



Message from the TLBAA Board of Directors: Registration of Bull Calves Born January 1, 2019 And After

The Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America was organized in 1964 to collect, record, and preserve the pedigrees of Texas Longhorn cattle. A lot has changed in the 54 years of our existence, but our commitment to have the most credible and accurate registry has not.

Recently the TLBAA Board of Directors voted to start a parent verification program to help accomplish this goal. In no way is the program meant to harm anyone in the industry. Its intent is to provide breeders with confidence in the paperwork they receive from the TLBAA. As breeding becomes more scientific, the breed's capabilities have expanded. Breeders look to build predictability and add desirable traits to their programs based on research of pedigrees. As an association, we owe it to those breeders to make our registry as accurate as possible.

As breeders begin embracing this program, the TLBAA can start to take advantage of technology that is now available to us. Once a database is established, we will have the capability to begin examining EPD's, to identify markers for disease carriers and track inheritable genetic traits that make our Longhorns superior to other beef breeds. This science should allow us to capitalize on other markets within the beef industry. Per-

formance data from EPD's can help members expand lean beef programs and provide proof to skeptics from other breeds that our replacement heifers and breeding bulls can have an impact on any herd.

As you can see, parent verification is the first step for the TLBAA to more accurately certify and move our breed into a better standing in the beef industry. In coming weeks, more information regarding the process of collecting samples, how and where to send these samples, a list of exemptions (for animals with deceased parents and semen/embryo inventories), an appeals process, as well as a strategy for keeping the cost as affordable as possible will be communicated to the membership.

Any bull calf born January 1, 2019 and after, will be required to be parent verified to be eligible for registration. We encourage all members to participate in our voluntary parent verification system to start certifying more herds so they can begin taking advantage of the benefits offered through this program.

It is human nature for change to spur anxiety. It is the hope of the Board of Directors that the focus will change from a perceived burden to the protections and opportunities this new data will bring. TL