Using DNA information in beef cattle production

Alison Van Eenennaam, Ph.D.

Animal Genomics and Biotechnology
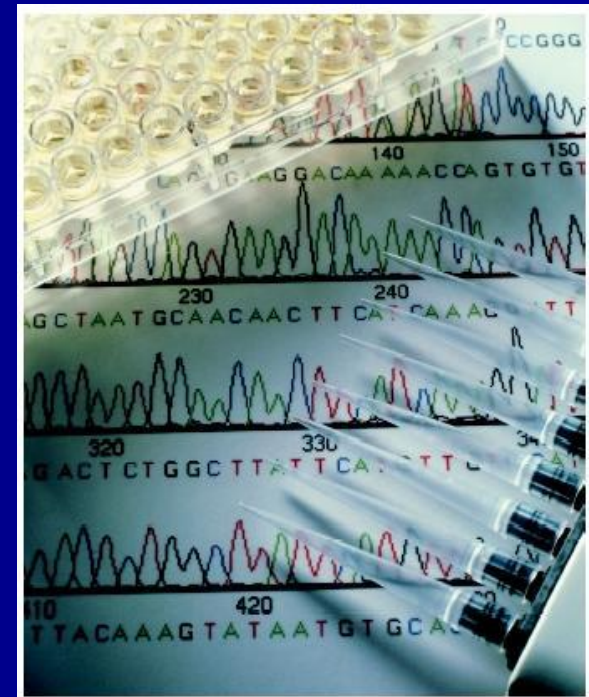
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Outline

- How can DNA help accelerate genetic progress?
- Why genomics helps the dairy industry
- Why genomics is harder in the beef industry
- Current products on the market for beef
- Status of incorporation of DNA information into national beef cattle evaluations
- Development of tests for hard-to-measure traits and value to beef cattle sectors
- Implications of genomics to industry structure

Animal breeders have used the resemblance between relatives to select parents of the next generation and make genetic change
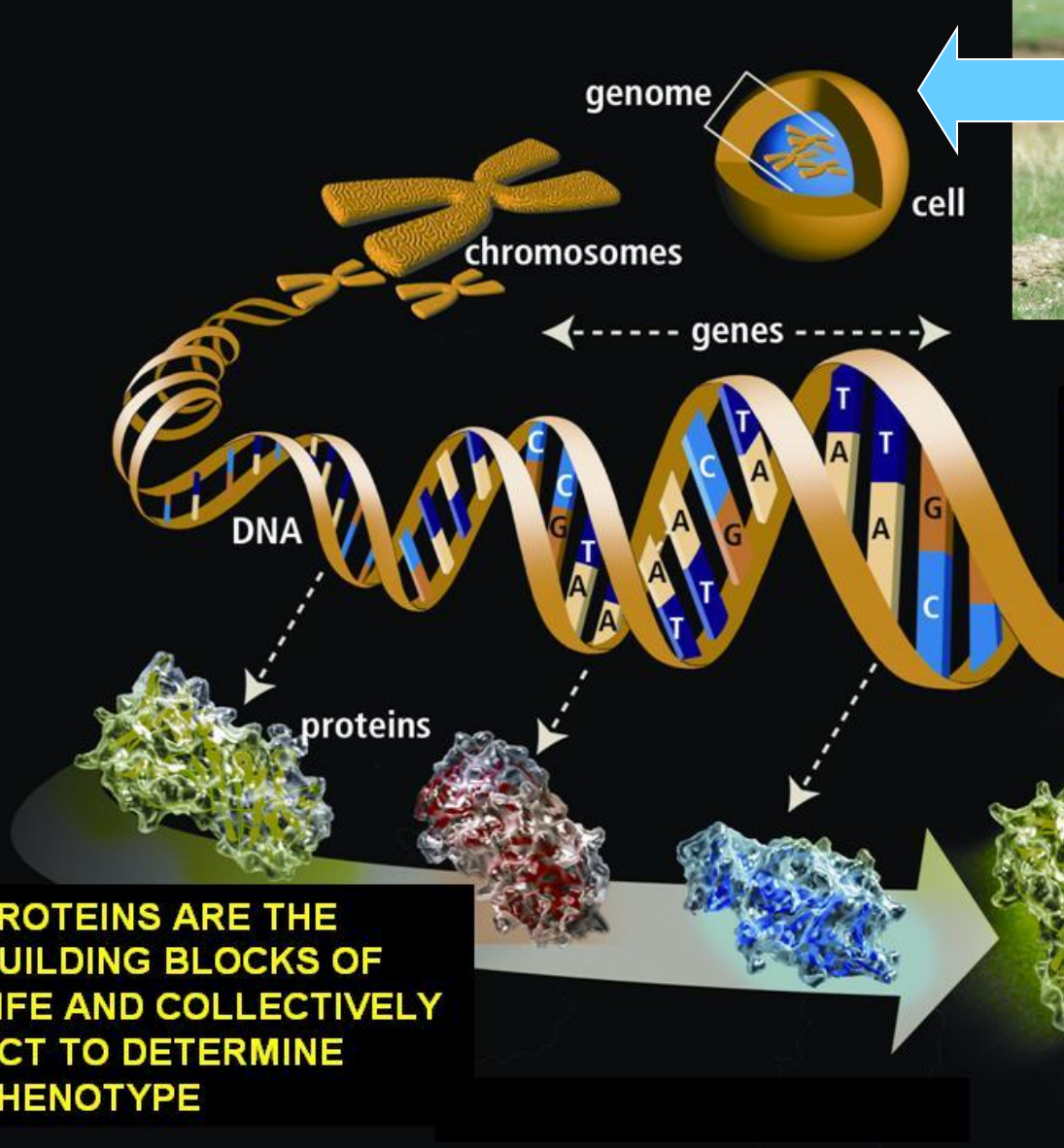
Rate of change is accelerated when breeders can accurately identify those individuals that have the best genetics at a young age

$$\Delta G = \frac{\text{intensity of selection} \; X \; \text{accuracy of selection} \; X \; \sqrt{\text{genetic variance in population}}}{\text{generation interval}}$$

The genome age

genome

cell

chromosomes

genes

DNA

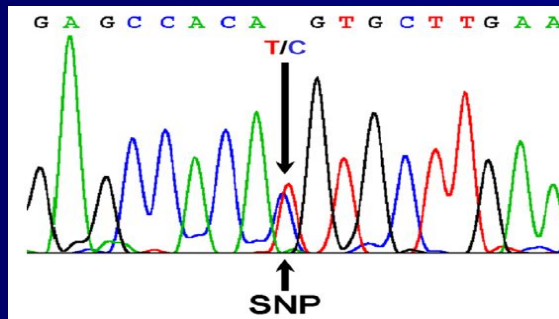**GENES CONTAIN INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING PROTEINS**

