

Recent DNA Requirements (Rules) adopted by ABBA BOD

At April 30, 2016 meeting

This paper is prepared to shed light on the recently enacted DNA additions to ABBA Rules concerning DNA Profiling and parent verification of animals: prior to registration, participating in ABBA Sales, ABBA Performance Programs, ABBA Approved Shows & imported animals.

BACK GROUND

ABBA is a cattle registry association **with its first priority being the keeper of an accurate history of all animals in its registry.** In all purebred recording registries for any specie it is necessary to know each animal's ancestry to more accurately predict animal performance and genetic capability. Most breed associations are using DNA profiling to 1. verify parentage, 2. For genomic enhancement of EPD's and 3. Genetic anomalies. In today's complex cattle industry all the **high tech advances** made in past years have presented new obstacles to maintaining **the accurate history of all animals.**

During past years the registered cattle world progressed from single sire pasture units where occasionally an extraneous bull got into a pasture, to a little AI at home, to a lot of AI at home, to embryo transfer at home and ET and IVF procedures at fixed third party providers.

More and more breeding work is outside of the **record keeping hands and eyes of Brahman breeders** with more and more folks participating in the creation of a calf and the keeping of accurate records. **There is much more room for error than ever before and errors unfortunately are being made. It is far better to be able to straighten up problems before an animal is registered in the Association than to do it later.**

In today's world as we seek genetic predictability in our cattle it is imperative that we know and keep an accurate history **of every animal.**

Within the past few years as more and more breeders have DNA profiled their animals it has become apparent that many animals are not what they are reported to be and do not match their parents that they are recorded to. Not all of us know just how many mistakes in parentage are out there until you hear the stories of inaccuracies that actually do exist. Your ABBA office knows and hears of most of them and they are numerous; these inaccuracies are occurring in other breeds also. Your Executive Committee the past few years have dealt with a lot of these instances and our staff has aided on numerous occasions to correct the mistakes **which are usually correctable. Probably very few of these inaccuracies are intentional as the vast majority prove to be un-intentional. They come from mislabeled straws, to using not what you thought you were using, to too many hands in the record keeping processes of collection, use and implanting.**

At some point in time your association (and others) must take measures to insure the total and unequivocal accuracy of our animals' history. Several of the horse breeds require that all animals be DNA profiled and parent verified; other cattle associations are requiring varying degrees of DNA profiling and parent or sire verification. ABBA is not alone in this regard.

The Executive Committee began work on this project about a year ago, with the creation of a DNA Study Committee chaired by Loren Pratt. It has been reported to the ABBA Board of Directors, and rules were put in place at our Board meeting on April 30, 2016 and then reported to the ABBA Membership. These rules phase in the adoption of DNA parent verification with the ultimate objective in several years to have a large number of ABBA registered animals being DNA parent verified. When that occurs, our EPD's and genetic predictors will become much more accurate and meaningful tools to us as breeders.

In 2015 ABBA registered approximately 925 AI animals; and 1386 ET animals which was approximately 23% of all animals registered. Not thousands but a healthy percentage of all animals registered.

STILL TO COME

The ABBA Board of Directors will:

- Contract or designate one or more reputable DNA providers to do ABBA work.
- Make provisions for some animals that have been profiled by one provider to be made available to the other/s.
- Establish fees as it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to establish all Association fees
- Work out any kinks that might exist and/or arise as they come along.

IN A NUTSHELL---WHO WILL DO WHAT AND WHEN

ABBA Members that pasture breed cows in single sire units will not be required to DNA calves for parental verification before registering them. These animals will not be required to be DNA parent verified unless and until beginning 1-1-17 if:

- Animals that are shown in ABBA Approved Open Shows only (Does not include AJBA show or State shows unless required by them)
- Animals are sold in ABBA Sponsored Sales (currently would include the International Sale, and the Spring and Fall Select Sales.
- Animals that are included in ABBA Research Programs. (Currently would be annual steer feeding trial and bull development project.)

AI RULES. Effective 1-1-19 (two years and 5 months) animals resulting from artificial insemination must be **DNA profiled and verified to the SIRE ONLY** prior to registration. **HOWEVER**, any animal resulting from AI must be **parent identified** effective 1-1-17 if:

- Animals are shown in ABBA Approved Open Shows only (Does not include AJBA show or State shows unless required by them)
- Animals are sold in ABBA Sponsored Sales (currently would include the International Sale, and the Spring and Fall Select Sales.
- Animals are placed in ABBA Research Programs. (Currently would be annual steer feeding trial and bull development project.)

EMBRYO TRANSFER RULES. Effective 1-1-17 animals submitted for registration must be DNA Parent Verified prior to registration.

THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- **ABBA members NEED to PLAN AHEAD....get your sires & dams on file now.....and perform calf parentage verification as early as possible**
- ABBA breeders who run their bulls in single sire units and don't enter shows or ABBA sales or research projects **will not be affected** by the new in-place rules.
- ABBA Breeders that utilize AI in their production system, beginning **January 1, 2019** all animals before being registered must be DNA **verified to the AI sire. There will be no requirement to verify to the Dam,** unless shown in ABBA Approved Shows or participating in ABBA sponsored sales or Research Projects. In that case some cows in the herd would have to be DNA profiled.
- ABBA breeders that utilize Embryo Transfer or IVF must before registering an animal, DNA the animal and parent verify before registration can be completed.

HOW IT IS DONE

WHEN THE SIRE AND THE DAM have a DNA file in the ABBA system: The first step to registration for 1 animal or multiples is to contact the ABBA office. You will inform the office that you want a DNA kit/s for parental verification (or only for the sire) prior to registration. **You will supply an ID No. for the animal to be registered along with the sex, Sire PH#, Sire ABBA#, Dam PH#, Dam ABBA #.** YOU ARE ASKING THE DNA Provider to say **YES OR NO** to the listed sire and dam or only to the sire if you are attempting to register an AI animal.

You will supply the calf ID (projected PH#) either on the phone or list sent to ABBA office. ABBA will fill out the required paperwork to accompany the test kit/s (for hair or blood).

You will receive the kit/s, obtain the sample, write the calf ID on the sample packet and mail to DNA provider.

The DNA Provider will then send the results back to the ABBA office for filing and the ABBA office will inform the registration office and the breeder of the results. Provided that the parents qualify, a report will be sent to the breeder to accompany the Application for Registration (paper or electronic). When DNA reports are sent to ABBA then the breeder will be billed for DNA work. (You are not billed when DNA kit/s are ordered)

WHEN THE ANIMAL is registered (after it has been DNA PARENT VERIFIED) IT WILL BE NOTED ON THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION.

THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD ABOUT THE RULES

- These Rules do not affect any member that runs bulls with cows and **does not show or participate in ABBA sales or research projects.**
- These Rules did not come about to be punitive to anyone or because of any actions of one person or a few.
- These Rules do not favor large breeders or small breeders.
- These Rules take into consideration that Embryos that are stored on Dams that died before June 1, 2005 **without a DNA fingerprint will be EXCLUDED.**
- **These Rules and DNA Profiling ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE AN ABBA PROFIT CENTER**

THESE RULES ARE IN EFFECT TO INSURE THE INTEGRITY OF ABBA HERD BOOKS WHICH IS OUR #1 REASON TO BE IN EXISTENCE.

Until we all become familiar with requirements IT WILL BEHOOVE US

- **To think ahead**
- **To do some work before hand**
- **Understand that there will be a lag in the timeliness of some of the work that is involved.....**