

# AMERICAN GELBVIEW *Foundation*

## Steer Challenge/Scale & Rail Contest Guidelines

The American Gelbvieh Foundation (AGF) has three primary focal areas, youth development, member education and research for the improvement of Gelbvieh and Balancer® genetics. The AGF has initiated two programs that together will increase the volume of actual carcass data into the database, grow the Foundation for future projects as well as provide each participating member an opportunity to participate in breed improvement.

### **Scale & Rail Contest**

The Scale & Rail Sire-Identified Steer Contest launched by the AGF is aimed at increasing the flow of sire identified carcass data reported to the AGA database. An increase in volume of data will assist in improving carcass traits of Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics. The Scale & Rail initiative will also provide an avenue for individual members to improve the accuracy and validity of carcass traits of their herdsires. The following guidelines outline the requirements for animals participating in this valuable carcass data collection initiative:

- Animals will arrive at the Darr Feedlot near Cozad, Nebraska between December 3-7, 2018. Participating members will be responsible for transporting animals to a pickup point coordinated by the AGF or directly to Darr Feedlot, Cozad, Nebraska, by December 7, 2018.
- Ranch may contribute three or more steers from the same contemporary group (same ranch, same arrival date and same harvest date).
- Animals must weigh a minimum of 750 lbs. with maximum weight of 900lbs. by December 3, 2018.
- **Steer must have one registered Gelbvieh or Balancer parent.**
- The Scale & Rail Contest will accept commercial (sire-identified) and/or registered steers.
- Animals will remain the property of the owner until harvest date. At that time feed, yardage and other costs associated with the animal while in the feedyard will be deducted from the sale of the animal to the packer and the owner will be paid the net revenue.
- Animals are required to have a Genomic Option 3 (GGP-ULD) DNA test and must be sire verified. **DNA samples will need to be taken on steers before arrival at the feedyard, all samples must be taken using a TSU. Labeled samples will need to be sent directly to the AGA office.** Cost of the test be the responsibility of the owner.
- All steers must have an EID tag before arrival at Darr Feedlot.
- All steers **MUST** be weaned at least 30 days prior to arrival at Darr Feedlot.
- The owner of the animals in the Scale & Rail Contest may select any animal(s) from their contemporary group(s) to be entered into the Steer Challenge, after results of test have been collected, in the name of that owner/breeder. (See Steer Challenge details). Animals donated to the Steer Challenge are eligible to win both contests.
- Contemporary groups sired by the same bull will be eligible to be recognized as the National Champion Pen of Gelbvieh Steers and National Champion Pen of Balancer® Steers. Steers qualifying for the Gelbvieh division must be 81 percent or more Gelbvieh. Steers qualifying for the Balancer/Gelbvieh influenced division must be 15 to 80 percent Gelbvieh with the remaining being other breeds.
- Winners will be recognized and awarded based on each of the following contest categories: average daily gain, marbling and most profitable pen (rate of gain plus carcass grid value).

*Feeding cattle has risk. Participating members will be responsible for the cost of feed, yardage, vaccinations, veterinarian cost associated with morbidity and loss due to mortality. All costs will be financed through the American Gelbvieh Foundation at the rate of 5%. The AGF will deduct any of the above mentioned costs from the sale of the animal to the packer at harvest time from the gross revenue of the sale and the owner will be paid the net balance.*

## Steer Challenge

The AGF Steer Challenge allows supporters of the Foundation to donate a steer in their name to the AGF and be designated to breed improvement such as research projects, updating DNA markers, and EPD and Index improvements. The following guidelines outline the requirements for donated animals for the AGF Steer Challenge:

- Animals will arrive at Darr Feedlot, Cozad, Nebraska between December 3-7, 2018.
- Owners may transport the animal directly to the feedlot or to one of the common collection points which will be established throughout the country in order to load trailers with multiple animals and reduce shipping cost.
- AGF will accept commercial and/or registered steers of any breed.
- There is not a minimum number of animals that may be donated by any one person(s) or operation. If the individual or operation would rather purchase one or more 25% steer ownerships at \$225 each of one or more animals, they are encouraged to do so. Steers purchased will already be at the feedyard.
- Ownership of the animal(s) transfers to the AGF at delivery and the AGF is responsible for all costs associated with the contest including feed, health expenses, etc.
- Proceeds from the contest will go to the AGF.
- Steers meeting size recommendation may come from any source. Steers must weight between 750–900 lbs. by December 3, 2018.
- All steers MUST be weaned at least 30 days prior to arriving at the feedyard.
- Results of the Steer Challenge will be reported and winners announced at the AGA national convention awards banquet.
- Winners will be recognized and awarded from each of the following contest categories: average daily gain, marbling, and most profitable steer (rate of gain plus carcass grid value). Individuals who donated the top performing steers will be awarded a cash prize at the conclusion of the project. If an individual purchases partial ownership of a steer, their winnings will reflect their percentage of ownership.

Individuals interested participating in one or both programs are encouraged to do so by completing the entry form and returning it to the AGA by December 7, 2018. Participants with questions regarding either program may contact Dick Helms at 308.962.6500 or Tom Strahm at 785.547.7999.