

AMERICAN **BLACK HEREFORD** ASSOCIATION

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.

The biggest advantage of ordering genetic testing through the ABHA is the discounted pricing of tests. We have negotiated pricing contracts with Neogen to provide you with costs cheaper than retail. In order to receive these prices, the test must be ordered and processed through the ABHA. Blood cards, TSU punches, and applicators are also discounted when purchased through the association.

All defect tests will be ordered through your Digital Beef account at www.abha.digitalbeef.com. The test can be ordered by navigating to the "Genotype Requests" button. To order 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 included in the order. Once the animal's registration number is entered, the tag #, sire, and dam will auto fill. You will then be able to select the tests to be run, and the cost will 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 defect tests. Samples will be stored for future parentage testing should the need arise. Horned/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 other discounts available when ordering multiple tests, such as parentage, coat color and horned/polled.

When all of your animals have been entered 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. All samples should be mailed to the ABHA office, where they are then sent to the lab. 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 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.

As always if you have concerns or questions please feel free to contact the Service Department at 816-431-6960 or email service@blackhereford.org.