



REVISED: February 22, 2011

Date: July 6, 2010

TO: American Wagyu Association Members

FROM: American Wagyu Association Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Official Launch of Inherited Recessive Genetic Disorder Testing for U.S. Red and Black Wagyu Cattle

Dear Member:

Effective today, the American Wagyu Association Board of Directors (the "Board") is announcing the official launch of Inherited Recessive Genetic Disorder Testing for U.S. Red and Black Wagyu Cattle. As a major breed improvement initiative, the Board believes this genetic testing program will significantly improve the integrity of the Wagyu breed in the U.S. and will add long term value to producer breeding programs.

To help producers better understand all the elements and requirements of the testing program, the enclosed Fact Sheet and Guide for Producers was prepared. This document addresses the following:

- Inherited Recessive Traits and the Five Disorders
- Genetic Testing Status and Offspring Distribution Predictions
- Managing Recessive Genetic Disorders in Fullblood, Purebred, and Percentage U.S. Red and Black Wagyu Cattle
- **Important Registration Information and Testing Policy**
- Authorized Lab
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Contact Information

It is important for producers to take the time to read and study this document, paying special attention to the section on **Important Registration Information and Testing Policy**. This section includes information about the new Board requirement to test all fullblood, purebred, and percentage AI Sires and embryo donor dams and all animals and genetics sold at American Wagyu Association sanctioned production sales.

In March 2010, the Board authorized the testing of non member owned AI Sires. This list included 28 foundation and second generation sires. These sires have now been tested and a report containing the results of each sire for the five disorders is enclosed for you to review.

The Board and Don Brown have had extensive discussions and planning sessions on how to effectively implement this testing program. A tremendous amount of work has been done to get to the implementation stage of this project, which is three weeks ahead of schedule. Going forward, it will require that we all work together to enable us to meet our objectives of significantly improving breed integrity and adding long term value to producer breeding programs

The Board approved this program with a unanimous vote, and we believe implementing it before the breed grows larger will pay dividends to all stakeholders in the long term. We are here to help, and Don has agreed to stay on this project through the end of the calendar year to help where he is needed as well. Should you have any questions, please direct them to Don, Jerry, or Ralph. Their contact information is below:

	Phone	Email
Don Brown	(940) 577-9400	don.brown@trianglebranch.net
Jerry Reeves	(509) 397 2502	jreeves@colfax.com
Ralph Valdez	(360) 941-0644	rh@oakharbor.net

Enclosures

1. Inherited Recessive Genetic Testing for U.S. Red and Black Wagyu Cattle - A Fact Sheet and Guide for Producers
2. iGenix Inherited Genetic Disorder Test Results for AI Sires as of 2/22/2011