

August 13, 2018

Dear BAA Board of Directors,

We are writing on behalf of the Braunvieh Association of America exhibition committee. With all the information that has come to light during a recent protest of some specific animals Braunvieh status, as well as the BAA's interest in getting more DNA from Braunvieh cattle on record, we have come up with a plan that we feel will help address both issues. We brought the basic plan before the board at the annual meeting in Shawnee Oklahoma, and it was agreed for the committee to take the thoughts back and put a plan together for the Board of Directors to discuss. The plan that we have discussed would be a multi-phase plan.

The first phase would be:

Starting in the show season of Fall 2019/Spring 2020 that in order for any animal to be eligible to show or sale in any BAA sanctioned show or sale, that specific animal would have to have a DNA profile on file with the BAA. That doesn't mean that an animal has to be parent verified by DNA at this point. Simply put that you would have to submit a hair or blood sample of any animal prior to any show or sale that animal would be entered in. We feel this will give us a breed a larger DNA data base for improved genomically enhanced EPD's which have been sought after for quite some time now, as well as give us a DNA foundation for the second phase of this plan. The only sale that this would effect would be the National Braunvieh Sale. We would hope that other independent sales would follow suit but they would not be required to. The shows that this would effect would be ANY point show for the BAA as well as the Junior National Braunvieh Show.

The second phase would be:

Starting in the show season Fall 2020/Spring 2021 that in order for any animal to be eligible to show or sale in any BAA sanctioned show or sale, that specific animal would have be then be parent verified by DNA. Once this phase goes into effect, any animal over six (6) years of age, that has no living or stored parentage would be grandfathered as long as the animal in question for show or sale has a DNA profile on file for the future offspring of that animal to be verified back to.

Although some may see it as a “tax” on show or sale cattle, we feel that it will help us protect our Herd Book, which should be one of the most sacred parts of a breed that has been in existence longer than any other breed known to man. We feel with the added DNA information that cattle that go to show or sale will have a better value to them. Lets face it...if we can put cattle in a sale with everything else being equal and both are registered with the same registry, one is whatever the breeder turned in as far as DNA, the other is DNA verified to be what is on paper.... The verified animal HAS more value.

Feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark Wolken, Chairman
BAA Exhibition Committee

Committee members represented:

Jessica Johnston Bartley
Marilyn Brink
Donnie Johnson