proteins

PROTEINS ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF LIFE AND COLLECTIVELY ACT TO DETERMINE PHENOTYPE
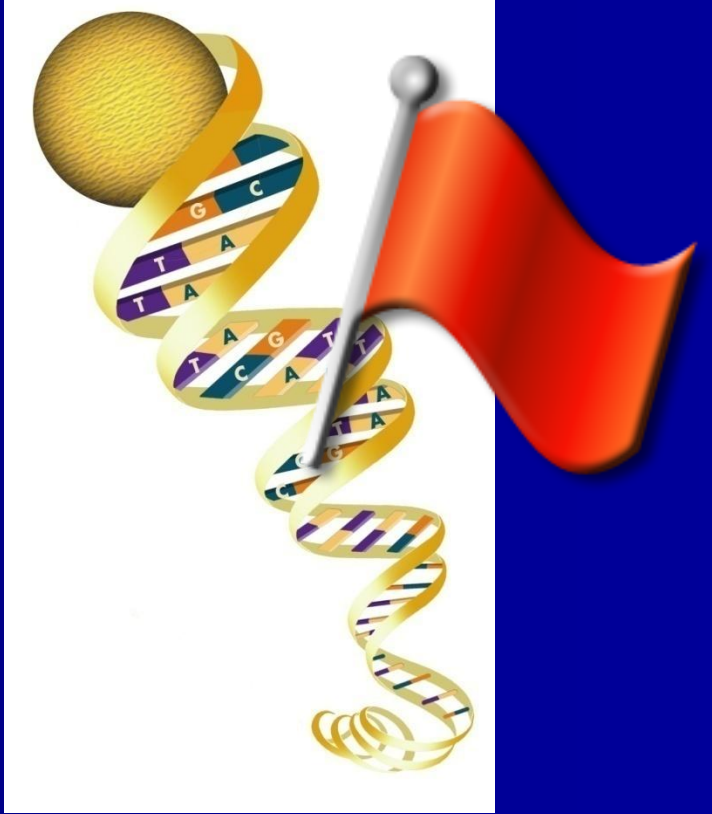
What is a Genetic Marker ?

A DNA sequence variation that has been associated with a given trait in one or more populations

We want to use DNA markers (SNPs) in addition to pedigree and performance information to help select the best animals
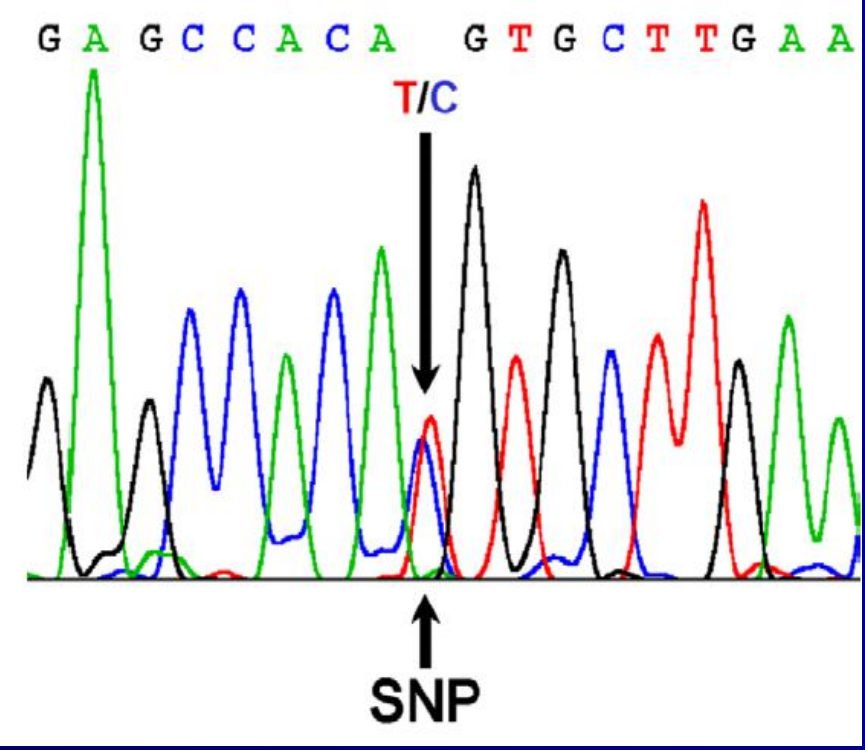
High-throughput genotyping technology enabled a new approach

- The sequencing of the bovine genome allowed for the development of a 50,000 marker chip!

- Can simultaneously test 50,000 markers

With high density (50K) SNP chips it is possible to:

- Divide genome into 50,000 chromosome segments based on marker intervals

- Marker density must be sufficiently high to ensure that all of the genes affecting a traits are "linked" (close to) a marker

- Idea is to capture all genetic variance with evenly spread markers and assign an "EPD" value to each segment

What is needed for "genomic" selection?

THEORY
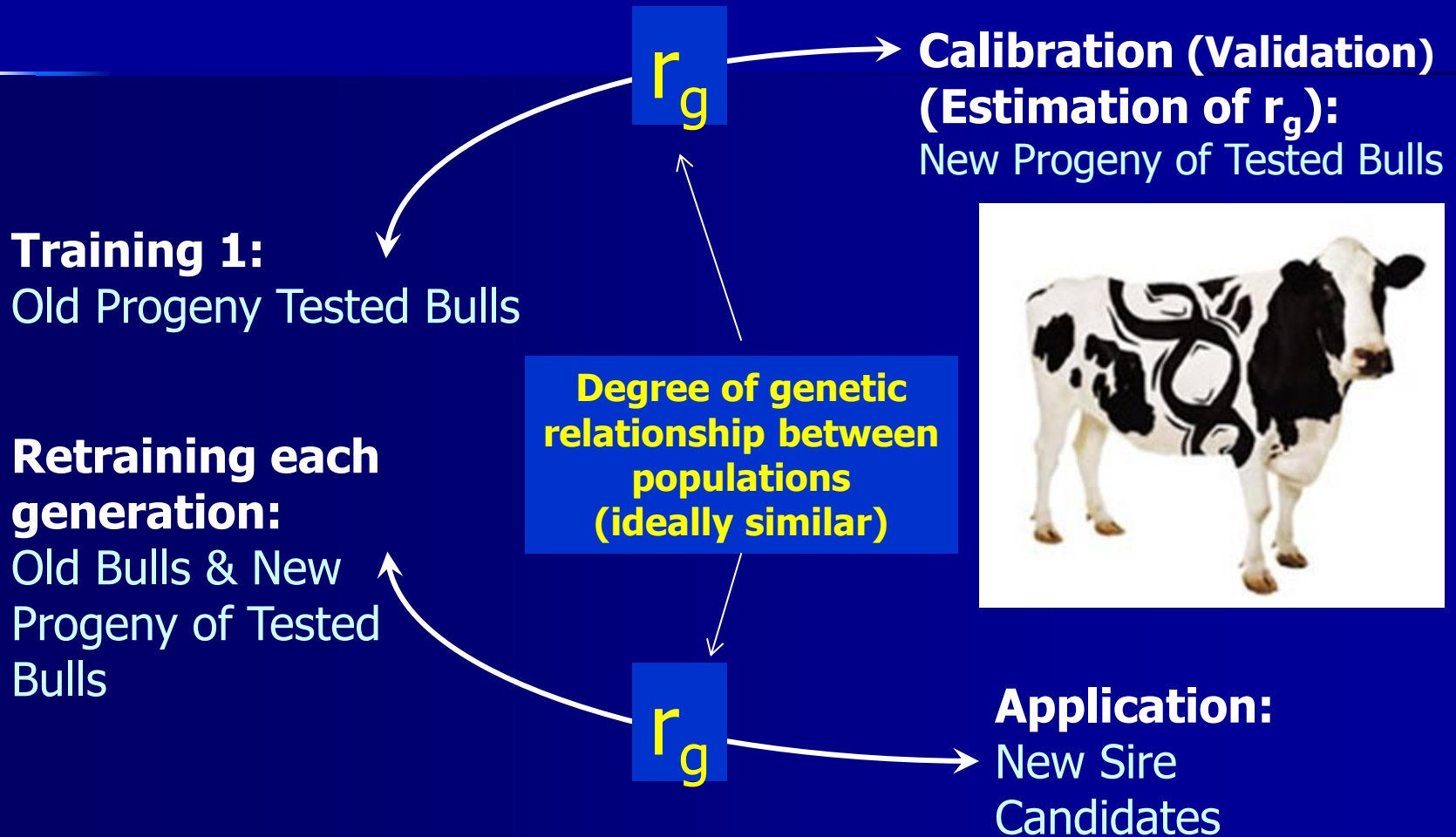
- Population
- Phenotypes
- Genotypes

