



Performance Updates

Thank you to all who supported the recent Hereford Research Foundation (HRF) auction on *BuyHereford.com*. Thanks also goes to Dale and Nancy Venhuizen of Churchill Cattle Co., who donated the proceeds of a bred heifer from their sale to HRF, a division of the Hereford Youth Foundation of America.

ABS Global has sent two checks for semen sales on Loewen Foundation. John and Mona Loewen donated semen sales from Foundation to HRF. Thanks again to everyone who has donated money, items and time.

DNA update

In June AHA transitioned its DNA lab services to GeneSeek Inc. We continue to work to develop and improve the DNA submission and reporting issues. It seems as though one of the biggest issues has been poor or lack of DNA when the hair reaches the lab.

When we started the process, the AHA was unaware that the SNP technology would require a larger amount of DNA. In the past breeders were asked to provide 20-25 hair follicles. Today we need at least 80.

In addition, this technology is much more sensitive to contamination from mud, manure, pour ons, age and other outside factors. I do recommend that when you collect DNA, to go ahead and collect some extra and store it in an envelope in a dry place so you can have extra in case the lab needs it.

The lab transfer and technology upgrade is a blessing, as it will position the AHA to make tremendous progress and take advantage of all genomic tools. It has also created some challenges. In the past we were able to obtain reports daily from the lab that had parentage, profile and abnormalities all run at the same time.

With GeneSeek, we have multiple reports because the animals might be tested for multiple things such as parents, abnormalities, horned/polled and GE-EPD (expected progeny difference). We are working through these issues. In the past, seven to 10 business days were expected for testing and those might be extended, especially for the multiple test animals.

The Friday educational forum during the annual meeting will feature speakers who will address the questions you may have concerning DNA issues.

Steer registration

The AHA Board unanimously supported a rule change for all steers to be shown at any AHA-sponsored show including the Junior National Hereford Expo and all regional shows.

The rule states that any steer to be shown at these events will need to be fully pedigreed. In other words, the steers will need to have two registered parents to be qualified for the show. The AHA will continue to issue steer certificates for those who will need them for other shows such as county fairs, state fairs or beef expos. This rule will start Jan. 1, 2014.

Abnormality listing

The AHA Board voted to change policy on how owners of genetic abnormality carriers are notified. Starting Nov. 30 all animals will automatically get the results loaded into the system and onto the web. If a breeder questions the results, he will have 30 days to request a new kit and have the animal retested. The AHA will no longer notify owners by certified mail.

EPD trend reports

The AHA has seen several benefits with the new ILR-2 registry software. This fall we will begin to produce some EPD trend reports that you will find on your authorized user accounts. These reports will show members how their herds have progressed over the last 10 years within the herd and across the breed. These reports should be very helpful for breeders to identify areas of both progress and deficiency.

Proven sire genotyping

In the September *Hereford World* I discussed the importance of adding strength to the Hereford-specific panel that was developed for GE-EPDs. This will only happen as the breed continues to genotype more high-accuracy sires.

The AHA Board has agreed to do a cost share to get as many high-accuracy sires genotyped as possible. If you have a sire with at least 50% accuracy for weaning weight and was born after 2001, then AHA would like to get that bull genotyped and will pay for half the cost.

Please contact the AHA office if you are interested in participating in this very important project. **HW**