



WAGYU

Robert Williams, Ph. D, Executive Director

December 2019

Own the Experience – An update from the Executive Director

Happy Holidays!

As we celebrate this holiday season we should take time to reflect on 2019 and recall and cherish all that 2019 brought, including all the great times and friendships, both old and new.

But we also look forward to new challenges and opportunities 2020 will bring.

The year 2020 also is the 30th Anniversary for the American Wagyu Association. We must stay diligent and continue to tell the story of this great breed as we work to reach new milestones.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

National Western Stock Show

The NWSS in Denver, CO is fast approaching and the AWA has some big plans in place. If you can make it to Denver for the Show on January 12, 2020 we will have some chili available in the yards. And on Saturday January 11, 2020 some sliders are on the menu. Watch for an eBlast as the date approaches. <https://nationalwestern.com/>

Rule Change Parent Verification

Beginning January 1, 2020 the AWA will require all Fullblood and Purebred animals to have a 50K genotype on file for registration. The 50K genotype includes parent verification to meet the AWA rules for parent verification. The cost for the 50K genotype will be \$50 which represents an increase in past parent verification costs. However, the AWA Board of Directors has agreed to keep the cost of the 50K genotype at the \$25 price point until July 1, 2020.

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

和牛

It is important to note that this reduced fee for the 50K genotype is only available until July 1, 2020 and only for new registrations. Requesting the 50K genotype for animals that are already registered will be charged at the normal rate of \$50.00. Additionally, NEOGEN will be upgrading/replacing the 50K genotype to the 100K genotype sometime this spring and there will be no additional price point change.

This is an important milestone for the American Wagyu Association as genomic information continues to expand its footprint in breeding prediction for traits of economic value to Wagyu breeders. Genomic information will increase the accuracy of prediction, especially as it relates to younger animals with few or no progeny performance data reported.

SNP Sharing Policy

The AWA Board of Directors has been working on an International SNP Sharing Policy to address the needs of the AWA membership for international marketing of Wagyu genetics. This work includes making the process easier to cross register animals in International Wagyu Associations and also the exporting of US Wagyu genetics (live animals, semen, and embryos) into international markets. The Board of Directors were careful to take steps to protect the value and integrity of the AWA database in this process and believe we have developed a workable policy in this regard. It is important to understand that the international association also has responsibility to protect the value and integrity of the data as well and will need to agree with the terms of our policy and this agreement will need to be in place before the AWA can provide the SNP information.

In cases where SNP data is required for the exportation of animals, semen, or embryos from the United States into a foreign country, the AWA will provide the data directly to the party designated by the requesting AWA member as being responsible for exportation of the animals, semen, or embryos from the United States into the foreign country and acceptable to the AWA.

There is an application, documentation, and agreements that may be required by breeders and others to complete and provide to the AWA before the SNP information can be shared to international associations.

The policy was presented to the AWA Board of Directors during their December 16, 2019 meeting and was approved.

Breed Improvement

We are actively reviewing the AWA birth and growth data which is necessary to move forward with a genetic evaluation. So far the results look promising for those traits. I encourage breeders to continue reporting this information on all of their calves.

Additionally, if you have collected sire identified carcass data please contact the AWA office about reporting that information to the AWA so that we can review it for inclusion in our

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

和牛

future genetic evaluation for carcass traits.

This is a very important project for the AWA and data reported to the AWA by the membership is key to the success of the project. If you have questions about data collection or reporting the data please give me a call.

Northeast Conference

A group of enthusiastic Wagyu breeders gathered this last November in Williamsburg, VA. They had some great speakers on the topics of genetics and nutrition. Additional speakers from the USDA were present which also led to some discussion regarding opportunities which may lead to the AWA working with the USDA on evaluation of marbling scores for Wagyu cattle.

North American International Livestock Exposition

We had a great show at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in November as well. I've attached pictures of the winners. It's not too early to start making plans for next year to exhibit at this show which is one of the premier exhibitions of livestock in the world!

Until then own the challenges as you do the opportunities.

RW

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

和牛