Training = estimate the value of every chromosome fragment contributing variation in a population with phenotypic observations

Prediction = the results of training can then be used to predict the merit of new animals, not contained in the training data set

Implementation of Genomic Selection

r_g

Calibration (Validation) (Estimation of r_g): New Progeny of Tested Bulls

Training 1: Old Progeny Tested Bulls

Degree of genetic relationship between populations (ideally similar)

Retraining each generation: Old Bulls & New Progeny of Tested Bulls

r_g

Application: New Sire Candidates
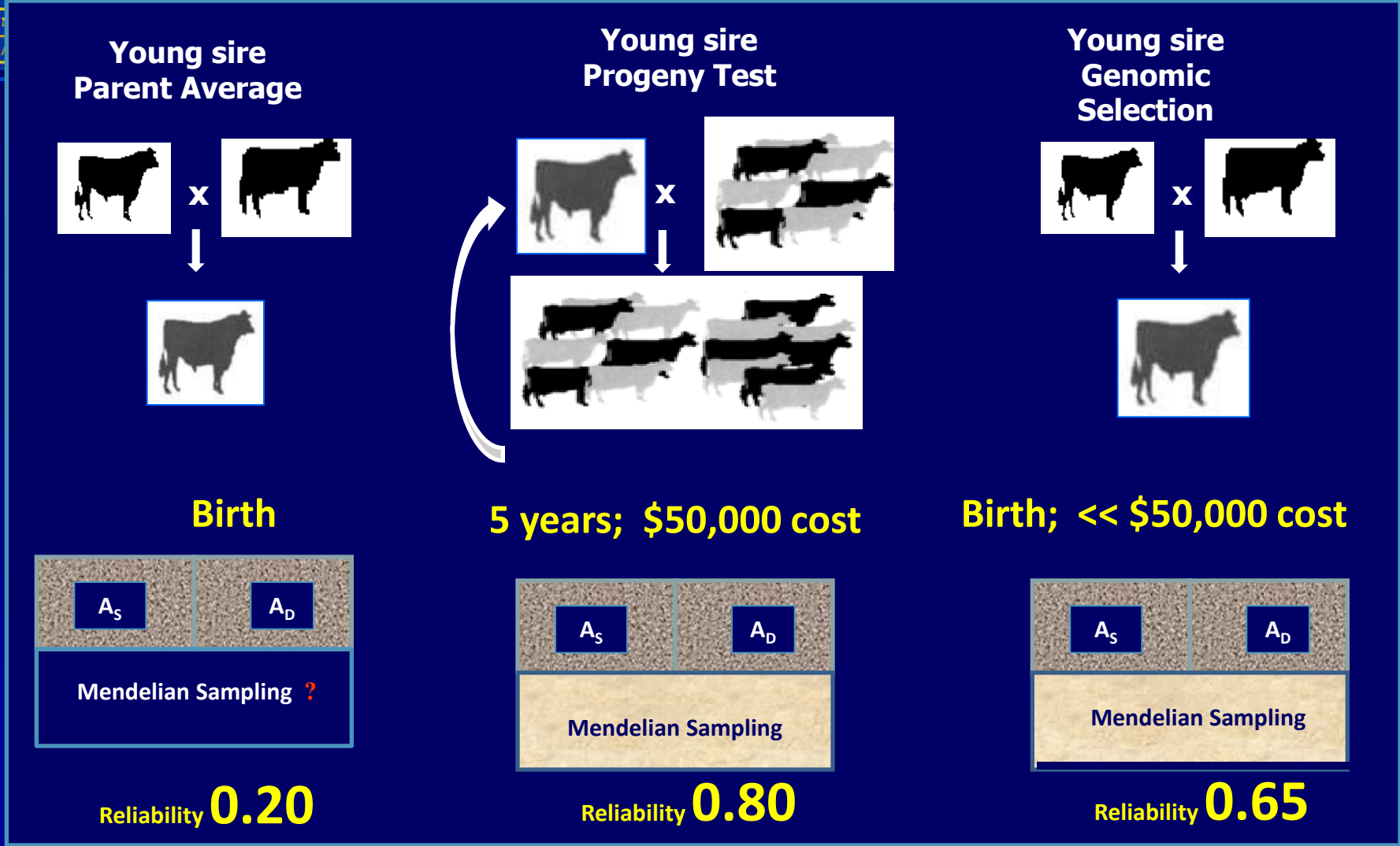
Slide modified from Marc Thallman, US MARC

Breeding value prediction in Dairy Sires

Graphic kindly provided by Gonzalo Rincon

Young sire Parent Average

Young sire Progeny Test

Young sire Genomic Selection

Birth

5 years; $50,000 cost

Birth; << $50,000 cost

A_S A_D

Mendelian Sampling ?

A_S A_D

Mendelian Sampling

A_S A_D

Mendelian Sampling

Reliability **0.20**

Reliability **0.80**

Reliability **0.65**

Dairy industry suited to WGS
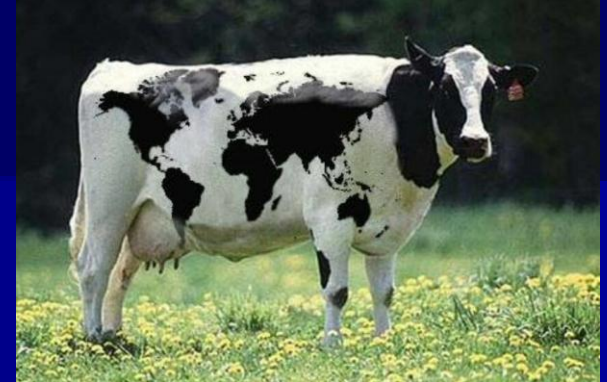
- High use of AI

- Mostly one breed

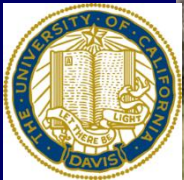- Clear selection goal (total net merit)

- Large number of high accuracy A.I. sires for training

- Extensive, uniform collection of data on traits

- Central evaluation (AIPL) receiving <u>genotypes</u>

- Obvious way to increase rate of genetic gain

- AI companies funding the genotyping because they get a clear cost savings in terms of young sire program

The Beef Cattle Industry

- Little use of AI
- Relatively few high accuracy sires for training
- Multiple competing selection goals – cow/calf, feedlot, processor – little data sharing between sectors
- Few/no records on many economically-relevant traits
- Many breeds, some small with limited resources
- Crossbreeding is important
- No centralized "national" cattle evaluation
- Not clear who should pay for testing

Translational Questions for the Beef Industry

? How many phenotypic records are required in the initial experiment estimating the effect of chromosome segments?

