

Fall 2025 AICA Board of Directors Meeting Recap

The AICA Board of Directors convened October 22-23rd in Kansas City, Missouri. Below are a list of items that AICA committees and board members took action upon in order to best represent its membership and advance the breed. Several members joined in-person and via Zoom, and all active members are encouraged to join future meetings.

Branded Beef Co-op

An update was given on recruitment of members or industry stakeholders that may be interested in participating in a Charolais Branded Beef Co-op. While some discussions had been promising, no members had committed as of the meeting date. The board voted to continue the consulting agreement of Yield Solutions until December 1st in order to give members an opportunity to participate.

USDA Live Animal Spec

An update was given on the industry adoption of the secondary Angus Live Animal Spec, in partnership with the Red Angus Association of America. AICA consultants have continued to work with RAAA staff in order to recruit more Angus branded programs to utilize this spec, which opens the door for Charolais-influenced “smoky” and “buckskin” cattle to meet the physical requirements for Angus branded programs that utilize the spec. Currently the potential program acceptance represents approximately 92% of the Charolais feeder calves produced annually. As acceptance in these programs grows, additional outreach to help these brands understand the financial impact of increasing red meat yield also creates added benefit for increasing Charolais demand.

Ranch 2 Retail

The Ranch 2 Retail group provided an update on outreach within the industry to establish supply chain function for Charolais-sired cattle. Costs of this consultancy were paused until we are closer to establishing one, although once the Nutritive Value Study is completed those aspects will be key in creating product differentiation.

Nutritive Value Project

Edacious provided an update on sampling of 67 head from the Profit Driver program, as well as samples from a breed to breed comparison totaling 80 head. These results were benchmarked by quality grade, yet indicated an advantage for several key consumer nutrients for Charolais-sired cattle. Additional plans were reported to sample another 300 from 3 locations utilizing different feedlot rations to provide a more complete analysis. Next steps include market concept testing, claim strategy development, and data utilization to publish this claims-as well as industry outreach.

Profit Driver Program

Staff provided an update of the 2025 Profit Driver Program, which is a member-sourced cattle feed out program that collects harvest records, feed efficiency, and other data points on calves sired by registered Charolais bulls. The board voted to fund the 2026 project, covering the data collection fees on up to 300 head. The 2026 project would begin with calves going into Hy Plains feedyard in December, contact Hadley Schotte to enroll.

BCHF Research Project

Autumn Scott provided an overview and request to fund a PhD thesis project at Texas A&M University regarding Bovine Congestive Heart Failure in the beef industry. The board agreed to fund a portion of the project, which will ascertain industry impact of the condition, heterozygosity/homozygosity of the risk alleles and resiliency markers in the Charolais breeding population, and to utilize Value Trace AI-cameras to identify physical attributes of BCHF.

Industry Relations

Over the last months industry consultants Rick Carlson & Jared Wareham have been utilized to communicate key narratives of the Angus LAS, the Power of Yield, Value Trace procurement opportunities, and other benefits of Charolais genetics directly to cattle feeders, packers and retailers through meetings and scheduled visits. The board adopted a 2026 plan to continue their work in promoting the breed while adding value to Charolais-sired cattle in 2026.

Bull Buyer Membership

As a result of the summer Long Range Committee planning calls, the committee discussed the benefits of establishing a bull buyer membership within AICA. A subcommittee was formed to investigate options for this effort.

AICA Field Staff

As one of 3 breed associations that still maintain a full-time, dedicated field staff, AICA fieldmen joined committee and board meetings so they could better communicate with members that they call on. In addition to association communication, this staff plays a pivotal role in seedstock marketing and updates were given on recent order buyer & auction market outreach strategies conducted this fall. It's key that members continue to support this by utilizing CPI advertising tools, which pay for half of the staffing costs of fieldmen. If

you are interested in learning more about the tools CPI provides to better promote your operation, contact your field staff member at <https://charolaisusa.com/about/about-aica/>

Long Range Planning

The board voted to accept the summary from the fall 2025 Long Range Planning zoom calls, which included membership discussions around key areas of growth and focus. Staff will utilize this feedback to establish plans, budgeting, and staffing prioritization to fill these key areas of need over the next 3 to 5 years. This summary will be posted on the website in the upcoming days. These calls, which were open to all active members, were the first of its kind effort to solicit the most input from the entire membership about the future of AICA and its planning.

Genomic Credit Program

The board voted to add \$30,000 to the already allotted \$70,000 for the 2025 AICA Genomic Credit Program. This program creates the lowest price breed association genomic testing, by offering discounts for members willing to contribute data in key areas of evaluation need-carcass ultrasound, foot structure, docility, mothering ability, calf vigor, feed intake and carcass records. The board also voted to initiate the 2026 program by allocating \$120,000 in funding.

New EPD Releases

The board discussed methods & processes to continue advancing new EPDs within the AICA evaluation, including the recent Docility EPD release. A motion was passed to add a half score option on the Docility scoring system for 1, 2 and 3 scoring in order to better characterize docile cattle in the AICA population. Discussion ensued around considering a research release phase for new traits, limiting the results to those that had contributed data for a designated period of time. Staff has budgeted for the costs of development of one new release in 2026, pending the appropriate amount of data be submitted.

Genomic Progeny Equivalents Project & Imputation Strategy

Staff presented a project to establish funding for a genomic progeny equivalent & accuracy metering unique to the Charolais evaluation. Additionally, a license to a necessary imputation software to allow for multiple lab providers was also approved.

Lifecycle Assessment Study

An early look at the data results from Kansas State University was provided in regards to a life cycle assessment study was provided to the board. This project will provide additional ability to model breed complementarity and systems heterosis benefits to using terminal

and maternal heterosis in updated 2025 financial frameworks. An extension of the Power of Yield Study, this project identified individual breed profitability across all recognized USDA MARC breeds for cow/calf, stock, and feedyard segments.

KIT-PINZ Validation

Updates were given on validation efforts for the KIT-PINZ gene, with an understanding that additional testing across the Charolais population of differing genetics was needed to ensure a reduced risk of false-positive and false-negative tests.

CPI-Charolais Publications

Staff provided an update on CPI activities, including focused bull buyer communication efforts in the special commercial editions of the Charolais Journal in October & January.

2026 AICA Hall of Fame Inductees

Troy & Veabea Thomas and Alan & Deb Vedvei were selected as the 2026 inductees into the AICA Hall of Fame. Troy & Veabea will be recognized in a special presentation at the National Western Stock Show, and Alan & Deb will be inducted at the spring board meeting. Action was also taken to establish a perpetual National Grand Champion Bull Trophy in honor of Troy Thomas.

National Show Dedicatee

Greg & Brenda Hubert were selected as the 57th National Show Dedicatees at the 2026 National Western Stock Show.

2026 AIJCA Junior National & Leadership Conference

The Kansas Junior Charolais Association will host the 2026 AIJCA Junior National in Hutchison, KS, to be held on June 20-26. The location area of College Station, Texas was announced as the 2026 VitaFerm CharFocus Youth Leadership Conference location.

www.charolaisusa.com

An overview of the new site launch was provided, including new functionality and breeder marketing options. Additional ideas for site evolution were also discussed, including a Power of Yield calculator, Life Cycle Assessment calculator, and addition of coat color genetics and heritability descriptions-including registered Charolais cattle that exhibit one or no dilution genes, and KIT-PINZ information.

Spring AICA Board Meeting Dates

The dates for the spring AICA Board Meeting were set for April 22nd & 23rd, to be held in Kansas City, Missouri.