

ARTICLE I

Articles, Objects, Location

Section 1. Title.

The Association shall be known as the American Black Hereford Association and shall at all times be operated and conducted as a non-profit corporation in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas providing for such organizations and by which it shall acquire all such rights as granted to associations of this kind.

Section 2. Objects.

The purpose of the Association shall be to collect, record and preserve the pedigrees of Black Hereford cattle, to publish a breeding registry to be known as the American Black Hereford Registry and to stimulate and regulate any and all other matters such as may pertain to the history, breeding, exhibition, publicity, sale or preservation of this breed.

Section 3. Place of Business.

The principal place of business shall be State of Kansas, but its Members, Officers and the Executive Director may be residents of any state, territory or country and business may be carried on at any place convenient to such members or officials as may be participating.⁷

Section 4. Fiscal Year

The Associations Fiscal year shall run October 1- September 30.

ARTICLE II Members

Section 1. Members.

There shall be three classes of membership:

Life. Life members shall pay a one-time membership fee, as established by the Board of Directors, but shall not be required to pay any annual dues.

Annual. Annual Members shall pay annual dues to the Association, as established by the Board of Directors.

Junior. Junior Membership is available to anyone under 22 years of age, and shall pay the annual dues to the Association, as established by the Board of Directors. Junior Members have all of the rights of Annual Members, except they shall have no voting privileges.

Members may be individuals, partnerships or corporations.

As a condition of membership in the Association, each member shall agree to conform to and abide by the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Association, and amendments or modifications thereto, which may, from time to time, be adopted.

Application for membership may be made by submitting to the Association an application in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors, accompanied by the established membership fee.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to accept or reject application for membership, fix membership fees, and establish Rules and Regulations covering the rights and privileges of members, consistent with the provisions of these Bylaws.

Only Life and Annual Members that are Active Breeders shall be entitled to vote on any matter submitted to a vote of the Membership. Each Life and Annual Member shall have one (1) vote per HB and/or red female 12 months of age and under registered with the Association in the prior calendar year.⁸ Life and Annual Members may vote by absentee ballot for Directors but may not for other matters of consideration.⁴

As used in these Bylaws, the term “Active Breeder” shall mean those members who have registered one animal or more in one of the prior two completed fiscal years (October 1-September 30), and who are up to date on their membership fees.

Membership in the Association shall cease upon the death, resignation or expulsion of a member, except as may otherwise be provided in the Rules and Regulations of the Association. Membership is not transferable.

The Board of Directors may provide for the issuance of certificates evidencing membership in the Association.

Each member shall be entitled to designate, on forms provided by the Association, agents and representatives authorized to transact business with the Association and sign any documents on behalf of such member required by the Association, including but not limited to, registrations and transfers. The Association will also recognize as such an agent or representative, any individual or organization so designated by a Court of competent jurisdiction. Upon the death of a member, the Association shall recognize the authority of the duly designated personal representative or heirs of the deceased member to transact business with the Association with respect to animals registered in the name of the deceased member but shall not register any additional animals in the deceased member's name or under the deceased member's membership.

Section 2. Annual Membership Meetings

The regular annual meeting of the members shall be held at such time and place as may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors for the purpose of electing Directors and the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the meeting. Election of Directors may also occur with mail, electronic, or in person balloting as determined by the Board of Directors.⁵

Notice of the annual meeting shall be given by sending written notice by mail or e-mail stating the time and place of such meeting to each member's last known address as it appears on the association's records not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting.

Such Annual Meetings (or Special Meetings called pursuant to Section 3) shall be directed by the Board of Directors, and the members present shall conduct themselves in a peaceful and professional manner. The President may excuse any member from the meeting that disrupts the meeting without following proper procedures and without being respectful to the other members.⁹

Section 3. Special Membership Meetings.

Special meetings of the members may be held at such time and place as may be designated in the notice, whenever called in writing by direction of the President and pursuant to the notice provisions of Article II, Section 2.

Notice of each special meeting indicating briefly the object or objects thereof shall be given in the same manner as provided with respect to notice of annual meetings.

Section 4. Quorum and Proxy.

At any meeting of the members held in accordance with the foregoing provisions, the members attending such a meeting, present in person shall constitute a quorum of the members for all purposes unless the representation of a larger number should be required by law and, in that case, the representation so required shall constitute a quorum. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.¹⁰

ARTICLE III Directors

Section 1. Government.

The business and property of the Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors elected by the Life and Annual Members present at the annual membership meeting. Elections for the Board of Directors are for all vacant positions and the candidates with the most votes shall be declared elected to fill the vacancies. The term of office shall be from the time of election to the fifth regular annual membership meeting thereafter, on a staggered basis.

The Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) Active Breeders or representatives of Active Breeders as described below. Each Board Member shall serve a term of five (5) years. The term of office shall be from the time of the election to the fifth regular annual membership meeting thereafter.

Section 2. Candidacy.