? How many markers are needed– 50K, 800K, whole genome?

? How does the relationship between the training population and the selection candidate affect accuracy?

? How often do chromosome segment effects need to be re-estimated?

? Do predictions work across breeds?

? What is the value generated by the increased accuracy?

? Does this technology change optimal breeding program design?

Animal Genomics and Biotechnology Education

What commercial products are out there for beef cattle producers?

The Power of the IGENITY® profile for Angus

The American Angus Association® through its subsidiary, Angus Genetics Inc.® (AGI), has a vision to provide Angus breeders with the most advanced solutions to their genetic selection and management needs.

1. Dry Matter Intake
2. Birth Weight
3. Mature Height
4. Mature Weight
5. Milk
6. Scrotal Circumference
7. Weaning Weight
8. Yearling Weight
9. Marbling
10. Ribeye Area
11. Fat Thickness
12. Carcass Weight
13. Tenderness
14. Percent Choice (quality grade)
15. Heifer Pregnancy
16. Maternal Calving Ease
17. Direct Calving Ease
18. Docility
19. Average Daily Gain
20. Feed Efficiency
21. Yearling Height

- Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM)

- Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH)

- Bovine Viral Diarrhea – Persistently Infected (BVD PI)

- Coat Color

ANGUS
THE BUSINESS BREED

Lead Today with 50K

1. – Calving ease direct
2. – Birth weight
3. – Weaning weight
4. – Yearling weight
5. – Yearling height
6. – Mature weight
7. – Mature height
8. – Dry matter intake
9. – Residual feed intake
10. – Scrotal circumference
11. – Docility
12. – Calving ease maternal
13. – Milking ability
14. – Carcass weight
15. – Fat thickness
16. – Ribeye area
17. – Marbling score
18. – Tenderness

Pfizer Pfizer Animal Health
Animal Genetics
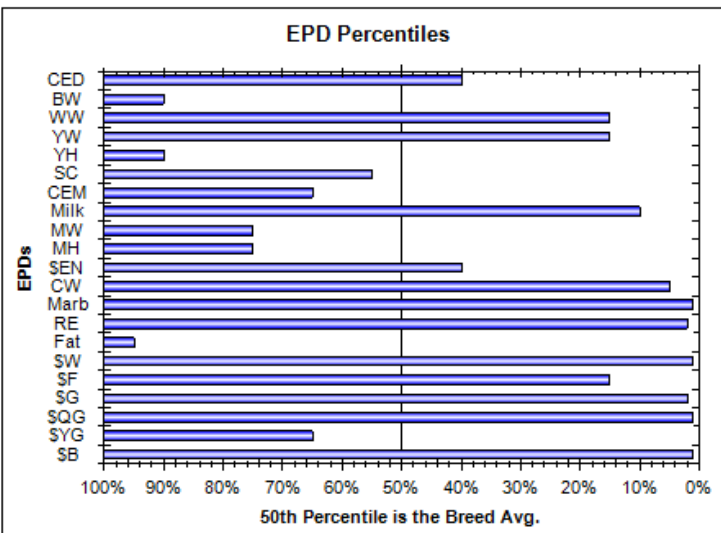
50K SNP chip assays
50,000 SNPs spread
throughout genome

G A R Predestined

Reg. No.: 13395344
Calved: 8/16/1999
Tattoo: 5899
Semen: **$25**
Certificates: **$20**

Spring 2010 EPD

G A R Predestined:

From start to finish--conception to carcass--no other bull in the beef business today adds as much real value to cattle as Predestined. Ranking as the #1 bull for $B in the breed--our customers tell us that their Predestined-sired cattle return the most dollars to their pockets--they know that $B works. Unlike any other 036 son, Predestined tones down size, adds depth of flank, superior feet and legs and a pleasant disposition to his offspring. His conception rate is high and he's been a standout in timed-AI programs. His progeny look good--his bulls are thick and his heifers are fancy--and they always display additional shape and capacity. He ended 2006 as our top-seller and rightfully so--Predestined's many talents for creating value are for real.

	Production						Maternal					
CED Acc	BW Acc	WW Acc	YW Acc	YH Acc	SC Acc		CEM Acc	Milk Acc	MkH MkD	MW Acc	MH Acc	EN$
+7 .84	+4.1 .97	+53 .96	+99 .94	+0 .96	+.31 .95		+6 .80	+28 .85	345 1135	+13 .81	+.2 .81	+5.24

	Carcass				Usnd		$Values					
CW Acc	Marb Acc	RE Acc	Fat Acc	Grp Prog	UGrp UProg		Wean	Feedlot	Grid	$QG	$YG	Beef
+26 .82	+1.07 .84	+.59 .82	+.046 .81	47 261	4269 11990		37.39	37.08	38.21	35.04	3.17	69.78

GeneStar	QG1	na	QG2	na	QG3	na	QG4	na	QG GPD	
	T1		T2	0	T3	0	-	-	T GPD	-0.35
	FE1	na	FE2	na	FE3	na	FE4	na	FE GPD	

EPD Percentiles — 50th Percentile is the Breed Avg.

Current Sires Percent Breakdown

As of 03/22/2010

Registration #	Tenderness	Fat Thickness	Yield Grade	Ribeye Area	Carcass Weight	Percent Choice	Marbling
13395344	3	6	6	4	2	8	9

