

BEEF BUSINESS



Compiled by Julie Mais, editor

August's "Beef Business" brings you an enhanced genotyping platform, lab-grown fake meat oversight information and an update on beef exports.

Enhanced HD 50K for Angus

Zoetis has introduced HD 50K™ for Angus, built on a new, enhanced genotyping platform developed in partnership with Angus Genetics, Inc. (AGI), representing the latest innovation in genomic technologies.

Genetic testing results from HD 50K for Angus include parent verification and Genomically-Enhanced Expected Progeny Differences (GE-EPDs). HD 50K for Angus, when combined with Zoetis' comprehensive portfolio of products, technical services, laboratory excellence and innovation expertise, enables Angus seedstock producers to make selection, breeding and marketing decisions earlier and with confidence.

"Zoetis has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with the American Angus Association and we're very proud to have collaborated closely with Angus Genetics, Inc. to develop this newly enhanced HD 50K for Angus," said Jason Osterstock, executive director, Global Genetics at Zoetis.

"HD 50K for Angus is the next evolution of genetics services for continued enhancement of the Angus breed," Osterstock added. "It replaces i50K™ to provide Angus producers with high-density genotyping at the same value."

"Since 2010, our partnership with Zoetis has brought innovation and

leadership in developing genetic tools that help Angus producers realize greater value from more informed breeding and marketing decisions," said Dan Moser, president of Angus Genetics, Inc. "The HD 50K for Angus genotyping platform is a key part of our overall service model and will be an important and valuable tool for our producers."

To learn more about HD 50K from Angus, visit Zoetis.com or call 877-233-3362.

HD 50K for Angus is available to American Angus Association members through Angus Genetics, Inc. and may be purchased online through the AAA Login site.

Source: Zoetis

Lab-grown meat oversight

Danielle Beck, director of government affairs for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), used remarks at a July 12 public meeting to advocate for the

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USDA's oversight of lab-grown fake meat products.

Hosted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the stated goal of the public meeting was to provide interested parties and the public with an opportunity to comment on the technology and regulations related to lab-grown fake meat technology. However, despite existing federal laws which designate USDA as the primary oversight body of lab-grown fake meat, USDA was not afforded a role in the public meeting.

"NCBA applauds the pointed questions FDA has posed regarding risks, hazards and manufacturing methods of lab-grown meat food products," Beck said. "However, the appropriate agency to ask the questions under discussion today is the agency that will ultimately have jurisdiction over lab-grown meat food products. Any fair reading of the law places lab-grown meat food products within the primary jurisdiction of the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service."

Beck also explained why USDA jurisdiction is crucial for ensuring that lab-grown fake meat products are safe for consumers. Continuous inspection that draws on the scientific expertise of USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service provides the most stringent oversight of any perishable meat food product.

"Critical food safety oversight objectives can only be accomplished if USDA complies with the law and asserts jurisdiction over cultured meat food products," Beck added.

Many promoters of lab-grown fake meat have claimed that USDA oversight of lab-grown fake meat is unnecessary because animals are not being harvested. In fact, USDA inspection is required for all federal meat plants, whether harvesting occurs or not. USDA inspectors provide daily oversight in facilities where meat is processed into

products such as ground beef, hot dogs or deli meats.

Source: NCBA

USDA reports procedure

The USDA announced July 10 new procedures for the release of market-affecting crop and livestock reports from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) to ensure that all members of the public have access to the information at the same time.

Under current "Lockup" procedures, information is released to the public at 12p.m. (Eastern), though the news media are allowed access approximately 90 minutes early, with their reports embargoed until the noon release time.

Prompted by inquiries from the public, USDA examined the procedures and determined that technological advancements have afforded recipients of customized media reports a market advantage not enjoyed by members of the general public.

The USDA also sought analytical assistance from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to help inform a policy update to the lockup procedures.

As a result, beginning Aug. 1, 2018, USDA will provide media the same access to the NASS and WAOB reports as the public, with the information becoming available to all at 12 p.m. on days the when reports are released.

"These reports are greatly anticipated each time they are released, and they can have significant market impacts," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. "Everyone who has interest in the USDA reports should have the same access as anyone else. Modern technology and current trading tactics have made microseconds a factor. This change addresses the

'head start' of a few microseconds that can amount to a market advantage. The new procedures will level the playing field and make the issuance of the reports fair to everyone involved."

Source: USDA

May beef exports

U.S. beef exports set a new value record in May while also increasing significantly year-over-year in volume, according to data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF).

Beef export volume was 117,871 metric tons (mt) in May, the sixth-largest on record, valued at a remarkable \$722.1 million, which surpassed the previous monthly high (March 2018) by a healthy 4% and was 24% higher than a year ago.

Through the first five months of 2018, beef exports were up 10% in volume to 547,157 mt while export value was \$3.32 billion, 21% above last year's record pace.

Exports accounted for 13.6% of total beef production in May, up from 13% a year ago. For muscle cuts only, the percentage exported was 11.1%, up from 10% last year. For January through May, exports accounted for 13.5% of total beef production and 10.9% for muscle cuts — up from 12.8% and 10%, respectively, last year.

Beef export value averaged \$313.39 per head of fed slaughter in May, up 18% from a year ago.

The January-May average was \$317.69 per head, also up 18%.

Source: USMEF

