

April, 2014

## DNA Profiling from Non-US (overseas) Parents

Dear Member,

As many of you are aware since January 1, 2013 US Wagyu Association initiated the migration from STR (Microsatellite) to **SNP** platform for **all** DNA testing through a new arrangement with GeneSeek (GSK) after they acquired Scidera Laboratory in Davis, California (formally MMI)

In the past any resultant offspring born in the US from an overseas Sire or Dam could be registered if a STR DNA profile (ISAG recognised) was supplied. The profile information we now seek is in SNP format. This format (Seek Sire 96 SNP Panel) is the most cost effective option US breeders have available. **STR Parentage is still possible but the cost is almost twice as much because an SNP profile is performed (by default) on every calf requesting DNA Parentage.**

With a high proportion of “overseas” parents residing in Australia, the US Association approached the University of Queensland (UQ) Cattle DNA Laboratory (service provider to Australian Wagyu breeders) and confirmed that compatible SNP profiling is available to Wagyu breeders. The current UQ pricing for SNP profiling is \$30 (ex gst) per sample. Individual breeders can contact UQ directly for further information.

To assist our overseas members (during this transition phase) who have already sold semen or embryos into the US, a list (attached) of Sires and Dams to be bulked SNP profiled via the US Association is being explored.

In good faith, the AWA has negotiated with UQ a **discounted** fee per sample for these parents and what we are asking is for each respective member to be responsible for paying a nominal fee of \$15 per sample for the animals in your ownership. We understand there is a small burden to pay but the American Wagyu Association is kindly picking up the remainder of this tab so we can expedite the process causing minimal disruption and minimising the STR PV(SM2) expenses incurred by our Members.

### PLEASE NOTE:

As of April 1, 2014 any breeder marketing genetics (live animals, Embryos or Semen) into the US will be required to supply a **SNP profile report** (compatible to the GSK Seek Sire Panel) on the pedigree in order for the US Association to register any resultant progeny. The responsibility of supplying such DNA information will be the seller.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the AWA office

Kind regards,

AWA Office

*Wagyu refers to all Japanese beef cattle.  
"Wa" means Japanese and "gyu" means cow.*

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