



Senepol Cattle Breeders Association

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March 5, 2008

Dear Senepol Breeders & Friends,

At the last SCBA board meeting, held Feb. 14-16, 2008 in Pascagoula, Mississippi, the Board had a chance to visit the site of SCBA's upcoming 31st Annual Convention to be held June 26-28, 2008. Since the University of Georgia will no longer be providing data analysis after 2008, one of the main items on the meeting's agenda was the presentation of three proposals to handle the calculations of the Senepol breed EPDs in the future.

Dr. Joseph Massey of Brangus International gave his presentation Thursday evening offering to calculate the EPDs using the U. of Georgia data analysis system, and also a program to register calves etc., similar to the program Mr. Reid Wilson now provides to SCBA. The Board requested a cost for only providing the EPD data analysis.

Friday morning we met with Dr. Robert Williams of a proposed non-profit organization to be called "National Beef Center" spear headed by the Charolais Breed Association. The goal is to get as many Breed Associations working together under one non-profit organization, The National Beef Center, to share resources such as the U. of Georgia data analysis system, multi-breed evaluations, cross bred EPDs, marker assisted selections using DNA and ultra sound, and animal health related objectives, to mention a few objectives, but at the same time maintain the independence of each breed association. As a non-profit, the National Beef Center may be eligible for Federal & State Grants. The Charolais Association will host a conference in Kansas City Feb. 26-27th to review the objectives of National Beef Center and then plan an organizational meeting within sixty days.

SCBA wrote a letter to Dr. Williams thanking him for his presentation and invitation to attend the Kansas City meeting, stating that we would skip the Kansas City meeting but are interested in learning more about the organizational meeting.

Friday afternoon we met with Mr. Bill Bowman of Angus Genetics. Angus Genetics has already leased the U. of Georgia's data analysis program and is prepared to calculate EPD calculations for SCBA. In order to provide a cost they need access to SCBA's data stored with the U. of Georgia. The Board agreed to grant permission to Dr Bertrand of the U. of Georgia to authorize the three presenters access to SCBA data. We look forward to a cost shortly but will not rush into a decision, since the U. of Georgia has already agreed to calculate EPDs for SCBA in 2008, and SCBA would like some feedback from its member breeders.

Dr. John & Lucretia DeGroot and their committee are doing everything possible to make the 31st Annual Convention interesting and educational. We plan to visit two Senepol ranches via charter buses on Thursday and Friday, with lunch at the ranches, and a Senepol heifer sale on Friday at Dr. DeGroot's ranch. We plan to have someone there from Bovigen to discuss DNA for tenderness and other traits, and also ultra sound testing for carcass evaluation. Maybe by then we will be ready to sign an agreement with one of the three presenters, mentioned above, and have our new "partner" discuss with us ways we may improve the evaluation of our breed by providing better information for the improved selection of our breeding genetics by using EPDs, DNAs, ultra sound, in addition to our standard selection critique of fertility, heat tolerance, conformation, docility etc. Isn't the cattle genetic business easy – all you have to do is evaluate all this information and make a decision. But that decision becomes more and more important as the consumer demands a more predictable and tender beef product, which is more and more in competition with other types of meats and food products in general. We need to utilize as much information as possible in selecting within the Senepol breed to provide tender beef at a reasonable cost to the consumer.

I look forward to seeing you at the 31st Annual Convention. Please take a moment to review page 9 for hotel information and feel free to contact Lisa or me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Hans Lawaetz

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hans Lawaetz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Hans Lawaetz