



February 5, 2009

Dear Members,

Re: Canadian Gelbvieh Association National Cattle Herd DNA Research Program

On behalf of the Breed Improvement Committee and the Board of Directors, I would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support of this program to date. The research program is a three (3) year commitment and we will need your continued participation. In particular, the scientists would like DNA samples, tissue or hair, from your complete 2009 calf crop, including the dead calves to support research in to herd health and disease resistance research.

I have been asked by the laboratory staff to request that when you are collecting these samples to make sure you have at least 50 hairs complete with root follicles. These larger samples are important to have enough DNA for the research tests.

Program Recap

The CGA is pursuing a DNA collection strategy for the national cattle herd to establish a baseline DNA data set and to participate in a research program with Alberta Bovine Genomics Program (ABGP) led by Prof. Stephen Moore at the University of Alberta. The research project will identify future economically significant DNA Markers in Gelbvieh cattle. When new markers become commercially viable, because of the research program, Gelbvieh will be ahead in the game.

The program will establish a Gelbvieh DNA bank for the benefit of our membership. This is the development of a one stop shop for Gelbvieh DNA services. The science and technology in the world of DNA is evolving rapidly and as progressive breeders we need to be leaders in the industry. Rumblings in the industry indicate that in the not to distant future, every cattle producer will be DNA genotyping their animals.

Members are strongly encouraged to pull DNA samples on all cows, bulls and offspring, including those where a DNA genotype (micro-satellite) already exists on file. It is as simple as collecting hair samples, putting each sample in a separate, well identified envelope (prefix, tattoo and registration number) and submitting them to the **CGA office**.

CGA members are encouraged to collect and submit samples from Gelbvieh cows and bulls

registered in the CGA herd book and the offspring (2008, 2009 and 2010). This would include dead calves to support research into herd health and disease resistance. Members are also encouraged to submit any DNA hair samples which they have kept on file from previous years in case they might be needed for a future parentage verification.

This program is completely voluntary to CGA members however, the more samples submitted the better. Both for research as well as having a complete Gelbvieh DNA bank for future reference.

Special collection envelopes are available from the CGA office or you can use plain white envelopes you can pick up at the neighborhood dollar store. Remember, please identify the envelope with prefix, tattoo and registration number (calves may not yet have a registration number which is okay as long as you give the prefix and tattoo).

Note: One of the main feature of this program will be reducing the cost for Parentage Verification (new samples from both parents will be required initially) and multiple sire parentage (i.e.. AI sire/Walking Sire and multiple sire pastures).

Members can also purchase additional DNA services such as the Igenity Profile, GeneSTAR Profile etc. from these samples.

For further details, please contact the CGA office

Wendy Belcher,

Secretary/Manager
Canadian Gelbvieh Association.