

CTLC Annual Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2023

In Attendance: Debbie Davis, Phil Sponenberg, Jim Rohl, Tim Aycock, David Karger, Ted Lusher, Frank Sharp

Call to Order -- President Debbie Davis called the meeting to order at 12:26 p.m. and gave a brief introduction and opening remarks to the members.

There were three main items to be discussed:

1) the CTLC website, 2) our current genetic / DNA research, and 3) gene banking

The discussion went directly to our new CTLC website. Debbie asked for any comments and suggestions. Ted mentioned advantages of adding a beef page, concentrating on Longhorn beef in our beef supply. This would contain information on the benefits of Longhorn beef over beef from other breeds. Ted also mentioned that he could not get the link to the DNA explanation to work. Tim said he would look for additional photos of bulls to add to the current list of bulls. He also mentioned the advantages of using a drop shipping service for marketing and sending CTLC merchandise. Regarding designs on T-shirts and sweatshirts, there would be an initial \$20 per month cost to use such a service, but this may only be necessary for the first month or two, as this cost is for the setup of the design itself. Ted mentioned a blue with black color combination he liked. Debbie asked for thoughts on the designs offered being primarily images (such as Longhorns) or simply designs with wording -- or both. Most comments were favorable for offering designs with both – image(s) and wording. Debbie suggested limiting the number of design choices for practicality purposes.

Debbie led the discussion about our ongoing DNA research project. Phase 1 of this project is completed. This establishes our DNA control group – DNA mapping of 30 animals that represent our historically correct, CTRL animals. There were a few DNA samples sent in where crossbreeding was present, but these animals and the crossbreeding were identified as such. Phase 2 will involve the DNA mapping of hybridized Longhorns as well as cattle from other breeds. Debbie mentioned the possibility of adding a DNA component that looked at the beef composition, identifying and distinguishing such things as protein, fat, omega 3s, conjugated linoleic acid, etc. The researchers wanted to wait until at least April to consider adding this beef analysis component to their project. The healthier Longhorn beef data could set our Longhorns apart as superior in the food industry. Phil cautioned about the use / interpretation of some of the genetic studies because it's possible that the genetic "predictors" of a trait or performance may not be realized in real life. Debbie asked for any available articles on beef analysis that could be used, such as studies on Criollo beef like the Argentinian study by Eileen Armstrong.

Phil led the discussion on gene banking. One gene bank, ARS National Animal Germplasm Program is overseen by the USDA. Even saving stem cells is possible, and would allow an animal to be cloned in the future. He mentioned the difficulty in accessing this government data, especially as an individual. If a group, like the CTLC, submitted DNA, then it would be easier for the CTLC to obtain the information. The USDA storage cost is minimal. Debbie added the private company Trans Ova Genetics

charges for sample submission DNA -- \$500 to send in a sample; \$150 per year for storage; and upwards to \$20,000 to have an animal cloned.

A vote was taken on the election of our officers. Debbie will remain as president/treasurer. Tim Aycock will remain as vice-president. And Frank Sharp will remain as secretary.

There was a short discussion on the distinction and purposes of our two groups, the CTRL and CTLC which was clarified by the following passages from our bylaws:

The Conservancy: Provides ongoing resources toward research and education pertaining to the conservation of the Texas Longhorn.

Purpose may include acquisition and transfer of property and fundraising and investing of money to support the organization's achievement of its mission. This public charity receives tax-deductible donations to fund research projects that will benefit members of the registry.

The Registry: Along with common goals of promoting the breed and protecting its purity, this trade organization recognizes breeders, and encourages development and maintenance of herd records of animals which will be registered with the organization. Donations made to an organization that promotes commercial trade are not tax-deductible.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51.