G A R Predestined — 13395344

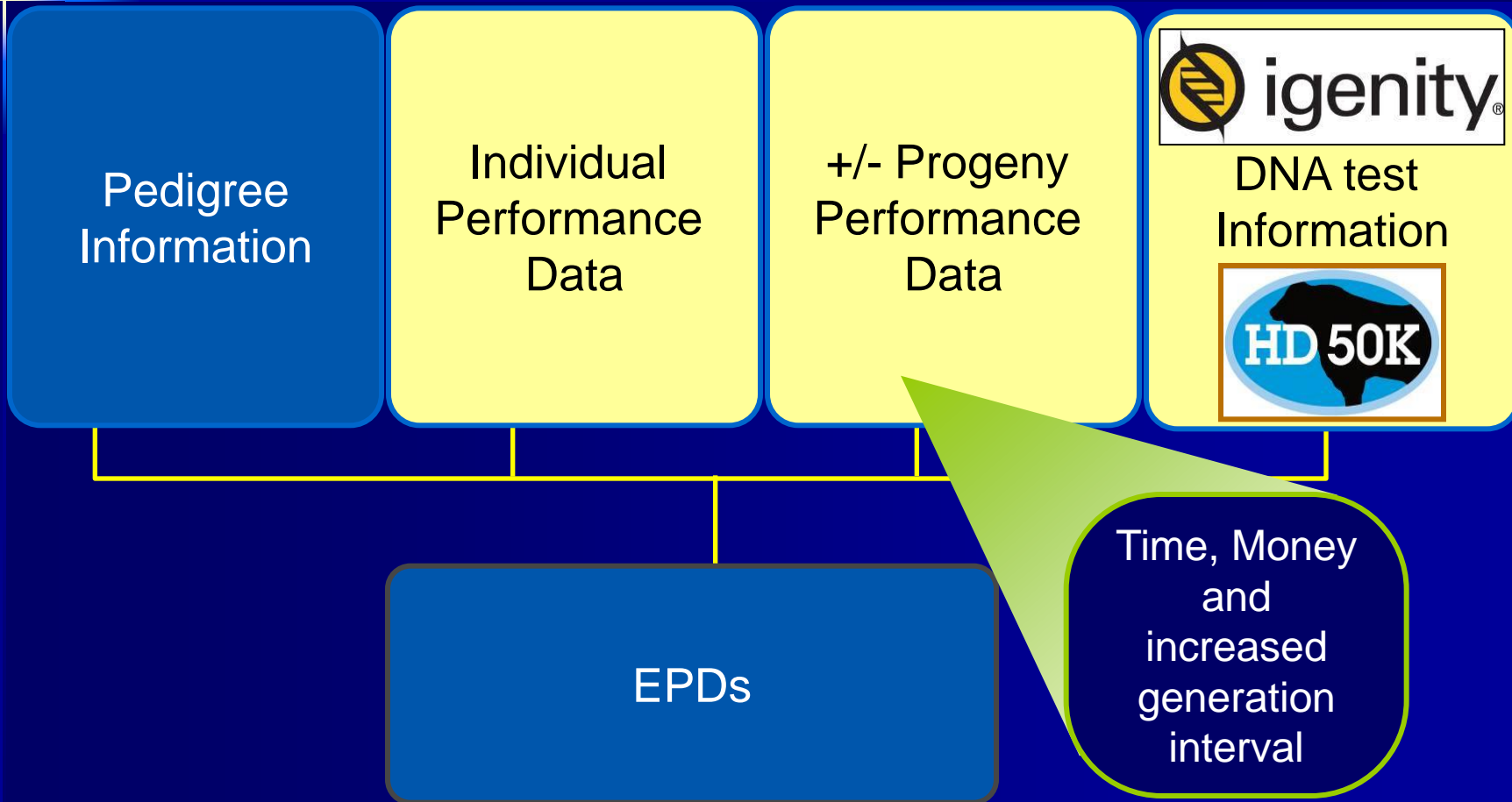|	CED	BW	WW	YW	ADG	DMI	NFI	CEM	MA	CW	FAT	REA	MS	TND	$B/$MVP FL
EPD	7	4.1	53	99	-	-	-	6	28	26	0.046	0.59	1.07	-	69.78
ACC	0.84	0.97	0.96	0.94	-	-	-	0.8	0.85	0.82	0.81	0.82	0.84	-	-
EPD % Rank	30	85	15	15	-	-	-	55	10	4	90	2	1	-	1
MVP	13	1.0	37	-	0.45	0.97	0.04	8	33	55	0.07	0.92	1.52	-0.43	243
MVP % Rank	3	70	10	-	30	90	90	4	1	1	90	1	1	80	1

Need to integrate DNA information into National Cattle Evaluation (NCE)

"*information from DNA tests only has value in selection when incorporated with all other available forms of performance information for economically important traits in NCE, and when communicated in the form of an EPD with a corresponding BIF accuracy. For some economically important traits, information other than DNA tests may not be available. Selection tools based on these tests should still be expressed as EPD within the normal parameters of NCE*" (Tess, 2008).

Information sources for EPDs – DNA tests are another source of information to improve the accuracy of EPDs

Pedigree Information

Individual Performance Data

+/- Progeny Performance Data

igenity®
DNA test Information
HD 50K

EPDs

Time, Money and increased generation interval

Modified from slide from Kent Anderson, Pfizer Animal Genetics, presented at BIF 2011

Animal Genomics and Biotechnology Education

American Angus Association performs weekly evaluations with genomic data – recently updated to include new traits

	Igenity	Pfizer
Calving ease (CED)	✓	✓
Growth (BW WW YW Milk)	✓	✓
Residual Average Daily Gain (RADG)	✓	✓
Docility (DOC)	✓	✓
Yearling Scrotal/Height (SC,YH)	✓	✓
Mature Weight (MW)	✓	✓
Carcass (CWT MARB RIB FAT)	✓	✓

http://www.angus.org/AGI/GenomicChoice11102011.pdf (updated 11/18/2011)

Animal Biotechnology and Genomics Education

So the question changed from "do they work (validation)" to "how well do they work (calibration or estimation of r_g)"?

Pfizer *Animal Health*
Animal Genetics

Which Genomic Test is Best?

Now, thanks to High-Density (HD) 50K genomic technology for Angus, you can more dependably predict the genetic merit of young animals, before progeny information is available. But, what makes this genomic test superior?

High density vs. low density

The HD 50K platform includes more than 54,000 DNA markers, significantly more than IGENITY®, which utilizes only 384 markers. With greater coverage of the genetic makeup of Angus animals, no other DNA test provides more dependable predictions of genetic potential than HD 50K.

Lower-density tests with just 384 markers (left) do not provide the reliability across the full spectrum of traits as HD 50K, with more than 54,000 markers (right).

ANGUS		384 SNP		50K SNP	
Genetic Correlation (r)/(r²%)/PE	h²	Igenity/ Neogen		Pfizer	
Calving Ease Direct	0.20	.47 (22%)	5	.33 (11%)	2
Birth Weight	0.42	.57 (32%)	4	.51 (26%)	3
Weaning Weight	0.20	.45 (20%)	5	.52 (27%)	7
Yearling Weight	0.20	.34 (12%)	2	.64 (41%)	13
Dry Matter Intake	0.31	.45 (20%)	3	.65 (42%)	9
Yearling Height	0.45	.38 (14%)	2	.63 (40%)	5
Yearling Scrotal	0.43	.35 (12%)	1	.65 (42%)	6
Docility	0.37	.29 (8%)	1	.60 (36%)	5
Milk	0.14	.24 (6%)	1	.32 (10%)	3
Mature Weight	0.55	.53 (28%)	2	.58 (34%)	3
Mature Height	0.82	.56 (31%)	1	.56 (31%)	1
Carcass Weight	0.31	.54 (29%)	5	.48 (23%)	3
Carcass Marbling	0.26	.65 (42%)	10	.57 (32%)	7
Carcass Ribeye Area	0.32	.58 (34%)	6	.60 (36%)	6
Carcass Backfat Thick	0.26	.50 (25%)	4	.56 (31%)	7

Angus predictions are not very accurate in Red Angus (Data provided by Dorian Garrick)

Trait	Validating in American Angus	Validating in Red Angus
BirthWt	0.64	0.27
WeanWt	0.67	0.28
YearlingWt	0.75	0.23
Fat	0.70	0.21
REA	0.75	0.29
Marbling	0.80	0.21
CalvEase (D)	0.69	0.14
CalvEase (M)	0.73	0.18

Angus = ASREML 5-fold validation Red Angus = correlation
Training on de-regressed EPDs Saatchi et al (GSE)

