

UPDATED INFORMATION ON PHA TESTING

Further to information which appeared in the March Newsletter regarding the necessity of having bull calves born on or after January 1, 2011 tested free for PHA (Pulmonary Hypoplasia with Anasarca), or free by virtue of ancestry, the CDCA has now received additional important information of which we would ask all members to take note.

There are two different mutations that cause PHA in cattle. One is found in Maine-Anjou and Shorthorns, while the other is found, so far as is known, only in Dexters. The original test for the PHA mutation, developed by Dr. Jon Beever in the United States, detects both mutations if they are present. This test is used by several labs including AgriGenomics Inc., UC Davis, and Pfizer.

Igenity, which several CDCA members have used for PHA testing at this point, redesigned the test to test separately for the Maine-Anjou and Shorthorn mutation and for the Dexter mutation, and they report the results accordingly.

A subsequent development is that Igenity, formerly owned by Merial Ltd., has very recently been sold to Neogen Corporation. Neogen has in turn entered into a relationship with GenServe Laboratories in Saskatoon to serve Canadian customers. All requests and samples for testing from Canada are to be submitted to GenServe. The forms that must be completed and sent with the samples may be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.igenity.com/resources/KnowledgeCenter.aspx?ref>

You will need to click on the links to both the Beef Data Information Sheets and the Beef Order/Price Sheets. These forms will eventually be updated to reflect the new situation but still may be used. Just be sure to send them to GenServe Laboratories, 15 Innovation Blvd., Saskatoon SK S7N 2X3 rather than to the address indicated on the forms.

The fee for each PHA is \$26 plus GST or HST (Canadian funds), and must be submitted with the request for the PHA tests.

It is also important that if you are also applying for a DNA genotype on the same animal that you submit separate hair samples, as the PHA test may still be actually done in the United States for a period of time, so a separate sample will be needed.

In recent discussion, the CDCA Board of Directors made the decision, based on the fact that Igenity performs a PHA test specific to Dexters, and that the samples can now be sent to a lab in Canada, that the Board strongly recommends that all CDCA members use Igenity for PHA Testing from here on in. Results from the other labs will not be refused, but Igenity is the recommended lab.

By Ron Black