



August 1st, 2016

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2016 European Angus Forum

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Venue:** The Delegate's meeting took place in the city of Angra do Heroísmo – Terceira island – Azores on the 22nd of May.
2. **Portugal - hosting country delegates:**
 - President – Luís Machado
 - Vice Presidents – João Mendonça and Luís Martins
 - Technical Council – Roland Winter and João Ferreira
 - Appointed Meeting Chairman – Paulo Costa (Breed Secretary)
3. **Delegates by country:**
 - **CZECH REPUBLIC** - Miroslav Vráblík and Vladimír Šašek
 - **DENMARK** – Soren Vester and Steffen Albrektsen
 - **ESTONIA** - Tanel-Taavi Bulitko, Reet Toi and Jane Mättik
 - **FINLAND** - Karoliina Kuisma
 - **GERMANY** – Eda Junk and Peter Junck
 - **IRELAND**
 - (Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association) - Louis Byrne and Noirin McHugh
 - (Irish Angus Cattle Society) - Aidan Moloney, Michael Horan
 - **SWEDEN** – Marie Mander
 - **UNITED KINGDOM** - Alex Sanger, Johnny Mackay.
4. **Observers**
 - England - Mary Hamnett
 - Germany – Thomas Hilgert
 - Ireland - Noirin McHugh and Leo McEnroe
 - Spain – António Bernal and Pedro Rivera

5. Secretariat meeting opening

Paulo Costa, Breed Secretary, was appointed to be the Chairman and welcomed all delegates and observers to the meeting.

The venue took place at Angra do Heroísmo city hall kindly made available by the Mayor, Mr. Álamo Meneses. The mayor had the opportunity to welcome all delegates visiting city, that is UNESCO World Heritage, and gave the best wishes for the agenda.



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As the agenda was presented the Chairman that additionally proposed that Dr. Noirin McHugh from Teagasc, invited by the Irish Aberdeen-Angus, would give the first presentation as it was technical.

The agenda and the proposal was approved unanimously.

6. Irish Beef Breeding Programme – Noirin McHugh – Teagasc

Dr. McHugh is a researcher working for Teagasc participating on the Irish Breeding Programme. The project aims to include genomics as a tool to enhance the accuracy level of importing economic traits using a multibreed genomic analysis. As result it can improve overall beef unit's production and productivity taking into account the breeds used on commercial herds under the ICBF recording system.

The programme is part of the Irish government Rural Development program.

Full presentation kindly made available as attachment.

7. Association and Society reports

7.1. Portugal – Paulo Costa

Over 1,300 breeding cows and 736 registrations in 2015 in a total of 86 pedigree breeders.

The breed now ranks 3rd place on the beef exotic breeds in Portugal.

The herd book registers both black and red cattle.

There is DNA profile and sire/dam verification according to the stud bye-laws

The genetic evaluation programme is being developed to work with Breedplan using the AACs – Pedigree Cattle Services.

The Association has developed a certified Aberdeen-Angus beef scheme under the EU legislation REG. (CE) No 1760/2000 for voluntary labelling – “ABERDEEN-ANGUS PORTUGAL – carne controlada” and has market 2,597 carcasses in 2015.

Genetic defects policy – no record yet of genetic defect but the Association acknowledges worldwide genetics and of known carry bulls especially for DD and single copy myostatin and thus it will put in place and survey on progeny born and registered in Portugal.

Taking into account constrains and opportunities in different areas Aberdeen-Angus Portugal considers that it is important to bring European counties and associations/societies to work closer and proposed the delegates the establishment of and European organization that has a permanent office at the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society as the home of the breed. A code of practice to be approved by the time of the WAF 2017 in the UK.

Full presentation made available as attached file.



7.2. Czech Republic – Miroslav Vráblik

Mr. Vráblik gave a short overview about the livestock production and breeding, where the Aberdeen-Angus places second place accounting to 19% of purebred registrations.

The performance recording is certified by ICAR and it collects both field and station records to produce EBVs and has the assistance of Agricultural Research Institute in Prague.

CZ continues to highlight the health status as free of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis.

Also the national eradication programs have stated certified as IBR free (18.553 farm out of 19.487)

The health status and genetics available as promoted the export of cattle to eastern countries.

There is a premium for beef under the “Czech Angus” label marketed to the best hotels, restaurants and steakhouses.

Full presentation kindly made available as attached file.

7.3. Ireland – Irish Angus Cattle Society – Aidan Moloney

The Society has currently 1,000 members and about 4,000 registrations yearly.

There is a premium for beef under the brand “Certified Irish Angus Beef” that is managed by the Irish Producers Group that is independent from the Society but pays a royalty to use it and complies with the specifications.

Mr. Moloney stated that the brand and the market has had a great impact developing the breed in Ireland. He added that all breeders Europe wide most keep on focusing about the breed traits and attention must be towards maintaining the world renowned eating quality of the beef. Issues like sustainability, carbon foot print, traceability and eating quality will become more important in the future and the Aberdeen-Angus breed can lead and have success.