A candidate for the Board of Directors must meet the following requirements on or before August 1st of the year the candidate desires to stand for election:

- Be an Active Breeder member in good standing, and:
 - (1) Be a performance breeder, and
 - (2) have been a member for at least one thousand ninety-five days (1095), and
 - (3) have been an Active Breeder for the past three (3) completed fiscal years consecutively at the time candidacy is declared.
- Or, be an employee and authorized signer of an Active Breeder member in good standing, and:
 - (1) the member represented must be a performance breeder, and
 - (2) an authorized signer of the member*. The member's authorized signer must be an employee for at least one thousand ninety-five days (1095) of the member,¹⁵ and
 - (3) the member must have been an Active Breeder for the past three (3) completed fiscal years consecutively at the time candidacy is declared.¹¹

Life and Annual Members wishing to run for the Board of Directors will notify the Association Secretary by August 1st of the year the candidate desires to stand for election. The Association Secretary will determine the eligibility of each candidate according to the criteria set out above and also determine that each candidate is current on all obligations owed to the Association. Only one representative from a Member may be on the Board of Directors at one-time.¹

*To be an authorized signer of an Active Breeder member in good standing, employee must complete the ABHA Authorized Signer form and submitted to the ABHA.¹⁶

**Becoming an authorized signer allows this representative full access to the member's digital beef for transfers, data input, registrations and any other business belonging to the member being represented as it pertains to digital beef to be conducted by the representative appointed by the member.¹⁷

Section 3. Vacancy.

If a Director, during his/her term of office shall resign from the Board of Directors, disperse his/her herd, cease to be an Active Breeder, cease to be an employee and authorized signer for an Active Breeder of Black Hereford cattle, or cease to be eligible to be a Director as stated above, the Board of Directors may, after appropriate notice to such Director, remove him/her from office and declare a vacancy. If a vacancy develops in the Board of Directors because of death, resignation, or action taken in accordance with the preceding paragraph, it may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 4. Rules and Regulations.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to establish and amend the Rules and Regulations for the conduct of the members of the Association and for the conduct of the affairs of the Association consistent with the provisions of these Bylaws.

Section 5. Amendment.

The ABHA Bylaws may be from time to time altered, amended or repealed, or new bylaws

adopted, by an affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors. The Members may also alter or amend the bylaws by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority and repeal the bylaws adopted by the board over the course of the year since the previous membership meeting by simple majority vote. When a member seeks to alter, amend, repeal, or adopt a new by-law, the suggested change must be submitted, in writing, in the form of a petition. The petition must contain the signatures of four (4) percent of the active breeders, as is recorded at the start of the fiscal year. The petition must be submitted to the Secretary or Executive Director no less than sixty days prior to an annual meeting or special meeting and must be distributed to the membership a minimum of 30 days prior to an annual meeting or special meeting.⁶

Section 6. Committees.

The President may, from time to time, appoint standing or special committees, which may include nonmembers of the Board of Directors. Standing or Special Committees appointed by the President shall be charged with and limited to such responsibilities as the Board of Directors shall set forth by resolution. All such appointments shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Annual and Regular Board Meetings.

An annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately following the annual members' meeting and no notice shall be required for any such regular meeting of the Board. At this meeting the Board shall proceed with the election of officers of the Association.

The Board, by rule, may provide for other regular meetings at stated times and places, of which no notice shall be required, however, the Board of Directors shall at least meet (personally or by conference call) quarterly.

Section 8. Special Board Meetings.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held whenever called by direction of the President.

Section 9. Quorum.

A majority of the number of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but if at any meeting of the Board there may be less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum shall be present.

Section 10. Expenses.

When the Directors meet for the transaction of Association business, their expenses incurred for such meetings may be paid from the funds of the Association, by decision of the Board of Directors. No Director shall receive compensation for service on the Board or as an Officer.¹²

Section 11. Action Without a Meeting.

Any action, which may be taken at a meeting of the Directors or of a committee, may be taken without a meeting, if consent in writing setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all of the members of the board or committee entitled to vote thereon.

Section 12. Removal of Officers of Directors.

If in the course of a normal elected term of office, an Officer or Director of the Association becomes unable to appropriately fulfill the duties and responsibilities of her/his position, or becomes so derelict in the performance of her/his duties and responsibilities as an Officer or Director of the American Black Hereford Association; or, becomes so involved in professional misconduct to the extent that continuance of her/his term as an Officer or Director of this Association could cause embarrassment, or jeopardize the reputation of this organization, or in any way impede the accomplishment of the Association's objectives; or if the Director breaches his fiduciary duty of loyalty (as Determined by the other Board Members), it is the duty of such an Officer or Director to resign her/his position as an Officer or Director of the Association.

Upon receipt of such resignation, the Board of Directors by majority vote will determine whether to accept the resignation and announce their decision to the general membership as soon as possible following their decision. If in the opinion of at least two (2) members of the Board of Directors, one of the conditions described above exists and a resignation has not been submitted to the Board, the Board Members may request a special meeting of the Board of Directors to investigate, discuss, or evaluate the issue. Upon a motion approved by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors present at such meeting, the Board of Directors may demand such a resignation.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1. Officers.

The Officers of the Association shall consist of the President, one or more Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and such other Officers as the Board of Directors deems necessary. Any officers except that of President may be held simultaneously by one person.

Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the Board's Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. The Board of Directors will elect the Officers of the Association at the first Board meeting after the annual meeting by nomination and secret ballot.

The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer do not need to be members of the Association or the Board.

Section 2. President.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and Members. He/she shall

see that the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Association are enforced. He/she shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Vice-President.

In the absence of the President, the Vice-Presidents, in order of their seniority, shall have the powers and shall perform the duties of the President, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep exact minutes of the Meetings of the Members and the Board of Directors; shall oversee the records of the Association; and execute all orders of the Board of Directors concerning matters pertaining to his/her office, as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the cash funds and securities of the Association; shall oversee the financial records of the Company; and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Compensation.

The Officers of the Association shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V

Discipline, Suspension, Expulsion

Section 1. Violations.

Whenever any members of the Association or any other person in interest shall represent to the Secretary of the Association, in writing, stating the facts upon which the complaint is based, that a member of this Association, or any other person who is a holder of a Registration Certificate issued by this Association, has engaged in misrepresentation or misconduct in connection with the breeding, showing, registration, purchase or sale of Black Hereford cattle, or has willfully violated the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of this Association. This issue of misconduct shall extend to other actions or activities that are harmful to, unprofessional, jeopardizes the reputation of, or is not in the best interest of the Association.¹³ The Secretary shall present such charge to the Board of Directors at a meeting or teleconference call scheduled for within one month from receiving the complaint. In the alternative, the Board of Directors by majority vote may bring such a complaint.¹³ The Board of Directors may develop rules determining what types of complaints fall under this treatment,² the proper procedures for governing these complaints, and the discipline associated with such complaint.¹³

Section 2. Hearing.

Upon receiving a complaint, the Board of Directors shall set a time and place for hearing the charge or charges against the member or holder of a Registration Certificate. The Board of Directors shall cause a written notice to be mailed to the last known address of the accused person at least thirty (30) days before the date of such hearing. The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing and the nature of the charges against the accused.

At the time and place set for the hearing, the accused shall have the opportunity, in person or by counsel, to be heard and to present evidence in his own behalf and to hear and refute evidence offered against him.

The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final and binding on all parties.

Section 3. Penalties.

If the Board of Directors by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority considers that the charges are sustained,¹⁴ it may suspend or expel such offender if a member of the Association, or impose such other appropriate penalties as it may decide and/or deprive the Member of the right to serve on the Board of Directors or of all privileges in the official Registry of the Association, including refusal to transfer any Registration Certificate issued by this Association and cancellation of any registration of any animal standing in the name of the accused person. The Board, in its discretion, may also suspend and hold in abeyance during the pendency of any complaint before it, the privileges of membership in the Association if the accused is a member of the Association, or the right to transfer any Registration Certificate, if the accused is not a member.

ARTICLE VI

Fees, Services and Charges

Section 1. Fee Changes.

All fees shall be established by the Board of Directors and are subject to change by the Board.

Section 2. Payment of Fees.

All fees shall be paid as provided by the Board of Directors, which may require payment in advance, accompanying requests for service.³

Section 3. Non-payment of Fees.

Non-payment of fees because of defective remittances shall be sufficient cause for: Withholding the processing of registrations or transfers.

Cancellation of registrations or transfers which have been processed but not paid for.

ARTICLE VII

Eligibility for Registration

Black Hereford animals of any age for which application for registration is made may be registered with the Association upon proof of compliance with the following requirements and those established by the Board of Directors:

Section 1. Percentage Bloodlines.

All bulls, females and steers for which application for registration is made shall be classified as 62.5% or greater registered Hereford, be black in color, and must be sired by a bull registered in the ABHA (including approved Hereford bulls). The remaining percentage must be registered Angus.

Section 2. Purebred Bloodlines.

Bulls and cows shall be classified as a purebred Black Hereford if they are 87.5% or greater registered Hereford, and black in color. The remaining percentage must be registered Angus.

Changes:

¹ Article III, Section 2 updated and ratified by membership 11/7/2019

² Article V, Section 1 updated and ratified by membership 11/7/2019

³ Article VI, Section 2 updated and ratified by membership 11/7/2019

⁴ Article III, Section 5 updated and ratified by board 8/24/2020

⁵ Article II, Section 2 updated and ratified by board 8/24/2020

⁶ Article II, Section 1 updated and ratified by board 8/24/2020

⁷ Article I, Section 3 updated and ratified by board 8/31/2021

⁸ Article II, Section 1 updated and ratified by board 8/31/2021

⁹ Article II, Section 2 updated and ratified by board 8/31/2021

¹⁰ Article II, Section 4 updated and ratified by board 8/31/2021

¹¹ Article III, Section 2 updated and ratified by board 8/31/2021

¹² Article III, Section 10 updated and ratified by board 8/31/2021

¹³ Article V, Section 1 updated and ratified by board 8/31/2021

¹⁴ Article V, Section 3 updated and ratified by board 8/31/2021

¹⁵ Article III, Section 2 updated and ratified by board 12/18/2023

¹⁶ Article III, Section 2 updated and ratified by board 12/18/2023

¹⁷ Article III, Section 2 updated and ratified by board 12/18/2023