

# National Association Of Animal Breeders Conducts Annual Convention

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — In early August, the National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) conducted its annual meeting here at the Holiday Inn University Plaza.

Saturday morning's NAAB/NDHIA combined educational session was moderated by Dr. Martin Sieber, NAAB's international marketing director. Attendees learned about "Progress of Animal ID in the U.S.," presented by Neil Hammerschmidt, executive director, dairy herd services, Holstein Association USA, Brattleboro, Vt., and "Recent Advances in Reproductive Technology to Enhance Pregnancy Rates in AI" was presented by Dr. William Thatcher, Dept. Dairy and Poultry Science, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., whose work in this area is partially funded by NAAB research monies.

Next on the program was a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Paul Miller, NDHIA, about "Assessment of New DHIA." The four panelists included Dr. Denny Funk, chief genetics officer, ABS Global, DeForest, Wis.; Ryan Starkenburg, manager, herd advancement services, Holstein Association USA, Brattleboro, Vt.; Dr. George Wiggins, research geneticist, USDA-ARS, Beltsville, Md.; and Mark Witherspoon, manager, Mid-South DHIA, Springfield, Mo.

NAAB's Saturday afternoon business session began with Chairman Lloyd Ebersole's an-

nual address to the delegates. Ebersole reviewed NAAB's strategic plan established in 1996, which showed that plan not only to be a good blueprint for the past, but that NAAB is still on target for the future. He then highlighted key recommendations of the plan and actions taken, one of which was the hiring of a consultant in Washington, D.C. to deal with political issues in both Washington and internationally. Also, a market research committee has been appointed to coordinate domestic market research that will be useful to NAAB members in providing valuable information regarding the changing needs of the dairy and beef producers.

Dr. Gordon A. Doak, NAAB president, reported to delegates that total semen sales for 1999 increased 2.7 percent over 1998. Export unit sales in 1999 decreased 4.6 percent and the dollar value of these exports decreased 8.7 percent. The top ten countries ranked on unit sales are Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Canada, Italy, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Chile, Saudi Arabia, and France.

Doak highlighted some of the committee activities for the past year, including the Dairy Sire Evaluation Committee, International Marketing Committee, Information Processing Committee, Research Committee, and Technical Committee. He stated that efforts of the council on dairy cattle breeding to negotiate

unacceptable agreement with Cornell Research Foundation regarding their patent on test day model technology has not been very productive.

NAAB is working with the EU Competition Directorate regarding the German Animal Breeding Act that NAAB believes violates the community competition law.

Four directors were elected to serve on the NAAB board: Dr. Denny Funk, ABS Global, DeForest, Wis., who will fill the one-year unexpired term of Marc Van't Noordende and then be eligible to serve a three-year term; Gary Heckman, Genex/CRI, Shawano, Wis.; Lloyd Jungmann, Hawkeye Breeders Service, Adel, Iowa, serving his second three-year term; and Bill Ramsey, president on the board of directors of COBA/Select Sires, in Columbus, Ohio.

The NAAB delegates voted on and passed an amendment to the

bylaw, which waives the requirement for an NAAB regular member to have his principal office located in the U.S.

At the NAAB board reorganization meeting, Bob Holterman, Accelerated Genetics, was elected chairman; Doug Blair, Alta Genetics, vice-chairman; and Dr. Don Monke, Select Sires, third member of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Gordon Doak, NAAB president, presented Lloyd Ebersole with two plaques — one for his tenure on the board as a director and the other for his service as chairman. Doak also presented to Tom Lyon, a retiring board member a plaque for his service on the board since 1997.

Saturday evening NAAB delegates and guests enjoyed a banquet dinner at the hotel, followed by an awards program. Awardees from Accelerated Genetics included John Prissel, who received the 100,000-Cow Award;

David Herrmann, who received the 150,000 Cow Award; and William Sylla who was presented the 175,000 Cow Award. One awardee from Select Sires, Ray Reuble, was presented the 1,000,000 Unit Sales Award plaque.

Chairman Ebersole presented the Member Director Award for 2000 to Marvin Anderson, Accelerated Genetics, Baraboo, Wis. The Distinguished Service Award went to Roger Ripley, president and CEO, Accelerated Genetics, Baraboo, Wis. The Pioneer Award was presented to Bryce Weiker (retired) Noba, Inc., Tiffin, Ohio. The Research Award was presented to Dr. William Thatcher Department of Dairy and Poultry Science, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

NAAB's 2001 annual meeting will be Friday and Saturday, Aug. 3-4, at the Westin Crown Center Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.

## House Ag Committee Delays Markup Of Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House Agriculture committee on Wednesday postponed a scheduled mark-up of a bill that would slow the Environmental Protection Agency's review of thousands of pesticides for risks to children's health.

The action likely kills any chance of Congress this year adopting the legislation, which was backed by U.S. farm groups and the pesticide industry.

However, lobbyists said chances of

that are poor because Congress faces a heavy workload before it adjourns in early October ahead of the autumn elections.

The bill, sponsored by California Republican Richard Pombo and co-sponsored by more than 200 other members, would give chemical makers more time to produce information about the safety of their pesticides.

Under the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act, the EPA must review

some 9,000 pesticides to determine whether they pose a health risk for children. Critics say the agency has moved too quickly to phase out some of the most popular and widely used crop chemicals, based on computer models that do not include real-world data.

A 1999 study by the American Farm Bureau Federation estimated that a ban on organophosphates and related chemicals would slice U.S. total net farm income by \$1.8 billion annually.

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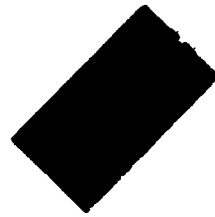
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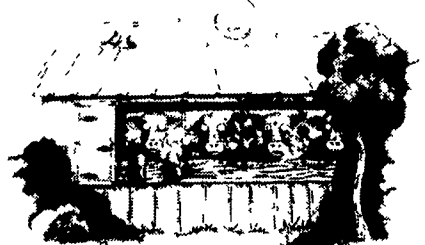


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