

# Focus on Tenderness... *An Update*

By Susan Willmon, Director of Breed Improvement

ON THE FACING PAGE, you will find the updated chart for the DNA results on the Top sires in the Gelbvieh breed based on the 2005-born calf crop. This is the second year of publishing this data for the use of AGA members and users of Gelbvieh genetics.

I am frequently asked how this program is progressing and how many animals have been tested. Prior to December 2005, Bovigen had tested less than 500 Gelbvieh and Balancer animals for the Quality Grade and Tenderness tests. In the 12-month period, between December 2005 to November 2006, approximately 950 animals have been submitted for testing. Considering we have some Gelbvieh breeders that have been using these tests for two to three years this significant increase in the past twelve months of animals submitted for testing is a strong indication that Gelbvieh breeders are evaluating these markers within their herds. Similar statistics are pending from Merial for the Igenity tests.

Bottom line, AGA members are using this tool in their breeding and marketing decisions. Some more visible evidence of this is the listing of Marker Results in sale catalogs—both in individual breeder sales as well as consignment sales. One other trend is that as more and more bull results are published, an increasing number of breeders as also testing females in order to maximize the results of planned mating.

One of the things we have learned from all this testing is that the Calp316 gene is currently present in a very low frequency in Gelbvieh cattle. In 2006, several animals have been identified that possess this marker and were used in the 2006 breeding season. The 2007 calf crop should provide some results of planned mating to increase the frequency of this marker.

One additional way to increase this marker in the Gelbvieh and Balancer

population is by utilizing Angus and Red Angus sires that carry Calp316. These breeds have a higher frequency of this marker. How can you find these sires? Many of the semen companies are publishing this data on the bulls in their line-ups. I have listed some of the resources available (see side bar at right) from these companies to obtain these results for use in Sire Selection.

What will the future bring? More markers, for sure, from the various companies. A project that we will be tackling in the spring of 2007 is the addition of fields to the existing animal records in the AGA database. This will provide a means of accumulating these marker results, as well as results for homozygous polled and homozygous black testing. As a result of these additions, we hope to offer search capabilities on the AGA Animal Search page for these values in addition to current EPD choices, as well as notations of testing on printed material such as Registration Certificates.

Please remember when submitting data to any of the DNA marker companies to include accurate Registration Numbers, breed designations and sign-off on the tests to have the results forwarded to AGA. This will go a long way in insuring our continued leadership amongst the various breeds as users of this technology. As well, if the companies make it available, publish your results on the Company's public results pages.

**ABS Global:** On their on-line directory of beef sires there is a page listing DNA data on a large portion of ABS' bulls. [www.absglobal.com](http://www.absglobal.com)

**Genex:** On individual bull pages, in the printed and on-line catalog, values on most of the bulls for Bovigen's DNA markers are presented. <http://genex.crinet.com/>

**Select Sires:** Has Tenderness data on bulls listed on their Beef Lineup page on the web. [www.selectsires.com](http://www.selectsires.com)

**Accelerated Genetics:** On their current website [www.agteamdirect.com](http://www.agteamdirect.com) under their beef sires listing is again a report of DNA Tenderness markers.

**Cattlemen's Connection:** Roger Gatz has tested just about all the Gelbvieh and Balancer sires currently in his bull battery if the bull's results were not available elsewhere. Look for these results to be published on the 2007 Cattlemen's Connection semen calendar. [www.cattlemensconnection.com](http://www.cattlemensconnection.com)

**Semex USA:** Will be providing DNA Markers if available on Gelbvieh sires in their catalog.

**Origen:** Website for them is [www.origenbeef.org](http://www.origenbeef.org). DNA Markers will be listed on some of the bulls in 2006 catalog. Expect the number of bulls tested going forward to increase as Origen is a marketing partner of Bovigen.

**Table A.**

STARS	FORM	CAST	CALP <sub>316</sub>	CALP <sub>4751</sub> (T3)
2	Favorable	AA	CC	CC
1	Intermediate	GA	CG	CT
0	UN-Favorable	GG	GG	TT



If you need to review any of the previous DNA materials, refer to the AGA website at [www.gelbvieh.org](http://www.gelbvieh.org) under the AGA Library Resources section for copies of articles that were published in the February 2006, April 2006 and May 2006 *Gelbvieh World*.

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### DNA Labs:

The American Gelbvieh Association does not endorse any one lab over another. This following listing of labs is provided for informational purposes only.

#### Bovigen (GeneSTAR)

Tenderness Testing  
Quality Grade Testing  
Homozygous Black Testing  
Parentage Testing  
877-233-3362  
[www.bovigen.com](http://www.bovigen.com)

#### Merial (Igenity)

Homozygous Black Testing  
TenderGENE Tenderness Testing  
Parentage Testing  
877-443-6489  
[www.igenity.com](http://www.igenity.com)

## Top 25 Gelbvieh A.I. Sires DNA Marker Results 2007

Rank	Registered Name	Quality Grade		Tenderness		
		TG5	M2	CAST	Calp 316	Calp 4751
1	SLC Freedom 178F ET	0	1	2	0	1
		CC	GA	AA	GG	CT
2	XXB Drew 565K	0	0	2	0	0
		CC	GG	AA	GG	TT
3	BTI Extra 2106K ET	0	0	2	0	1
		CC	GG	AA	GG	CT
4	RTC Atlas 712G	0	0	1	0	1
		CC	GG	GA	GG	CT
5	JRI Pld Free Agent 125J3	0	0	2	0	1
		CC	GG	AA	GG	CT
6	KCF Bennett Landmark J377	1	0	1	0	0
		CT	GG	GA	GG	TT
7	EGL Fosters L017 ET	0	0	2	0	2
		CC	GG	AA	GG	CC
8	FHG VVFG Flying H Exclusive	0	0	1	0	1
		CC	GG	GA	GG	CT
9	KIT Tabasco J26 ET	0	0	1	0	1
		CC	GG	GA	GG	CT
10	JBOB Carolina Fortune 2564J ET	0	1	2	0	0
		CC	GA	AA	GG	TT
11	XXB Titanium 921N	0	1	2	0	0
		CC	GA	AA	GG	TT
12	SPUR Beretta 703G	0	0	1	0	1
		CC	GG	GA	GG	CT
13	CTR Traveler 0907K	0	0	2	0	0
		CC	GG	AA	GG	TT
14	MSH Flying H MSH Full Season	0	0	2	0	0
		CC	GG	AA	GG	TT
15/16	JCGR Bar GT Mach One 54L	0	1	1	0	1
		CC	GA	GA	GG	CT
15/16	MLH Goldrush Visa J40	2	0	1	0	1
		TT	GG	GA	GG	CT
17	BTI Red Alert 2077K	0	0	2	0	1
		CC	GG	AA	GG	CT
18	VRT Lazy TV Beethoven K278	0	0	2	1	2
		CC	GG	AA	CG	CC
19	MLLC M/L Encore	1	0	1	0	1
		CT	GG	GA	GG	CT
20	FHG Flying H Extra 150D	0	0	2	0	0
		CC	GG	AA	GG	TT

\*Rank refers to number of calves recorded in 2005.

