

Canadian Shorthorn Association

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September 2015

Dear Members:

As you are aware, DNA and TH testing of sires is a requirement in order to register Shorthorn offspring, as well any ET calves must also be DNA tested to their dams. At long last, we are pleased to be able to offer DNA, parentage and genetic condition testing from the same sample and through the same lab. The Canadian Shorthorn Association is transitioning to SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) testing, a more advanced procedure that allows for many more markers for trait predictabilities to be tested than the current microsatellite parentage. SNP testing will allow for both parentage and higher density markers using the same samples, the latter of which is useful in genetic evaluations and genomically enhanced expected progeny differences (GE EPD's), which are becoming the new standard for accuracy in genetic evaluations.

Higher density SNP testing, such as what many members did last fall with our Shorthorn Advantage Program is what we need to build the base for comparative Shorthorn GE EPD's, and as we move forward, it is predicted that SNP testing will take parentage and genetic evaluations to a new level in the future. The scientific field of genotyping is constantly evolving and expanding, and will continue to do so, and our hope is to continue to move forward as a breed with higher density testing, that will also allow for more data back to producers on various traits.

Delta Genomics of Edmonton, Alberta will be the lab that will handle the testing for our Canadian Shorthorn members. Members will contact CLRC with their animal information and parentage requirements (the same as in the past) and can indicate at that time if they wish to have any genetic condition testing (TH, PHA, DS) done. CLRC will process the information, charge for the service(s) and send forms to the member, for them to submit to the lab (also the same as in the past). Effective September 1, the cost for DNA SNP testing will be \$45/test. Any genetic condition testing would be charged at cost, which is currently \$30. It is important to note that SNP and DNA Microsatellites are not currently compatible and therefore DNA samples may have to be double tested in order to complete a sire or parentage verification.

Please note that if you currently have samples being tested at Quantum Genetix (formerly Genserve) in Saskatoon, these results will still be accepted OR if you have test kits that you haven't yet submitted to Quantum, for this year you may do so, or you can contact CLRC and they will re-issue the kit for the samples to be submitted to Delta.

If any of you need assistance with this issue, please feel free to call Belinda at the office. We will be glad to help you in any way possible.

Other news - We are always trying to find ways to assist and encourage our junior members as it

is difficult for their Association to plan activities other than the National Junior Show due to distances and limited resources. Our thanks to Quebec for hosting the Show this past summer. Make your plans now to come and participate and enjoy the hospitality of Alberta as they host the Junior Show for 2016. Details will be available soon. The Ian McRae **scholarship** is offered again this year with a **November 1 deadline** - please encourage all juniors to apply - the application is available from the office, or on our web-site at www.canadianshorthorn.com.

Next year the CSA Annual Meeting will be in British Columbia on Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Best Western Plus Regency Inn & Conference Centre, Abbotsford and we would encourage your attendance and input. Our hosts are putting out the welcome mat to anyone who might enjoy a vacation and time to appreciate their province in addition to attending the meeting.

In closing we would welcome any comments or suggestions. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming sales and shows. Have a great fall!

Sincerely,

Richard Moellenbeck, President
Canadian Shorthorn Association

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