



Breed Improvement Articles & Updates

Maternal Upgrading By-Law – Effects and Implications

Ottawa has recently approved the CLA maternal upgrading by-law. This has some implications for those members wishing to pursue hybrid seedstock markets, and participate in multi-breed genetic evaluation.

The new by-law states that Limousin females can be mated to a registered sire of another breed and the resulting calf can be registered/recorded. Previously, only calves produced by Limousin sires were eligible for registration.

There are several implications of this with the first being that documented Limousin females on the WHE system can be completely reported. As well, because the by-law requires a registered sire of another breed the pedigree and genetics of the resulting offspring can be documented.

A good example would be a producer who is using a Red Angus sire on first calf fullblood/purebred heifers, and selling halfblood heifers. This producer would now be able to register the offspring as halfbloods and market papered halfblood animals. By registering and transferring these offspring, the CLA and the producer have an established connection with users of Limousin influenced genetics and can provide support and other services such as feeder fax and marketing programs. As well, performance and pedigree information on these animals could be submitted through the WHR program and included in the genetic evaluation (EPDs).

Potential sires from other breeds will have to be recorded with the CLA and the application must be accompanied by a copy of their registration certificate from the herdbook of origin. Example: An Angus sire would require a copy of his Angus registration certificate. As well, these sires would be subject to additional requirements of the by-laws if required, such as having a DNA Type on file if used as a walking sire.

The by-law does not change the percentage of Limousin blood required to enter any of the upgraded herdbooks.

Changes to the CLA registry system are currently underway to enable handling of the data from animals of other breeds.