

EUROPEAN ABERDEEN-ANGUS SECRETARIAT

CODE OF PRACTICE

Proposal 28/10/2016

Aberdeen-Angus Portugal – Breeders Association

(Paulo Costa – Breed Secretary)

1. AIM

To assist in the sharing of Aberdeen-Angus information between European Aberdeen-Angus Societies/Associations.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Provide activities at which European Aberdeen-Angus Secretariat (EAAS) members may share information on matters affecting the breed nationally and across the continent.
- 2) Maintain the purity of Aberdeen-Angus seedstock genetics.
- 3) Standardize information, requirements and procedures to exchange genetics (e.g. parentage testing, genetic condition, AI/ET) between EAAS members.
- 4) Develop cooperation to evaluate or have shared information about genetic evaluation.
- 5) Develop cooperation to monitor/eradicate genetic defects and health conditions.
- 6) Develop cooperation to the development of certified Angus beef schemes to enhance industry's and consumer awareness.
- 7) Support the introduction of the breed and development of Herd Books in European countries.

OPERATING POLICY:

The European Aberdeen-Angus Secretariat makes recommendations but does not set policy for member Societies/Associations, taking into account National, EU and non EU countries legislation.

2. SHARING OF INFORMATION

2.1 The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society (Scotland) maintains a permanent Secretariat for the EAAS.

2.2 The EAAS meets every two years with the host country determined at the conclusion of each European Aberdeen-Angus Forum. Nonetheless technical meetings and other activities may be booked.

2.3. After the establishment of the EAAS a new Society/Association becomes a member after the voting at the Secretariat Meeting.

2.4 The President and Secretary of the EAAS are provided by the Society/Association, which will host the next Meeting of the European Aberdeen-Angus Forum. The secretarial service includes all meeting arrangements, agenda preparation, minute taking and dissemination.

Additionally to the President and Secretary, shall be represented the President or Secretary of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society and the President or Secretary of the last Forum.

2.5 Standing orders for the conduct of meetings are:

- a) The ruling of the Chairman shall be final in all matters of order and practice.
- b) The meeting may adjourn and regulate its proceedings as it thinks fit.
- c) Each Society/Association represented at the Meeting shall have not more than three (3) Delegates and two (2) Observers at the meeting. Breeders from countries where there is not an Aberdeen-Angus Association and/or a Herd Book established may be accepted to participate as Observers.
- d) Irrespective of the above, each Society/Association shall have the right of one vote only, should any voting be necessary. Nonetheless, a Society/Association may have one (1) proxy vote from a member that cannot be represented. Such proxy must be signed by the board of the Society/Association and handed to the President before the meeting.
- e) Any decisions reached by the meeting shall be in the form of recommendations only to be referred back to the respective governing bodies represented.
- f) A Delegate, when addressing the meeting, is requested in each instance to preface his remarks by giving his name and Society/Association represented.
- g) Only information is forwarded to the World Angus Secretariat that has been approved by the governing body of the Society/Association concerned and forwarded by its Secretary.
- h) The President of the host Society/Association is the Chairman of the meeting.
- i) The Executive Officer of the host Society/Association acts as Secretary of the Meeting.

2.6 Members send copies of relevant information (e.g. annual journal and other publications) to the Secretariat for distribution to members.

3. PROTOCOLS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PURITY OF ANGUS SEED-STOCK GENETICS

3.1 Each EAAS member maintains a Herd/Pedigree Book in which all registered animals are derived from animals already registered in the Herd/Pedigree Book of that member or the Herd/Pedigree Book of another EAAS member organization or from cattle, which have been bred up from sources outside the Herd/Pedigree Book.

3.2 The Herd/Pedigree Books are to identify cattle, which have been bred up from sources outside the Herd/Pedigree Books.