AN: Angus   GV: Gelbvieh
BM: Beefmaster   LM: Limousin
BN: Brangus   MA: Maine Anjou
BR: Brahman   RA: Red Angus
BU: Braunvieh   SA: Salers
CA: Chiangus   SG: Santa Gertrudis
CH: Charolais   SH: Shorthorn
HH: Hereford   SM: Simmental
HL: Line 1 HH

Approximate genetic distance between breeds using data from the 2,000 Bull Project. Larry Keuhn, USDA MARC http://www.nbcec.org/topics/BeefBreeds.pdf
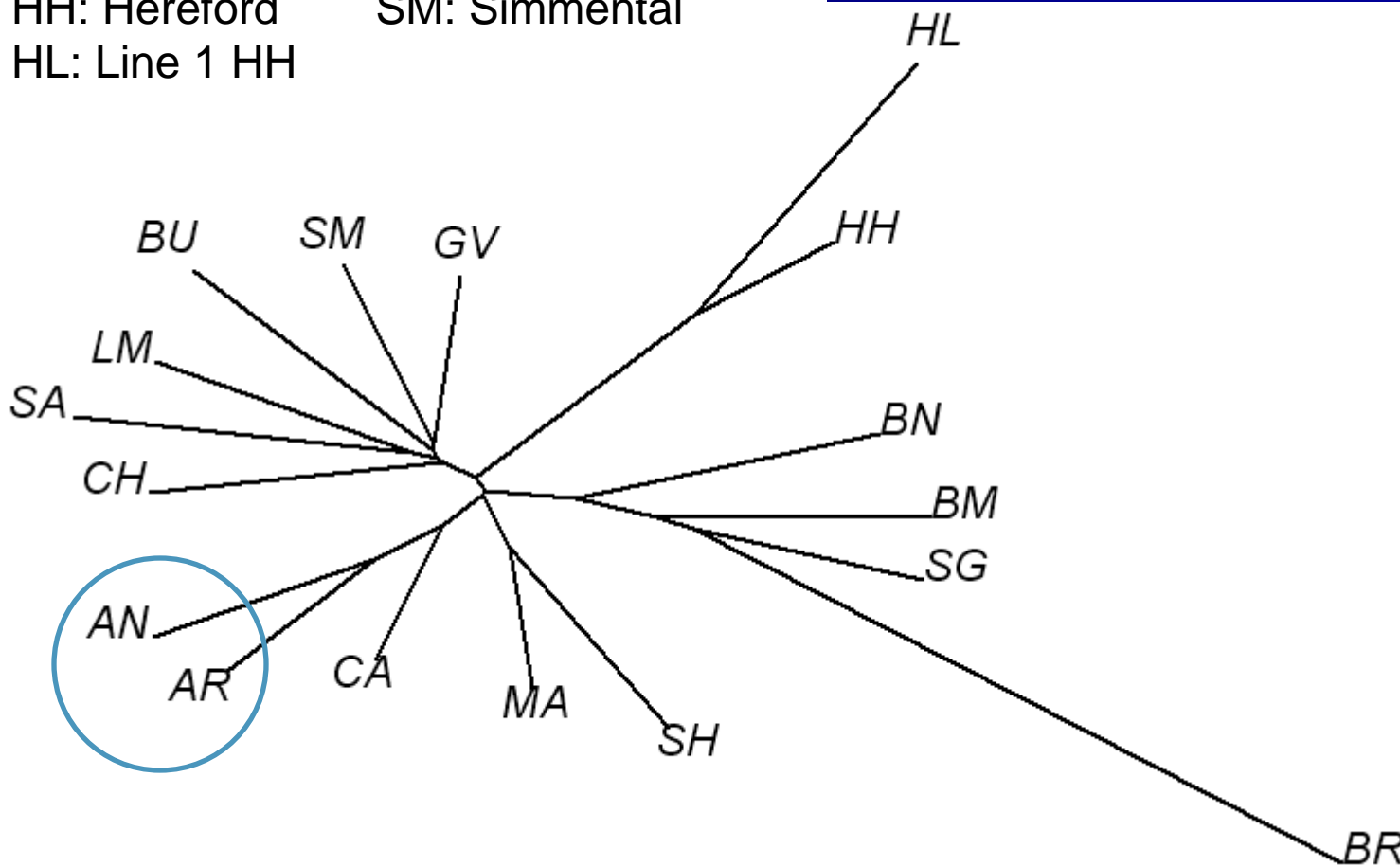
So what about other breeds?

The following breed associations are working with Dorian Garrick (IA State) to develop their own 50K-based prediction equations

Breed	Breed code	# Training Records
Hereford	HER	1,725
Red Angus	RAN	296
Simmental	SIM	2,853
Brangus	BRG	896
Limousin	LIM	2,319
Gelbvieh	GVH	847
Maine Anjou	RDP	115

Animal Biotechnology and Genomics Education

Predictions in Some Beef Breeds
(Data provided by Dorian Garrick)

# Records in training	Angus (3,500)	Hereford (800)	Simmental (2,800)	Gelbvieh (847)	Gelbvieh including Angus (1,181)
BirthWt	0.64	0.43	0.65	0.38	0.41
WeanWt	0.67	0.32	0.52	0.31	0.34
YearlingWt	0.75	0.30	0.45	0.21	NC
Milk	0.51	0.22	0.34	0.36	0.34
Fat	0.70	0.40	0.29	NA	NA
REA	0.75	0.36	0.59	0.38	0.48
Marbling	0.80	0.27	0.63	0.54	0.56
CED	0.69	0.43	0.45	NC	0.48
CEM	0.73	0.18	0.32	NC	NC
SC	0.71	0.28	NA	0.50	0.50

Animal Biotechnology and Genomics Education

Hereford announces genomic-enhanced EPDs (8/20/12)

Limousin plans to start using DNA in EPDs in December 2012

Genomic information is the next step in technology for the beef industry. The North American Limousin Foundation has done extensive work over the last few years in cooperation with Igenity Inc. (now part of GeneSeek Inc.) to develop a Limousin specific 50,000 SNP (pronounced 'snip'; single-nucleotide polymorphism) panel. This test goes beyond the DNA marker tests that were introduced years ago, which included only a small number of markers and were unable to generate values that could be incorporated in National Cattle Evaluations (NCE).

Each SNP alone does not reveal much information. It is only through study of the quantitative effects of a number of critically selected SNPs that generates molecular breeding values (MBVs) for each trait. These MBVs will be factored into the interim EPDs of the animal as well as the NCE based upon the correlation of the MBV to the trait. MBVs will be available for every EPD trait and will be beneficial through increased EPD accuracy of traits that are either difficult or expensive to measure such as Stayability and the carcass traits.

It is important to note that even though a genomic panel yields increased accuracy to EPDs, it is still only one tool in the genetic evaluation toolbox. Weights, measurements, ultrasounds and docility scores will still be vital to build a complete picture of an animal's genetic merit. Those measures will also be crucial to the updating and expanding on the accuracy of the panel and its genetic correlations.

