



Senepol Cattle Breeders Association

P.O. Box 429 • O'Fallon, IL 62269 • 1-800-SENEPOL • FAX (240) 233-0020

February 16, 2009

Dear Senepol Breeders and Friends,

As we start the New Year I wish we would all stop to appreciate the many good things in our lives and look forward in a positive manner to face the difficult world financial situation we face today.

After seeing the inauguration of President Barack Obama on TV I felt we were witnessing the beginning of a new direction that I hope will lead to a more peaceful world.

The SCBA Board of Directors, at its' November 6 & 7th, 2008 meeting in Kansas City, MO modified the Whole Herd Reporting (WHR) Rules & Regulations for the year 2009 by dividing the Fullblood/Purebred (F/P) Senepols into one category and the % Senepol into a separate category. The Rules also now includes "volume price discounts" to individuals and "country associations" that enroll many cattle and a provision for breeders "to get caught up in the SCBA WHR program" by providing a reduced fee of \$5.00 per animal per generation, available until December 31, 2009, for dams and their calves not registered or in the SCBA WHR since 2001. This will allow some Senepol breeders a chance to now get their F/P or % Senepol cattle enrolled into WHR for 2010 at a reduced cost.

While at the meeting the Board members also had a chance to visit the Angus Genetics, Inc. (AGI) Headquarters and visit with Mr. Bill Bowman, Chief Operating Officer of AGI, and Dr. Sally Northcutt, Genetic Research Director of AGI. We discussed at length the "pros" of having the Senepol herds in the WHR program with their performance data in order to provide the most accurate EPDs (Estimated Progeny Difference). The "new standard bearer" for selecting breeding cattle for your herd is EPDs, which is a calculated number based on performance data from all the calves in your herd, and many other herds (sometimes with Sires related to your Sire, and probably from a different environment and/ or Country) for Birth Weight (WT), Weaning Wt., Yearling Wt. and other traits. For the Senepol breed to be competitive with other cattle breeds today, we need the most accurate (%) EPDs possible, which means data from as many total herds and countries as possible. Please note the 2008 SIRE SUMMARY in the October Senepol World issue which listed the EPDs for the leading Sires in the Breed.

When your F/P Senepol herd is enrolled in the SCBA WHR program, providing performance data on all the calves in that contemporary group (weighed at the same time with birthdates within 90 days) all your registration certificates will include EPDs. In our discussions with Dr. Northcutt she strongly indicated that she and AGI this spring would begin the process of developing the calculations necessary to provide Crossbred EPDs for the Senepol breed through a multi-breed analysis.

If your Senepol herd is not in the SCBA WHR program you may still register and transfer their calves, at a fee, and the registration certifies will not include EPDs, ratios and adjusted weights.

The next SCBA Board meeting will be held in Atlanta, Ga. March 13 & 14, 2009. Please begin to make your plans to attend the 32nd SCBA Annual Convention June 25-26, 2009 on St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, the "home of the founding herds" and for a great vacation and learning experience.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hans Lawaetz".

Hans Lawaetz
President, SCBA