

CDN Board of Directors Executive Summary – December 2012

On Thursday, December 20, 2012, the Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) Board of Directors met at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel near the Toronto airport. The following is a summary of recommendations and decisions stemming from that meeting.

- The CDN Board of Directors approved the minutes of its meetings held in conjunction with the 2012 Industry Forum and accepted the minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting for circulation to the members and delegates. As follow-up to those meetings, CDN management will implement the new service fee structure for genotyped privately owned males and provide extension information required for proper communication to Canadian breeders. An important detail associated with this new service structure is that all males must be registered in the breed association herdbook and genotyped with the 50K panel (or equivalent) prior to CDN releasing any genomic evaluation, whether the DNA was submitted by the bull owner or an A.I. organization.
- In addition to the new policies at CDN due to the open access to male genomic evaluations starting April 2013, the CDN Board also received a thorough update on the status of discussions in the United States relative to the transition of responsibilities for dairy cattle genetic evaluations from the federal government (USDA) to the Council for Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB), expected to be official by March 2013. This change in service delivery in the United States will mean that additional fees will have to be paid by Canadian breeders and A.I organizations in order to receive a US-based genomic evaluation such as a GTPI.
- In terms of new initiatives, the Board of Directors commended management for establishing two major agreements for the benefit of the organization and the industry in general. The first is an agreement with Pfizer Canada that provides direct financial support towards the genotyping of up to 2,800 Holstein bulls that already have an official progeny proof and LPI in Canada. The second initiative is an agreement between Holstein UK, Holstein Canada and CDN that provides a full portfolio of genotyping and genomic evaluation services for Holstein in the United Kingdom. In addition, the partners in the North American Genomics Consortium signed an agreement with Viking Genetics in Denmark for the exchange of genotypes for progeny proven Jersey bulls in an effort to increase the size of the reference population for Jersey genomic evaluations in Canada, United States and Denmark.
- After considering the past GEB recommendations regarding changes to LPI in all breeds, and the lengthy time frame required to finalize and introduce changes to the specific formula per se, the Board of Directors directed management to implement the October 2011 recommendation to halve the scale of LPI in all breeds while maintaining the level for the highest progeny proven bulls, effective as soon as April 2013. CDN will provide parallel listings for the December 2012 genetic evaluation release to each breed association for their respective input on the desired level of LPI to be attained by the highest progeny proven sire.

- The Board of Directors reviewed and approved the summary of actions and recommendations from the Genetic Evaluation Board meeting held in October 2012, including various enhancements effective the December 2012 release. These include an improved method for imputation of low density genotypes, a modified procedure for de-regressing bull proofs for the estimation of genomic evaluations, a change to create consistency in Reliability values for domestic and MACE evaluations for Indirect Herd Life, the release of the first official genomic evaluations for the Ayrshire breed, the introduction of Body Condition Score as a newly evaluated trait in all breeds, and the separation of Top Heifer by GPA LPI into two lists for those 9 months and older versus calves that are younger than 9 months. A key recommendation discussed in detail and supported by the Board was the importance of conducting research and developing methods to reduce potential biases in genetic and genomic evaluations for bulls not randomly used in Canadian dairy herds, including genomic young sires. Support was also given towards the ongoing research in the areas of mastitis resistance, hoof health and non-return rate semen fertility evaluations.
- Given the federal government announcement on December 7, 2012 to launch the Growing Forward 2 Programs effective April 1, 2013, the CDN Board of Directors received details related to five projects approved by the DairyGen Council for funding within the Dairy Research Cluster 2 initiative led by Dairy Farmers of Canada. If approved, the industry contribution through CDN of \$1 million over five years is eligible for up to \$3 million in matching support from AAFC. The Board of Directors approved the proposed projects for funding and also accepted the DairyGen recommendation to support another proposal conditional that it is accepted for matching support by NSERC.
- The Board reviewed and approved the summary of actions and recommendations from the Industry Standards Committee meeting held in November 2012, which included an updated Terms of Reference document and various topics to be addressed at its next meeting.
- As done annually, the CDN Board of Directors reviewed the membership and terms associated with members of the Genetic Evaluation Board (GEB), the DairyGen Council and the Industry Standards Committee. It was duly approved by the Board that all qualifying persons whose terms were completed at the end of 2012 would be reappointed for another term starting 2013. Outside of this decision, the Board approved the nomination from Canadian DHI that Ian Rumbles be substituted by Dr. Robert Moore on the DairyGen Council. The approved members of these CDN advisory committees for the year 2013 are appended to this summary with one producer appointment for the GEB yet to be named.
- The Board of Directors discussed correspondence received from the Canadian Goat Society and agreed to examine options for integrating the dairy goat sector into the structure and services provided by CDN. Management will consult with the key players involved with genetic improvement programs for dairy goats in Canada and prepare a proposal for future presentation to the Board of Directors.
- Financially, the Board of Directors reviewed the report of revenue and expenses for the 2012 Industry Forum held in Kelowna, British Columbia, which realized a net deficit of \$7,151 to be absorbed within the CDN budget. For the current CDN fiscal year, projections after eight months of activity show operational revenue up 0.5 percent and associated expenses down by 2.5 percent from budget. Therefore, the expected bottom line shows a net deficiency of approximately \$41,000 instead of the budgeted amount of \$80,000. The Proven Sire Genotyping Project with Pfizer Canada, which is new to Special Projects for the year, balances \$225,000 on both the revenue and expense side. Management presented a preliminary budget for 2013-2014 that includes the new service fee structure for genotyped bulls that are privately owned. The CDN Board agreed to aim for a neutral budget in terms of operational revenue and expenses, both estimated at nearly \$1.75M after allowing for growth in staff numbers.

