

Pine Tree Holstein Association

Annual Meeting, March 27, 2010

Spring Meadows Banquet Center, Gray, Maine

The 2010 Pine Tree Holstein Association Annual Meeting was called to order by President Chris Kimball at 10:20am. He welcomed all and thanked them for coming. The Secretary's report was accepted as printed on a motion by Pete Waterman and second by Jim Strout. The Treasurer's report was also in printed form and showed a net worth of \$44,537.72. Jim Davis commented that he felt the state show milk money seemed low and wanted all state show exhibitors to be sure to keep track of milk weights so the Association will get the money for all of the milk produced. This report was accepted on a motion by Blaine Moon and a second by Jim Strout.

Show/Breed Promotion Committee: Jim Strout gave the show report. The 2009 show had approximately 100 head and was judged by Bloyce Thompson. The 2010 show will be August 30, 2010 at Windsor Fairgrounds with Richard Landry from Quebec as the official judge. The committee also had scheduled a very successful barn meeting that was held during February vacation at Stoneyvale Farm in Exeter. He thanked the Fogler family for being gracious hosts and also our sponsors – CRI, Cargill, and Feed Commodities. Just-So Catering provided a wonderful lunch. Upon a motion from Blaine Moon and a second by Jim Davis, the report was accepted.

Sale: Chris Kimball reported for the sale committee. The committee had met back in January and discussed several options for having a state sale again in 2010. The figures did not appear to be advantageous for us to try to do one at this time. He asked for any suggestions from the group as to how to try to get a sale back up and going. The group decided to discuss it again for 2011.

Membership: Debbie Keene reported for the membership committee. We have 42 juniors and 88 active members with 162 total members. Bob Wilson, Holstein Association USA field representative asked for our unpaid list and would try to get some to renew their memberships.

Nominating Committee: Peter Waterman gave the nominating committee report. The current slate of officers includes: President – Chris Kimball, Vice President – Bill Bullard, Secretary/Treasurer – Debbie Keene, Directors – Blaine Moon and Heather Hall (terms expire 2010) and Jamie Strout (eligible for re-election) and Ron Simpson, Brian Rinehardt, and Lincoln Hawes (terms expire in 2011). The nominating committee asked that the group support the current slate with Chris Lewis and Justin Veazie replacing Blaine Moon and Heather Hall and Jamie Strout being re-elected to another term as director. On a motion by Peter Waterman and a second by Jim Davis, the slate was accepted.

Special Finance: Jim Strout and Duane Conant are working on getting a donation for 2010. Brigeen Farms offered to sell the donation at the Brigeen Barn Party on July 26, 2010.

NE Delegate Report: Pete Waterman gave the New England Convention report. The 2009 convention was held in New Hampshire. There was no sale. The convention started with farm tours to Stewart Farms, UNH, and Alt-Mor. He reported that Gordie Cook made a presentation of the Holstein Association USA price stabilization program designed to take the volatility out of milk pricing. There was an awards luncheon. Bill Putnam was the recipient of the NE Master Breeder award. A resolution was adopted that NE Holstein go on record as supporting the Holstein Association USA proposed price

stabilization program. March 30, 2010 there is a meeting scheduled in Burlington, VT with representatives from DFA, St. Albans Co-op, and Agri-Mart. Pete reported that at the January, 2010 New England Board meeting, the NE Association had \$173,243.97 in total finances, an increase of \$4000 from 2009. He announced that Linda Haggarty has changed jobs and is now an assistant to an administrator at a VT college. Massachusetts is scheduled to host the 2010 annual meeting. They had not yet decided on whether or not there would be a sale in conjunction with the meeting. There has been discussion on having a separate sale at ESE. On a motion by Jim Strout and second by Blaine Moon, the report was accepted.

Region 1 Meeting: Jim Davis attended the Region 1 meeting in New York on January 16, 2010. Chuck Worden gave the State of the Association report stating registrations are down 6%, transfers down 12%, but Holstein Complete enrollment has increased. Some of this was attributed to the economy. Gordie Cook reported on the Price Stabilization proposal Holstein Association USA is backing. There have been some changes since it started and will continue being tweaked to fit people's needs. A 5% surplus will decrease price. For those who maintain production levels you would get money from a pool and if production increased – you would lose. Pete Waterman is running for the Region 1 director position.