Last, the Irish Angus Cattle Society agrees that European countries should be together in a formal sense.

7.4. Denmark – Soren Vester

Denmark maintains a high health standard which enables a strong export trade, namely to Portugal where Mr. Soren trusts have good red Angus genetics as witnessed during the herd tours.



The Angus beef trade mark is not owned by the breeders which limits the development of strategies to enhance the breed's noticeability favoring the Association and its aims.

Mr. Vester also pinpointed the need to preserve the breed's standards and natural traits such as its eating quality.

All cattle are both sire and dam verified.

The test station selects the best bulls, where some go to IA collection.

Finally it was highlighted that breeders have to take attention regarding white markings not conformed to the breed standards.

7.5. Sweden – Marie Mander

As attached you will find the presentation by Jens Fjelkne as assured by Mrs. Mander, accordingly to the agenda.

Finally Mrs. Mander took the opportunity to promote the Swedish Angus Association 70 year's celebration that will take place on 8 and 9th of July that will include farm visits and an elite heifer's auction.

7.6. Estonia - Tanel-Taavi Bulitko

The country has around 245,000 cattle heads and the Aberdeen-Angus breed accounts 22% of registrations build by imports from Germany, Denmark and the UK.

Evaluation program includes linear scoring. There are currently 341 members and most farms are on organic production system.

According to Mr. Bulitko 600 bulls has been already exported to Turkey and eastern countries.

Estonia has large areas for agricultural use, the dairy sector is facing a deep crisis due to lower prices paid on producers and thus is an opportunity for the beef sector to grow.

7.7. Germany – Peter Junck

In Germany there are two genotypes. The Aberdeen-Angus and the Germany Angus, where the latest have more breeders and cattle registered.

Mr. Junck detailed that the German Association would not be interested to participate on a European organization but Aberdeen-Angus breeders are.



7.8. Ireland – Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association – Louis Byrne

Mr. Byrne stressed the fact of the importance regarding the genetic evaluation and improvement as it is the case of the research work being developed by the ICBF and Tullymore station center.

Additionally, Mr. Byrne considers that the genomic project presented by Dr. McHugh is a new window of opportunity to add value to beef production and producers.

7.9. Finland - Karoliina Kuisma

Miss Kuisma was indicated to represent the country and endorsed the Chairman to present the thoughts of Breed Secretary Katri Strohecker.

It is import to provide sustainability to beef production and the Aberdeen-Angus breed is ideal.

The Finnish Association fully supports the establishment of and European organization.

7.10. United Kingdom – Johnny Mackey and Alex Sanger

The breed is the 1st native breed and number two over all beef breeds.

Aberdeen-Angus beef has premium but not all produced under the Certified Aberdeen-Angus Beef label and thus the Society needs to keep on reinforcing its integrity.

Sire verification is also implemented to all bulls going to sales.

About the European organization Mr. Mackey stated that the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society agrees to be the permanent office. Nonetheless, not comfortable to host both Aberdeen-Angus and Germany Angus organizations as it was pointed by Portugal as an Angus organization. The permanent office may result on costs and these have to be discussed with the future members and it happens with the World Angus Secretariat.

Another topic brought was the name of the organization as European Angus Secretariat may conflict with other organizations as the European Angus Association, so it needs to address properly.

The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society is willing to work on a code of practice based on the World Angus Secretariat.

Finally Mr. Alex Sanger, Chairman of Organizing Committee, made an updated on the program for the World Angus Forum 2017.





8. Proposal and voting to establish an European Organization

After the presentations, the Chairman formally presented the proposal as follows:

- The organization relates to Aberdeen-Angus breeders;
- The designation is such that does not get in conflict with established organizations;
- The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society (Scotland) is to maintain a permanent office;
- A code of practice proposal will be developed by the Aberdeen-Angus Portugal association and the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society to be discussed with delegate countries present at the EAF 2016 meeting;
- If approved on time, the organization will be formally presented at the Delegate's Meeting at the WAF- UK 2017.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the delegates.

9. Next European Angus Forum hosting country election

Finally on item no. 11 of the agenda, the Chairman remembered the meeting in Finland back in 2014 European Forum. During the election of the 2016 edition Portugal was pointed to be hosting country where Estonia would consider to host the 2018 European Forum.

Thus the Chairman asked if there were any other country/association to present a candidature.

Czech Republic was available to organize the next edition if Estonia was not prepared.

Mr. Bilitko confirmed that Estonia is honored and happy to organize and to prepare a program to showcase the Aberdeen-Angus genetics and the country, pointing June as the best month to host the event.

10. Secretariat meeting closing

No further to be discussed, the Chairman closed the meeting wishing all the best successes to the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society hosting the World Angus Forum in 2017 and all the support to Estonia on the 2018 European Angus Forum.

Attachments:

- AA_EAF_May2016 - Noirin McHugh
- 2016EAF-meeting-PT-Paulo Costa
- AA Portugalsko 2016-CZ-Miroslav Vrablik
- EAF 2016 Swedish Angus Association-Marie Mander