

# ABBA DNA Five Year Plan: Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow



## Year 2: 2024

- **All protocols mentioned above stay constant for the 2024 calf crop.**

*What does this mean?*

This means that all rules, procedures, and requirements that were in place for the 2023 calf crop will remain unchanged for calves born in 2024. Breeders should continue following the same parent verification, DNA testing, and registration protocols as previously established. No new requirements will be added, but adherence to existing standards is still mandatory.

*Why is this important?*

Consistency across years allows breeders to maintain familiarity with the rules, avoid confusion, and ensure smooth compliance. It also provides stability in the registration process for calves born in 2024.

- **All parent verification must be done via SNP technology. It is highly recommended that this is in the form of a genotype (HD50K, GGP Indicus, GGP Bovine 100K).**

*What does this mean?*

To register a calf, both the sire and dam must be verified as the calf's biological parents using SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) technology. SNP technology provides higher accuracy than older methods like microsatellite testing. While basic SNP testing meets the requirement, the use of higher-resolution genotyping tools like HD50K, GGP Indicus, or GGP Bovine 100K is strongly recommended. These tools provide more detailed genetic information that can be useful for breeders seeking enhanced genetic evaluation, performance tracking, and breed improvement.

*Why is this important?*

SNP-based parent verification reduces errors in pedigree records and ensures the integrity of breed genetics. Using higher-resolution genotyping also allows for better tracking of genetic traits, helping breeders make more informed breeding decisions.

- **All ET calves born in 2024 must have a genotype on file prior to registration through the ABBA.**

*What does this mean?*

Every calf born through Embryo Transfer (ET) in 2024 must have its genotype recorded in the ABBA system before it can be officially registered. This means that the genetic

information for each ET calf must be submitted to ABBA's database before a certificate of registration is issued.

*Why is this important?*

Since ET calves can have multiple genetic parents (sire, donor dam, and recipient dam), it is essential to ensure that the correct genetic lineage is properly documented. Requiring a genotype on file before registration helps maintain breed integrity and ensures the accuracy of pedigree records.

**Year 3: 2025**

- **All protocols mentioned above stay constant for the 2025 calf crop.**

*What does this mean?*

All of the requirements from 2024 (and prior years) will remain in effect for calves born in 2025. This includes parent verification via SNP technology, the use of genotyping for ET calves, and adherence to all previously established procedures.

*Why is this important?*

By maintaining continuity, breeders have a clear, predictable process for registering calves born in 2025. Consistency helps avoid confusion and promotes compliance with ABBA's evolving genetic standards.

- **All A.I. Sires, Walking Sires, and Donor Dams that produce a calf in 2025 must have a genotype on file prior to the calves being registered through the ABBA.**

*What does this mean?*

Any sire or donor dam that produces a calf born in 2025 must have a genotype submitted and on file with ABBA before any of its calves can be registered. This applies to:

- **A.I. Sires** (bulls used for artificial insemination)
- **Walking Sires** (bulls used for natural breeding)
- **Donor Dams** (cows that produce embryos for Embryo Transfer)

This requirement ensures that the parents of each calf can be accurately identified through genetic testing.

*Why is this important?*

This protocol ensures that ABBA has verified genetic data on all animals being used as sires and donor dams. By collecting genotypes on these key animals, ABBA can support more accurate parent verification and streamline calf registration. It also reduces the potential for errors in calf pedigrees and strengthens the genetic tracking of breeding stock.

- **All A.I./ET calves born in 2025 that participate in an ABBA-sponsored event (ABBA-approved show, sale, E.A.R./Bull programs) must have a DNA profile or genotype on file.**

*What does this mean?*

Any calf born in 2025 through Artificial Insemination (A.I.) or Embryo Transfer (ET) that participates in an ABBA event must have a DNA profile or genotype on file. This applies to calves entering:

- **ABBA-Approved Shows** (state, regional, and national breed shows)
- **ABBA Sales** (sales endorsed or sponsored by ABBA)
- **E.A.R. Program** (performance testing and evaluation)
- **Bull Development Programs** (bull evaluation and development programs)

**Without a DNA profile or genotype on file, the calf will not be eligible to participate in any of these ABBA-sponsored events.**

*Why is this important?*

This ensures that only calves with verified pedigrees and parentage participate in key breed events. It also strengthens the value of ABBA's breed verification process and ensures breed integrity is upheld in high-profile public events like shows and sales. Having a DNA profile or genotype on file also allows for faster conflict resolution if pedigree disputes arise at shows, sales, or program evaluations.

The American Brahman Breeders Association (ABBA) is committed to continuous improvement, breed integrity, and providing value to its members. The implementation of the Five-Year DNA Plan reflects this commitment and positions the Brahman breed as a leader in modern cattle genetics. While change can feel challenging, this initiative is designed to benefit breeders, buyers, and the Brahman breed as a whole.