Bob Wilson report: Bob reported that business at Holstein Association USA saw an 8% increase in registrations in January, 6% in February, and 4% in March. Transfers are still down a bit. Classification is as busy as ever. Holstein Complete figures continue to increase. Bob utilizes Complete often to help get people caught up with Association business. He is willing to run a profile for any farm to see if Complete would be a good fit for your farm or not. If you classify at least once a year, it usually works as a benefit and the option to bill it monthly is a benefit as well. Geonomics – Bob reported that an animal needs to be a required cow on your classification to get a TPI – not an optional one on your scoring list or she won't get figures on that run. He reported that Holstein Association USA is working in Washington, DC on the price stabilization package. Farmers need some help – not sure what will come out of it but at least Holstein is trying to help farmers. The export market for animals is getting busy again and that has increased the need for registration papers on some animals helping to get some of the big herds involved. NY State is hosting a spring heifer sale on May 13, 2010 at Whitney Point. There will be a 15% commission on some of the top animals and 10% on some of the commercial heifers – no milking animals are being accepted. They may sell as many as 350. If anyone has some to sell, contact either Dave Rama or Patsy Gifford. He mentioned that Pakistan has needs for heifers but some concerns about funding. Also there are no boats available to move the animals. He explained that Holstein Association USA is not involved in exporting cattle. Some people are asking that Holstein get involved in marketing – he suggested that people talk to John Meyer if that is your wish. He reported on upgrading animals. They are all the same price - \$12.00. He likes to get the people to be national members first and later get them signed on as state members. He announced that Corey Geiger from Wisconsin is running for the at-large director position and that Peter Waterman is one of three running for the Region 1 position. Bob mentioned that at the Region 1 meeting there was some discussion on a judges list. Some names were left off the list and people are upset. NY asked that the list be delayed 1 year. Check Worden took it to the board but it was defeated. There will be 2 lists – a national list and a state/regional list. There will be reviews and workshops will be run. You will need to achieve a minimum score for your name to appear on the list.

Old Business: none brought up

New Business: Pete Waterman talked about his candidacy for the Region 1 director position. Mary Briggs asked that the group support Pete as the new director for Region 1. Pine Tree Holstein will send a letter to all delegates/alternates asking for support. Holstein Association USA will provide the

addresses. Also in new business, Debbie read a letter from Eastern States Exposition asking for sponsorship of a class award for \$35.00. On a motion from Blaine Moon and a second from Betsy Bullard, this carried. Chris Kimball reported that Ed Tyler from NY had called and is coordinating a tour in October and will be coming to Maine to visit some farms and some tourist sites. Billy Heath will be in Maine May 18-20 if anyone has a need for pictures. Contact Mary Briggs to get on the schedule. Chris Kimball told the group of an idea he has for milk bottles with the Pine Tree Holstein Association logo on them. He thought they could be used as show awards, thank you gifts, or for tour groups. He asked if there would be any interest in exploring this project. We will do some checking on prices and get back with the information before any decisions are made.

Youth Committee: Allison Moon and Michaela Davis gave the youth report. They reported that Dana Hartford had just given them a check for \$300 for use towards their activities. They have a large group of juniors planning to attend the Calf Summit at Cowtown the first weekend of April. Aryn Martin, Sarah Simpson, and Brittany Moon are on the senior quiz bowl team that will be competing at National Convention in June in Minnesota. The juniors will be having a semen sale at the Brigeen Barn Party. They are planning a fun day outing to a Sea Dogs baseball game on August 8, 2010. The new junior officers are: President – Michaela Davis, Vice President – Brittany Moon, Secretary – Aryn Martin, and Treasurer – Allison Moon.

Budget: The budget was presented in printed form. On a motion by Jim Strout and a second by Blaine Moon, it was approved as presented.

John Nutting: John Nutting spoke to the group regarding specifics of the tier support program sponsored by the State of Maine. It appears there will be \$2 million more to be collected from handling fees that originally anticipated. He explained a special bill was to be presented the following week to move the cap from May to March and raise it from \$17.5 to \$19.5 million.

Marc Comtois, Comestar Holsteins was the featured speaker.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Keene

Secretary/Treasurer