

MEMORANDUM TO MEMBERSHIP

Re: Proposed By-Law Change – Removing Mandatory Membership

Dear Members,

At the Texas Wagyu Association's ("TWA") Annual Meeting to be held May 17, 2025, the membership will consider an important by-law amendment: whether to remove the requirement that members of TWA must also be members in good standing with the American Wagyu Association ("AmWA").

We urge you to vote in favor of this change. This requirement, while perhaps well-intentioned at one point, now poses serious risks to the independence, integrity, and future of our organization. Below are the key reasons why it should be eliminated and our freedom should be restored:

1. Protecting Our Independence

Under our current by-laws, TWA is a subservient organization to AmWA. Requiring dual membership effectively places TWA under the control of another entity. If AmWA chooses to change its policies, standards, or membership criteria, we are forced to comply—regardless of our own values. We lose the ability to decide who belongs to our own organization.

2. Freedom from Outside Influence

What happens if AmWA adopts positions or practices that our members disagree with? Or becomes politicized or misaligned with our mission? What if AmWA decides to prohibit its members from being members of other breed associations like AuWA or the American Akaushi Association? We should not be bound to another group's direction, especially if it begins to conflict with our own.

3. Preserve Due Process

AmWA could expel a member unfairly, without any recourse, and under our current rules, that would automatically disqualify that person from membership in TWA—even if we believe they have done nothing wrong. That is unjust and unacceptable.

4. Removes Barriers to Membership

The dual-membership requirement imposes extra costs, paperwork, and obligations. What if AmWA increases its annual membership dues? ***What if AmWA decides to require its members to register their animals with AmWA?*** If a TWA member does not want to register its animals with AmWA and, as a result, loses membership in the AmWA, under our current by-laws that TWA's membership is automatically revoked. This can discourage otherwise committed individuals from joining or remaining involved in TWA.

5. Future-Proof Our Organization

We do not know what AmWA will look like in two years, five years or ten years. We must preserve our right to adapt and chart our own course, free from the decisions or controversies of another group.

6. Cleaner Governance

Eliminating the external requirement simplifies our operations. We should base membership on our own standards, not those of a separate organization whose processes we do not control and whose decisions we do not make.

Summary

In short, this proposed by-law change is about reclaiming our autonomy, protecting our values, and building an organization that is accountable only to its own members. We (unanimous Board members of the Texas Wagyu Association) respectfully urge you to vote YES on this proposed amendment to reclaim our freedom. Thank you.