3.3 No animal is permitted into the Herd/Pedigree Book if it has white skin above the underline, or on or in front of the navel scar for females, on or in front of the prepuce for bulls or on a leg or foot provided that an animal is ineligible for entry by reason only of the fact that it has a

birthmark or has white hair provided the skin underneath is black. White markings are permissible on females on the underline only behind the navel (including the udder), and on males limited to that part of the underline behind the prepuce excluding the scrotum.

3.4 All members to contact laboratories providing DNA typing services in their respective countries and recommend that they participate in the ISAG international comparison tests. Members to emphasize to these laboratories the desirability of eventually adopting a suitable international panel for DNA typing.

4. PROTOCOLS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF GENETIC INFORMATION

4.1 The Herd/Pedigree Book of each member is recognized by the other members within the limits of each member's rules, taking in to account the Aberdeen-Angus breed.

4.2 Each Herd/Pedigree Book registered animal has recorded at least a three generation pedigree demonstrating their lineage to other Herd/Pedigree Book registered animals.

4.3 For the export of live animals and semen a DNA certificate with profile and sire verification may be ordered by importing Herd/Pedigree Book. For embryos a DNA certificate and sire/dam verification of the service sire and a sire verification for the donor cow.

4.4 All members provide the Secretariat with a description of their requirements for entry of cattle into their Herd/Pedigree Book for dissemination to members.

4.5 Each Society/Association is aware of genetic conditions, therefore a Herd/Pedigree Book may require information if such animal has been tested if there is a chance to be a carrier.

4.7 Each Society/Association is to encourage performance recording of Angus cattle in a structured manner, including cross referencing the country of origin's Herd Book identification for all immigrant animals (including animals from which semen is imported) and providing electronic transfer of genetic evaluation information as required to enable accurate cross referencing of Angus genetics internationally and possibly later international genetic evaluation.

5. CERTIFIED ABERDEEN-ANGUS BEEF SCHEMES

All members should provide the Secretariat with a description of their specifications for dissemination to members, taking into account minimum of 50% and/or 100% Aberdeen-Angus genetics.

Societies/Associations that wish to implement a certified scheme should have the support of other members that have schemes operating.

6. ANGUS PROMOTION

5.1 The following Angus characteristics are stressed in promotional activities:

a) Ability to adapt to various climates as a pure breed or as an unequalled cross breed with Continental or other European breeds.

b) Genetic characteristics of high fertility rate and ease of calving.

c) Mothering ability which results in a high percentage calf crop weaned and excellent weight gains and weaning weights.

d) High quality, highly palatable meat at various stages of development that permit the breed to function efficiently to various end points and under various nutritional regimes.

e) In cross breeding programs, Angus contribute high quality meat without excessive fat with optimum weight gains, maximum efficiency of production which reflects high fertility, low maintenance cost and outstanding feed conversion.

5.2 Various groups of Societies/Associations located in different geographic areas have joint promotional programs.

5.3 Breed promotion takes a high priority in member Societies/Associations.

5.4 Members send promotional materials that they believe could be useful to other members to the World Angus Secretariat for distribution.

7. EUROPEAN ABERDEEN-ANGUS YOUTH EXCHANGE

6.1 Members in participating countries coordinate the exchangee's program in their country and provide an independent contact for the exchangees.

6.2 The exchangees are subject to a fairly stringent appraisal before being accepted as an exchangee.

6.3 The age range is 18 – 25 years.

6.4 The exchangee is responsible for arranging his/her own travel, visas etc., paying the fares to, from and within the country, and provides their own spending money. The host family provides food and accommodation.

6.5 Members in each country wishing to participate identify and arrange a number of their members who are willing to be host families to young people from another country who have an interest in Aberdeen-Angus cattle.

6.6 The duration of the exchange is a minimum of one (1) month, that can be delayed taking into consideration the will exchangee and the opportunity to be host by one or more families involved. This aspect of the Exchange program should be flexible.

6.7 The exchangee is not employed, so travels on a visitor's visa, but is expected to assist with stock/farm work on the host's property if/when required.

8. Membership fees

Taking into account cost of maintaining a permanent office and other costs involved the first meeting will determine and approve the respective fee(s).