



Canadian Angus Association 2024 Convention, AGM and Board Meeting Highlights

More than 100 Angus enthusiasts gathered in Toronto, Ontario June 6–8 for the Canadian Angus Association (CAA) National Convention and Annual General Meeting. The Board of Directors met on June 5 and 6, and held an organizational meeting to plan their upcoming year on June 8. Highlights include:

- Ronnie Ford of Oyster Bed, PEI was elevated from the position of President Elect to President. Tom deWaal of Prince George, BC moved into the Past President position, and Greg Pugh of Edgerton, AB was chosen as President Elect. In addition, the Board welcomed Paula Cornish of Indian River, ON who replaces retiring director and Past President Graham MacLean of Watford, ON.
- CEO Myles Immerkar presented the 2023 audited financial statements at the AGM. He reported a successful year. The CAA posted a positive income of \$265,757 of revenue over expenses for the 2023 calendar year, taking on market challenges head on. He also reported 50,590 registrations, memberships increasing 2.5 percent over 2022 and totalling 2,646; and 18,638 transfers, an increase of 10 percent over 2022. The Association's annual report can be viewed online at <https://www.cdnangus.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023-Annual-Report.pdf>
- After announcing at the 2023 Convention that the CAA would explore the market value for Angus Central through an active market listing, no offers acceptable to the CAA were presented over the past 12 months due to the softer current commercial real estate market in the Calgary area, higher interest rates and CAA expectations. The CAA board is more comfortable with our firmed-up interest rates and business activity so Angus Central will be taken off the market at the expiry of the listing term and will remain our home for the foreseeable future. The CAA board will remain open minded to all opportunities that are presented in the future.
- The CAA board will explore a more aggressive strategy and options to further pay down long-term debt quicker providing the best return on investment on active revenue.
- The Canadian Angus Association's commitment to research was highlighted. In March, it was announced that Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) awarded \$3.8 million to the Canadian Angus Association to increase Canadian cattle producers' ability to make data-driven decisions based on genomics to economically benefit their commercial livestock operations. (View the press release at <https://rdar.ca/latest/press-releases/rdar-helps-deliver-38m-combined-investment-by-the-governments-of-alberta-and-canada-alberta-cattle-associations-and-telus-agriculture-into-bovine-genomics-aims-to-boost-producer-profitability>.) The investment will be used to develop a genetic selection tool to

equip producers with breeding data to select the best replacement heifers to improve their herds. On June 7, it was announced that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) will support the Canadian Angus Association on a four-year \$4.2 million project in collaboration with Holstein Canada to develop new long-term phenomic systems to collect information on traits that impact producer profitability, animal health and welfare, and environmental sustainability. (View the press release at www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2024/06/minister-macaulay-announces-support-to-advance-genetic-evaluation-of-canadian-cattle.html) These two projects are the largest research projects awarded to a Canadian breed association.

- Immerkar announced the launch of AngusWORKS, a white labelled form of TELUS Agriculture's ARM (formerly known as Herdtrax) farm management program. Later this year, CAA will launch AngusHOME, a new database program for managing the Canadian Angus Association herdbook. More information on both programs will be shared this summer.
- The CAA board moved to change the commercial and member transfer fee for under 30 days to the same fee to prevent market confusion. This is the same fee that existed between 2014 and 2022.
- At the Convention banquet, three awards were presented for 50 years of continuous CAA membership to Harprey Farms and Melmac Angus Farms of Ontario and to Justamere Farms of Saskatchewan.
- The board discussed delays in registrations caused by owners not parent verifying bulls before selling them and buyers being unable to register offspring until parentage testing is completed. The breeder is responsible for ensuring compliance with the parentage verification policy and if a cow is available and not tested, CAA has the right to suspend the cow until testing is completed. We will continue to remind members of their responsibilities.
- Effective immediately, metal identification tags are included in the ACE program. Participating members will have the option of selecting a metal or RFID tag for identification.
- Neogen informed the Association that they are running out of space to store DNA samples. CAA will be required to develop a sample storage policy and will be responsible for storage of samples both prior to testing and post-testing. CAA will bring the remaining tested samples to the office and will store them for two years in case re-testing is required. After two years, the samples will be destroyed. The CAA is currently reviewing the change of logistics and processes that this will involve and will communicate any future updates and changes that will be involved.
- The board's fall meeting, typically held in late September or early October will be held November 6 and 7 in Edmonton immediately preceding the National Show.
- CAA Past President (1996) Gary Harron was posthumously inducted into the Canadian Angus Hall of Fame.
- The Board of Directors made a surprise presentation to Betty Lou Scott of Upper Mount Thom, NS of a special lifetime achievement award in recognition of her nearly 50 years volunteering with the Nova Scotia and Maritime Angus Associations.

- The Certified Angus Beef Canadian Commitment to Excellence award was presented to Gilchrist Farms, Grant and Denise Gilchrist; Brad and Kristie Gilchrist; and Jess and Neil Froats of Lucknow, ON.
- The Ontario Angus Association arranged tours of western and eastern Ontario that included the Elora Beef research station, cattle displays and social time at Walkerbrae Farms, Kawartha Ethanol Plant and Drain Bros feedlot, cattle displays and social time at Whiskey Lane Livestock, which also included the second annual Verified Angus Barbecue Competition on Friday, June 7. The competition featured five teams that paired a barbecue pitmaster and a cattle producer or industry program representative that generously supplied the beef. A team of secret judges and attendees voted, and in a very close race, Team In it to Win It, comprised of Rusty's Smoke and Beefway (Gilchrist Farms), took home the first-place prize. A close second and the People's Choice winner was the Carnivore Cowboys made up of Mean Moe's BBQ and Heatherlea Farm Shoppe. Five teams competed in this year's event: finishing in second place was team Carnivore Cowboys, Heatherlea Farm Shoppe and Mean Moe's BBQ. In third place, team Keeping it Lit paired Ontario Harvest Farms and Stuttering John's Smokehouse. Finishing fourth is team La Chinas Con Gauchos, pairing Fancy Farm Girls and BBQ Worx, and in fifth place is team The Feast and the Furious, a pairing of Deacan Ridge Farms and Broken Antler BBQ.

To read the press release with more information, [click here](#)