Once animal has had a sample submitted to NALF for the Limousin Genomic Profiler-Igenity® Enabled, the sample will be sent to GeneSeek, Inc. where a panel will be run. NALF will receive the MBVs which will then be factored into the animal's EPDs starting in December 2012 and the NCE soon after. The animal's owner will receive a report with the Igenity 1-10 scores on that animal similar to their earlier Beef Profile report. NALF would recommend that selection decisions be made based on the Genomic-Enhanced EPDs as they are a more accurate tool for determining genetic merit.

http://www.nalf.org/pdf/2012/dna-genomics/Limousin_Genomic_Profiler_and_Genomic-Enhanced_EPDs_7.27.12.pdf

Simmental

Trait	r	ASA (r²0%)	PE
Calving Ease Direct	0.45	(20%)	5
Birth Weight	0.65	(42%)	6
Weaning Weight	0.52	(27%)	4
Yearling Weight	0.45	(21%)	3
Milk	0.34	(12%)	3
Maternal Calving Ease	0.32	(10%)	3
Stayability	0.58	(34%)	9
Carcass Weight	0.59	(35%)	4
Carcass Marbling	0.63	(40%)	4
Carcass Rib Eye Area	0.59	(35%)	4
Carcass Backfat Thick.	0.29	(8%)	1
Shear Force (Tenderness)	0.53	(28%)	6

THE FUTURE IS HERE!

By Wade Shafer Ph.D.

Approximately a year ago we ran an article in StmTalk to update readers about the state of genomic use in our industry. The article closed with the following paragraph: "Unless you have Angus cattle that are evaluated in the American Angus Association's genetic evaluation, currently available DNA tests are of little to no value to you for EPD enhancement; however, don't be dismayed if you don't fit this description. The recent evolution in genomic technology has spurred organizations to take the steps necessary to harvest its value. For example, ASA is presently working on the development of DNA tests specific to our population, as well as the capacity to incorporate test results into ASA's genetic evaluation."

One year later we are pleased to announce that the future has arrived at ASA. We are now offering a DNA test that, when incorporated into our genetic evaluation, can add significant enhancement to lower accuracy EPDs. The result of a multi-year collaborative effort, test development was fueled by ASA members and staff, carcass merit cooperators, USDA, University of Illinois, University of Missouri, Montana State University, Gene-Seek and the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium.

Test development was initiated several years ago through requests for donated semen on high accuracy sires. ASA members stepped up to the plate and delivered, with hundreds of DNA samples being collected via donation. Besides older sires, virtually all of the current 500 most heavily used sires were sourced. Samples were also collected on the sires and their offspring fed at the University of Illinois. In total, over 2,700 samples were genotyped.

The genotypes, along with the equivalent of millions of phenotypes (data submitted by breeders and the Carcass Merit Program over the years) were amassed and analyzed by University of Iowa researchers. The analysis resulted in the parameters required for genetic evaluation.

The multi-tiered effort culminated in a very successful outcome. The standard measure of a DNA test used in EPD prediction is the correlation between test results and the traits of interest. Table 1 displays correlations for ASA's test when used on ASA's population. To provide prospective, correlations for Pfizer and Igenity's tests gleaned from the American Angus Association's website are included in the table.

Table 1. Correlations between DNA test results and trait

Trait	Igenity[a]	Pfizer[a]	ASA[b]
CE	0.47	0.33	0.45
BW	0.57	0.51	0.65
WW	0.45	0.52	0.52
YW	0.34	0.64	0.45
Mlk	0.24	0.32	0.34
MCE	NA	NA	0.32
Stay	NA	NA	0.58
CW	0.54	0.48	0.59
Mrb	0.65	0.57	0.63
REA	0.58	0.60	0.59
BF	0.50	0.56	0.29
SF	NA	NA	0.53

[a] When used on the American Angus Association's population
[b] When used on American Simmental/SimAngus™ population

16 April 2012

http://www.simmental.org/site/pdf/register/April%2012%20Register%20The%20Future%20is%20Here.pdf

Animal Biotechnology and Genomics Education

The Future

NEXT EXIT ↗

US cattle numbers (x 10^6)

# US Beef operations	766,350
Million Cows	31.4
Average herd size	41

Breeder

1.1
Seedstock Cows

Commercial cow/calf producer

35.7

Commercial Cows + replacements

Feedlot

13.6 **(on feed at any one time)**
25.6 **(cattle fed per year in 2009)**

Processing

43.2

Retailer **Other Beef Animals (calves, steers, heifers and bulls)**

Potential uses of genomic information for beef sectors

ONLY THESE SECTORS PRODUCE NEW ANIMALS

Use	Seedstock	Commercial	Feedlot	Processor
DNA-assisted selection	X	X		
Parentage	X	X		
Recessive allele testing	X	X		
Control of Inbreeding	X	X		
Mate selection	X	X		
DNA-assisted management	X	X	X	
DNA-based purchasing			X	X
Product differentiation				X
Traceability				X

What will the future look like?

"It is perhaps the cumulative value derived from using DNA test information for multiple purposes (traceability, parentage, genetic defects, selection for difficult to measure traits, marker-assisted management, product differentiation), in combination with the rapidly-declining cost of genotyping, that will ultimately push the economics of DNA-based technologies over the tipping point towards more widespread industry adoption"

Van Eenennaam, A. L. 2011. Beef translational genomics: Lessons from the literature Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics. 19. 19: 271-278.

USDA funded projects – competitive call for proposals: Part 1 (old CREES proposals)

- **Identification of molecular markers to improve fertility of beef cattle** (Thomas, CO) – finished 12/2011
  - >10,000 DNA samples and phenotypes on heifers
- **BIGS – Bioinformatics to implement genomic selection** (Garrick/Snelling/Golden)/ **Enhanced Bioinformatics to implement genomic selection (BIGS)** (Garrick, Dekkers, Fernando, Reecy, Rothschild) finishes 4/30/2014 See website http://bigs.ansci.iastate.edu/
- **Integrating DNA information into beef cattle production systems** (Van Eenennaam, CA) – finishes 12/2013
 - 7,000 DNA samples & weaning weight records, 4500 carcass records

USDA funded projects – competitive call for proposals: Part 2 (new NIFA AFRI proposals)

- **National program for genetic improvement of feed efficiency in beef cattle**

  (Taylor, MO) – finishes 4/2016 (http://www.beefefficiency.org)
  - Genotype ~ 2,400 head on HD chips; 7000 records FE records
  - $5 million, 5 year project; April 2011 – April 2016

- **Integrated program for reducing bovine respiratory disease (BRD) in beef and dairy cattle** (Womack, TX) – finishes 4/2016 (http://www.brdcomplex.org)
  - Collection and HD genotypes on 6,000 BRD case-control animals
  - $10 million, 5 year project; April 2011 – April 2016

- **Identification and management of alleles impairing heifer fertility while optimizing genetic gain in Angus cattle** (Patterson, Taylor, et al. MO; Van Eenennaam, CA) – finishes 12/17
  - Sequence up to 200 cattle from up to 10 different beef breeds
  - $3 million, 5 year project; Jan 2013 – December 2017

