

Important Information regarding ABHA Genetic Testing

The ABHA's genetic testing system has launched in conjunction with Digital Beef. Neogen is the approved testing provider of the ABHA. You will find information regarding the testing process and how you can order a test in this letter.

There are many added benefits to ordering your tests thru the ABHA. The biggest advantage is the discounted pricing of tests. Thru lengthy contract negotiations with Neogen costs are cheaper than retail. In order to receive these prices, the test must be ordered and processed thru the ABHA. Blood cards, TSU punches, and applicators are also discounted when purchased thru the association.

All defect tests will be ordered thru your existing Digital Beef account at abha.digitalbeef.com. The test can be ordered by navigating to the "Genotype Requests" button. In order to place a test, you will need to have the animal in the ABHA system, either fully registered or recorded as a "U" animal. The barcode number from the tissue sample or blood card will also need to be inputted. Once the animal's registration number is added the system will automatically pull that animal's pertinent information. You will then be able to select the tests to be run. The total cost will also be calculated.

In January of 2017, Rule 2.11 was adopted by the Board of Directors regarding genetic testing of male animals. The official test can be ordered by selecting the GGP-50K SNP Array on the order form. This test includes the base test, parentage, and the four defect tests. Samples will be stored for future parentage testing should the need arise. Horn/polled and coat color tests can be added on at a discounted rate to this test when the initial test is ordered. The Igenity gold report can also be added on to the 50k test. There are also other discounts available when ordering multiple tests, such as parentage, coat color and horned/polled.

When all of your animals have been inputted for testing you can place the order and pay for the tests. **No orders will be processed until full payment is received.** Once full payment is received a document will be generated for you to download and submit with your samples. No samples are sent directly to the testing lab. Test results will be sent back to the association, and will then be forwarded to you.

There are two preferred methods of sample collection, TSU punch (tissue sample) or blood card. These methods have high test success rates and also have an extended storage life, should a sample need to be pulled and tested again. Neogen has found many issues with hair samples, as the room for error and sample contamination is much higher. When a test is completed and is inconclusive due to the sample quality, the member is still responsible for the testing fee.

Therefore, hair samples will be accepted until March 1, 2018. All hair samples submitted will incur additional costs at the time of order.

More information can be found on the association website under the "Information/Forms" tab. I know with any new system, there will be glitches to work thru. It is my hope most of these have been corrected. Please be patient as we work to launch this new system and work thru potential issue. As always if you have concerns or questions please feel free to contact me at 833-501-4750 or by email at brian@blackhereford.org

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian T. Chism". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line to the right of the name.

Brian T. Chism
Executive Director