

ASA Programs: Driving Data and Genetic Progress



Calf Crop Genomics (CCG)

With an ever-increasing demand for irrefutable, science-based data within commercial and seedstock industries alike, ASA developed Calf Crop Genomics (CCG), a genotyping project designed with the producer in mind. Not only does CCG allow for more accurate selection decisions and parentage testing, but it's also offered at half the cost of regular genomic testing.

Benefits to Participating Members

- **Discounted Pricing and Additional Rebates.** A GGP-100K panel is offered at half the price of the normal testing – reduced from \$50 down to only \$25/head. Participating members may also be able to receive a \$5 rebate/head if 90% of the birth group have birth and weaning weights reported, and 90% of the calves in-possession post-weaning have yearling weights reported. Any member that reports both weight traits and carcass records can qualify for a \$15 rebate. Animals can only qualify for ONE phenotypic rebate.
- **Parentage Verification and Selection Decisions.** Adding genomics to genetic predictions is similar to knowing 10 to 25 progeny records on that animal before they have had a single calf of their own. Having this amount of data to help you sort your future seedstock increases the accuracy of selecting cattle to improve certain traits or indexes. With the additional benefit of knowing the pedigrees, you can see how CCG improves your genetic predictions and adds value to your decisions and your customers' decisions. The current error rate in parentage reporting is estimated at 7%. Enrolling calves in CCG will not only reveal and help correct pedigree reporting errors (which result in more accurate EPD predictions), but will also keep their parentage markers on file for future parentage analysis against their progeny.
- **Discounted Trait Testing.** Trait testing is considerably less expensive when ordered with a genomic test than testing for simple traits without a genomic panel. Add-on price discounts are available, which can be viewed on simmental.org.



Carcass Expansion Program (CXP)

Although carcass trait phenotypes are among the most important in the beef industry, they are also among the most difficult to collect. In the age of genomics, it is clear that we need genotypes on animals that have actual carcass phenotypes.

- **Covered genotyping.** In exchange for individual carcass records, ASA will cover the genotyping costs associated with the use of tissue-sampling units (TSU) for CXP participants.
- **Shared data.** This program aims to increase both genomic and phenotypic data-reporting on terminal

calves, impacting individual participants and the genetic evaluation.



Carcass Merit Program (CMP)

The CMP is more than a young sire evaluation; data has an impact in predicting end-product value. This program contributes valuable data to the IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation, while helping producers prove their young sires.

- Evaluates young sire candidates, and gathers carcass data on sire groups.
- Has a significant impact on accuracy, and gives young bulls an important head start in data submission.
- The data collected has allowed the ASA to amass substantial information for benchmarking, so that performance and value expectations can be conveyed to current and potential customers of members.
- From this data, ASA can reliably estimate the performance of their genetic products with the help of information collected on SimGenetic sires tested in these real-world commercial situations.
- Relies on select cooperator herds, which get access to premium semen, carcass payout incentives, and the option to retain females from the calf crop. These females also benefit ASA, continuing to contribute data.
- CMP steers are born, raised, fed, and harvested in nearly every cattle-feeding region of the nation.
- Historically, the CMP has contributed more than 800 birth-through-yearling records and more than 300 carcass records annually.
- Breeders interested in obtaining rare and valuable carcass records can enroll in the CMP for \$2,000/sire.



Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR)

Launched in 2018, the Cow Herd Roundup (CHR) program has been widely successful for participating breeders, giving them the opportunity to not only genotype their entire cow herd at a heavily discounted price, but also rapidly improve genomic predictions and genetic progress.

Benefits of Participating Members

- **Discounted Pricing and Additional Rebates.** The GGP-100K genomic panel is offered at half the price of standard testing — reduced from \$50 down to only \$25/head. Participating members also qualify for a \$5 rebate/head if they submit mature weights with body condition scores (BCS) and/or hip height on 90% of the cows tested.

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