Industry structure may evolve to enable the exchange of information and value between the different sectors.
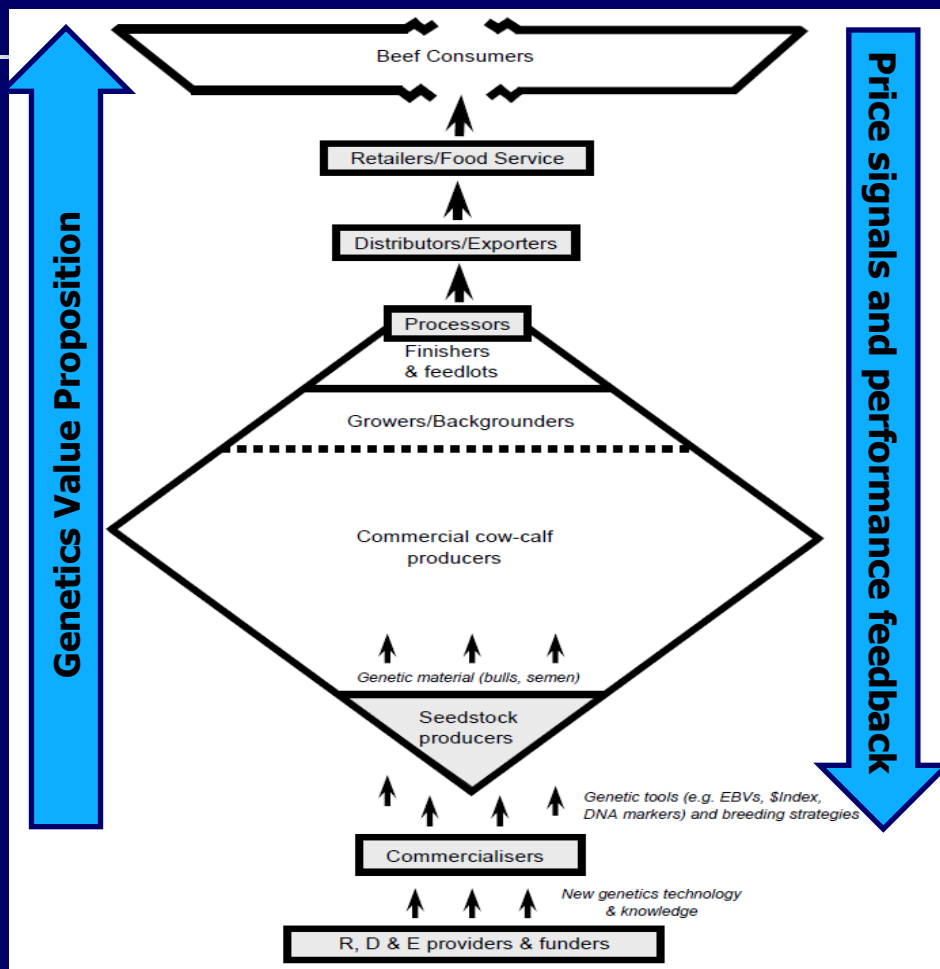
For widespread technology adoption, breeders need to be adequately rewarded for making DNA investments and selection decisions for traits that benefit the different sectors of the beef industry.

Parnell, P.F. 2007. Effective value chain partnerships are essential for rapid adoption of beef genetics technology. Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics. 18. 167-174 .

Ideally cattle would be genotyped ONCE early in life and genotypes shared with downstream production sectors to derive the maximum value from the fixed DNA collection and extraction costs

Cattle industry Sector	Type of DNA product // DNA information access required	Cost?? ($US)
Nucleus seedstock/AI bulls	Full genome sequence	$250
Seedstock/bull multiplier	HD 770 K genotype	$50
Registered females and stock bulls for commercial sector	50K genotype + parentage + single gene traits/recessives	$25
Commercial cattle – Marker-assisted management (MAM), replacement heifer selection	Imputation LD chip + parentage + single gene traits/recessives	$10
Feedlot cattle purchasing, sorting and marker-assisted management (MAM)	Access genotypes from supplier (subset of LD imputation chip).	<$1
Traceability for voluntary labelling e.g. Angus beef	Access genotypes from supplier (subset of LD imputation chip).	<$1
Traceability for disease outbreak/contaminated meat	Access genotypes from supplier (subset of LD imputation chip).	<$1
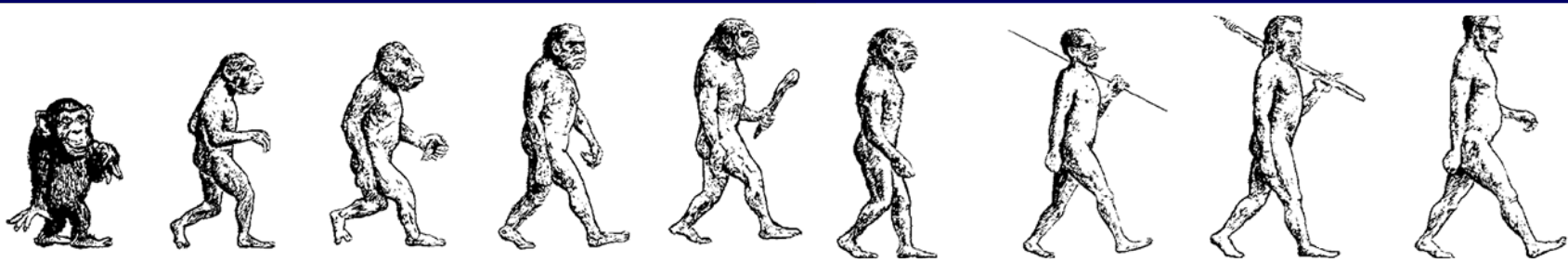
2003	2008	2013	2020
• single marker/ single trait • reported genotypes • single marker accounted for small amount of genetic variation • limited adoption • technology oversold	• multimarker tests for a few traits reported in a variety of formats • no tie between DNA test results and national genetic evaluation or breed associations • tests accounted for < 10% additive genetic variation • limited validation • technology not in a form producers could use	• panels with thousands of markers for many traits • results reported in units of the trait • incorporation of DNA information into national genetic evaluation • DNA-based evaluations improve accuracy of EPDs • large numbers of genotyped populations are available for calibration/validation	• universal marker panel used by worldwide beef cattle community • seamless submission of genotype data to national genetic evaluation/breed associations • testing cost is low • DNA information used for traceability, parentage, genetic defects, selection, marker-assisted management, product differentiation

CONCLUSION: Ramifications of DNA-enabled selection

- The benefits of genomic selection are best captured in well-structured industries that are already making significant genetic progress

- May encourage more vertical integration to collect phenotypes to enable predictions for ERTs for all sectors

- May see genetic evaluations developed for novel traits – if large enough populations can be amassed and data shared

- May see breeds/countries start to share data – especially with HD chips and whole genome sequencing

- Will beef follow the pig/poultry model of vertically-integrated breeding companies owning all sectors?

Animal Genomics and Biotechnology Education

Concluding thought….

Breeds/groups that can organize themselves and **technologically** and **structurally** to seamlessly obtain and marry entire supply chain phenotypes and genotypes and take advantage of the rapidly-declining cost of genotyping to capture the cumulative value derived from using genomic information for multiple purposes (selection, parentage, genetic defects, marker-assisted management, product differentiation, traceability) will be ideally positioned to fully realize the nascent potential of genomic information.

Van Eenennaam, A. L., and D. J. Drake. 2011. Where in the beef cattle supply chain might DNA tests generate value? Animal Production Science. 52(3) 185-196.

Thanks for inviting me!

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Questions?