frosty, at www.holsteinworld.com/duckett.

