

November 18, 2008

Genomic Research Funding

Dear Brown Swiss Breeders:

Genomic evaluations for almost all production, management and type traits are about to become a reality. Unfortunately, these evaluations are currently only accurate for Holstein and Jersey. While Brown Swiss has 340 bulls genotyped, Jersey has 1,400 and Holstein 14,000 animals. For Brown Swiss to have reasonably accurate evaluations, additional genotypes are required!

The work to date has been largely supported by NAAB members and the various Associations including Holstein, Jersey and Brown Swiss. The American Jersey Association, for example, has contributed over \$120,000. Brown Swiss has contributed \$12,000. NAAB as a whole has contributed a large sum, as well as each stud contributing large amounts of semen and effort.

Further, studs with significant Brown Swiss programs are now contributing additional funds specifically for Brown Swiss genotyping and genomic research. Other entities sampling Brown Swiss sires are invited to contribute as well. In addition, negotiations are underway to cooperate with European Associations to increase the number of genotypes available.

However, we need support from Brown Swiss breeders like you as well! Consider how this technology can benefit you in the near future:

1. Young sires with full brothers can be tested, and the poorest eliminated before sampling. This will mean better overall results from using young sires.
2. You will be able to test your young heifers to better select those to be flushed.
3. Long term, we will have very accurate tests, which will allow Brown Swiss to 'sample' or test many more bulls per year, and allow us to increase our rate of genetic progress.

Perhaps more compelling is what might happen if we **do not** act now:

1. Holstein, as a breed will make large gains for traits we consider ours...like SCC, longevity, protein, feet and legs etc.
2. Jersey will expand their productive life advantage, while improving weak traits such as SCC and udder depth.
3. Both breeds will be able to identify 'outcross' genetics that will far exceed current performance.
4. Brown Swiss will fall competitively behind other breeds in the U.S. dairy industry.

BROWN SWISS CATTLE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S.A.

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We are seeking financial support for additional genotyping. Our goal is \$20,000 which will go towards genotyping the additional 200 bulls and 50 cows that we currently have DNA on. This along with the cooperation of the European Associations could give us 1,500 genotypes! The cost of genotyping is determined by the provider. Currently, the price is \$225 and could drop in the future. There is an additional BSCBA administrative fee of \$25 for females bring the total current cost to \$250 per female. All financial support will be appreciated.

\$1000 – Gold Status Brown Swiss Research 2008

- The BSCBA administrative fee of \$25 will be waved for 20 female genotyping resulting in a \$500 value.

\$500 – Silver Status Brown Swiss Research 2008

- The BSCBA administrative fee of \$25 will be waved for 10 female genotyping resulting in a \$250 value.

Please note that the administrative fee waivers are valid indefinitely.

To receive these benefits, funds must be received by January 31, and they can be treated as a normal operating expense for maximum tax advantage. Checks should be made out to the Brown Swiss Association. If we exceed our goal of \$20,000, the Board has stipulated that these funds will be used for additional genotyping in the near future as well as other important Brown Swiss research. Any amount is appreciated. With the support of the A.I. industry, combined with Brown Swiss breeders like you, we can accomplish this research early in 2009!

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