- As the co-host for the 2013 Dairy Cattle Improvement Industry Forum, CIAQ announced that it will be take place at the Manoir Richelieu in Charlevoix, Quebec from September 16-18, 2013.
- The next CDN Board of Directors meetings will be held as follows:
 - ✓ Friday, March 22, 2013 at the Delta Hotel in Guelph, Ontario,
 - ✓ Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at Dairy Farmers of Canada, Montreal, Quebec
 - ✓ Monday, September 16, 2013 in Charlevoix, Quebec

For further clarification regarding the above decisions, please feel free to contact any member of the CDN Board of Directors or the management staff.

Canadian Dairy Network Advisory Committees for 2013

Genetic Evaluation Board (GEB)					
Name	Representation	Term	Name	Representation	Term
Brian Anderson	Ind. Alternate	1 yr.	Dr. Bethany Muir	Industry	1 yr.
Vacant	Producer	3 yrs.	Art Pruim	Producer	1 yr.
Dr. Jacques Chesnais	Technical	1 yr.	Mario Séguin	Industry	2 yrs.
Dr. Gerrit Kistemaker	Technical	2 yrs.	Dr. Flavio Schenkel	Tech. Alternate	1 yr.
Pierre Laliberté	Industry	1 yr.	Brian Van Doormaal	CDN	1 yr.
Dr. Filippo Miglior	Technical	1 yr.	Len Vis	Producer	2 yrs.
Dr. Robert Moore	Technical	2 yrs.	Dr. Bob Welper	Industry	2 yrs.

Dairy Cattle Genetics Research and Development Council (DairyGen)					
Name	Representation	Term	Name	Representation	Term
Chris Buchner	Producer	2 yrs.	Dr. Bethany Muir	Breeds	1 yr.
Nicolas Caron	A.I.	1 yr.	Dr. Graham Plastow	Research	3 yrs.
David Chalack	CDN Board	1 yr.	Jack Rodenburg	At Large	3 yrs.
Dr. Jacques Chesnais	A.I.	2 yrs.	Dr. Flavio Schenkel	Research	2 yrs.
Tom Hoogendoorn	DFC Board	1 yr.	Brian Van Doormaal	CDN	1 yr.
Dr. Jean-Paul Laforest	Research	3 yrs.	Cindy Whytock	Producer	1 yr.
Dr. Robert Moore	Canadian DHI	3 yrs.	Dr. Xin Zhao	Research	1 yr.

Industry Standards Committee (ISC)					
Name	Representation	Term	Name	Representation	Term
Peter Brand	Breeds	3 yrs.	Valérie Tremblay	Breeds	1 yr.
Richard Cantin	Canadian DHI	2 yrs.	Brian Van Doormaal	CDN	1 yr.
Mario Séguin	A.I.	1 yr.	Mike West	A.I.	2 yrs.
Étienne Tremblay	Canadian DHI	3 yrs.			