

Customer Service Tips and Tricks

The American Hereford Association (AHA) is now offering lower DNA testing prices. Not only are the prices lower, but AHA members get more bang for their buck.

A genomic profile (parentage profile, genetic abnormalities and GE-EPDs) now costs \$38, and the full package (genomic profile plus horned/pollled test) is \$58.

See “DNA tests available” sidebar for complete DNA test information and prices.

Any animal tested from Oct. 2, 2017, and onward will have a genomic profile completed in addition to the abnormalities and available parentage already included with the DNA testing.

If the requesting breeder is a compliant Whole Herd Total Performance Record (TPR™) breeder, those animals will receive genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (GE-EPDs).

In addition to these new DNA prices, the AHA will also be offering members a \$4 credit per animal on their AHA account when using the new Tissue Sampling Unit (TSU) to submit a DNA sample rather than using hair. The credit will occur when the animal’s DNA results, verifying the DNA sample was submitted as a TSU, are received from the lab.

Breeders should continue to plan ahead when it comes to DNA testing. It takes three to four weeks from the time the DNA sample is received at the lab to get results. Remember, all herd sires born after Jan. 1, 2011, must have DNA on file before any calves can be registered out of them. Also, any dams being used as donor dams must have DNA on file before any of their calves can be registered. DNA requests may be made online at *MyHerd.org* or by calling AHA customer service.

The AHA is dedicated to continually building a powerful genetic evaluation and providing additional reliability to traits of interest for Hereford breeders and their customers.

DNA tests available

Genomic Profile (parentage profile, genetic abnormalities and GE-EPDs): **\$38**

Full Package (genomic profile plus horned/pollled test): **\$58**

Add-on Horned/Pollled Test (adding this test after the original profile has been done): **\$30**

GE-EPD Upgrade from Basic Profile (animals previously tested after Jan. 1, 2015, for a basic profile only can be upgraded to a GE-EPD profile; upgrade requests must be made by April 1, 2018): **\$20**

FAQ’s:

Q: How do I order TSUs?

A: TSUs can be ordered through the AHA by downloading an order form from the AHA website at Hereford.org/genetics/dna-testing/. If the tag options offered by the AHA don’t meet your needs, feel free to place your order directly with Allflex or to order TSUs from any other supplier; just make sure they are manufactured by Allflex.

Q: How old do my animals have to be before I can DNA test them?

A: If you’re using a TSU or blood card sample, the animals can be tested as young as birth. If you’re using hair as the form of DNA, the calves should be at least weaning age. With any calf younger than that, it’s hard to get a good sample with enough follicles attached to the hair for DNA testing. **HW**

Laura Loschke is the education and information service coordinator of the American Hereford Association. She can be reached at lloschke@hereford.org.