



Ultrasound Guidelines Council

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Ultrasound Guidelines Council Operating Protocol

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Purpose

To develop and maintain a governance structure and protocol for proficiency testing and certification for technicians involved in ultrasound scanning of beef cattle for composition traits and in interpreting images used in genetic evaluation programs.

Ultrasound Guidelines Council (UGC)

This group is responsible for developing, maintaining and governing proficiency testing protocol and standards for beef cattle ultrasound technician certification. This council is composed of four beef breed organization representatives appointed by the US Beef Breeds Council (USBBC), three university persons involved directly in ultrasound research and national cattle evaluation programs using ultrasound data, one active field ultrasound technician and up to three representatives from centralized labs meeting the UGC definition for a centralized lab.

The ranking US Beef Breeds Council representative will serve as chairperson for this Committee and will serve in this role for one year, or more, at the discretion of the USBBC. The second ranking USBBC member will serve as co-chairperson for one year, or more, at the discretion of the USBBC, and will assume the chairperson position during their final year on the UGC. Each university representative, lab representative(s) and certified field technician will serve as a member at the invitation of the four USBBC representatives.

Each university member will serve a five year term unless additional service is mutually agreeable. Each field technician will serve a two-year term unless additional service is mutually agreeable.

UGC Responsibilities

1. Provide service to individuals and organizations inside and outside of the United States seeking to enhance the genetic evaluation of beef cattle for composition traits via ultrasound.
2. Establish dates for periodic technician proficiency certification programs.
3. Select a host to provide the facilities and other resources necessary to conduct the ultrasound technician certification program.
4. In cooperation with the host institution, assemble the necessary persons to oversee the certification process.
5. Develop and maintain all UGC protocol and proficiency standards.

6. Assemble the necessary personnel to analyze the proficiency testing and certification results.
7. Provide overall financial management of funds collected and utilized for conducting the certification process.
8. Maintain an official web site for the UGC that includes schedules and lists of certified field and laboratory technicians.
9. Develop and maintain standards for testing and certifying new or enhanced real-time ultrasound scanning hardware and interpretative software.
10. Develop and maintain standard guidelines for centralized data reporting formats, data storage and maintenance.

General Operating Fund

1. Each participating group that benefits from the activities of UGC will pay an annual fee of \$250.00 to the UGC. These groups include participating beef breed associations and each centralized processing facility. These fees are due on September 1 of each calendar year.
2. In addition, breed associations and centralized processing laboratories will pay \$0.10 for each animal received (breed associations) or interpreted (labs). This includes all animals sent to a breed association, regardless of being registered or commercial. (Amended by the Beef Breeds Council, 2008). This fee structure is subject to revision by UGC.
3. Field and laboratory technicians will be assessed a nominal registration fee to attend and participate in the UGC technician certification process. This fee will be set jointly by the UGC and the hosting institution or organization.
4. Funds will be used to reimburse UGC members for all travel expenses associated with UGC activities, pay for web site maintenance, mailings, expenses associated with the annual advisory meeting, out-of-pocket expenses (non overhead) associated with the UGC at the host institution.
5. The UGC will maintain an appropriate organizational structure that will allow for accepting fees and paying UGC activity expenses in accordance with relevant federal, state and IRS statutes.

Definitions

Centralized Processing Facility-An ultrasound interpretation organization that works with two or more field technicians, serves two or more beef breed organizations, employs two or more laboratory interpretation technicians, and processes 4,000 or more images annually.