Adding Value with Genomic Testing and Parentage Verification

Georgia Bull Evaluation

Genomic testing in the beef industry has been around for a number of years, and it has quickly become a standard for genetic progress.

Adding Value with GE-EPDs

Genomic testing adds value to young bulls by improving EPD accuracies. Bulls with genomic enhanced EPDs will have similar information as compared to bulls that have already sired 7 or more reported calves, depending on the trait. Buyers have even greater assurance in the traits they are seeking to improve in their herds.

Allele base pairs

Adding Value with Parentage

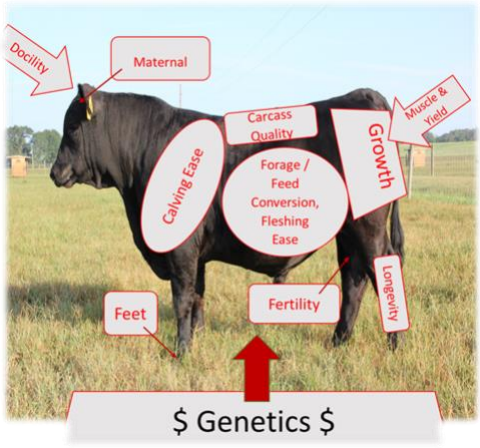
Parentage testing adds value to bulls as well. Many breed associations report that 10% of registrations are not correct. Most of these errors are due to simple record keeping mistakes, etc. When bulls are marketed with both the sire and dam having been qualified as potential parents, buyers have ensured confidence in the genetics they are purchasing.

Getting Samples

Contact your breed association for complete details and forms. Blood cards are most commonly used to submit DNA samples to laboratories. Tissue sampling is another method that is becoming more customary. For more information on TSU samples: TSU Information

Typical Testing Cost

Low Density Genomic Tests typically range from $35 to $40 for each bull consigned or parent you would like to test. High density panels cost more but are not required. If one or both parents do not have genomic information on file and a producer only wants to perform parentage testing, the cost is often less than $20.



Breeds without a Genomic Database

Breeds or hybrid bulls that meet all other rules can be consigned if there is no genomic testing for production traits within their association. However, the parentage testing rule still applies for sale eligibility.

A Marketing Tool

GE-EPDs and parentage testing adds value to bulls through improved genetic confidence for the buyer. This can also improve the genetics and reputation of any seedstock program.

For questions: Please contact Jason Duggin, UGA Beef Specialist: jduggin@uga.edu or 706-728-4354