



Ultrasound Guidelines Council

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UGC Field Certification and Continuing Education Program

June 20-25, 2010 – Harrison, Arkansas

Hosted by Designer Genes Technologies, Inc. and the University of Arkansas

INFORMATION FOR TECHNICIANS

Introduction

This document provides information regarding the UGC Field Certification (sometimes called “proficiency testing”) and the UGC Continuing Education Program scheduled for June 20-25 at Designer Genes, Inc. in Harrison, Arkansas. For additional information on the UGC organization please visit the UGC website (<http://www.ultrasoundbeef.com/>). Questions may be directed to Dr. Mike Tess, the UGC Executive Director, at: mwtess@ultrasoundbeef.com or 406-581-9071.

Who Should Participate

All ultrasound technicians wishing to become UGC-certified for the first time may do so only through participation in a UGC Field Certification. All UGC Field Technicians whose certification expires in 2010 and who do not qualify for re-certification via absentia must re-certify in a UGC Field Certification. There will be two UGC Field Certifications in 2010 – the one described in this document and one yet to be scheduled for the fall.

Location

Both the field certification and the education program will be conducted at:

Designer Genes Technologies, Inc.
4594 Union Road
Harrison, Arkansas 72601

Travel

Harrison is in northwest Arkansas about 35 miles south of Branson, Missouri. For those driving to the certification, Union Road is south of the town of Harrison off of Highway 206 and east of Highway 7. For those choosing to fly, the closest airport is Branson, MO (code = BKG). Other competitive choices include Fayetteville, AR (code = XNA) and Springfield, MO (code = SGF). For those considering combining certification with a vacation, Branson is a popular family vacation destination (<http://www.explorebranson.com/>).

Motels

A block of rooms has been held at the Quality Inn in Harrison (870-741-7676). Please call to make your own reservations. The rate should be \$71.99 + tax. The confirmation code is: “UGC Certification”.

Meals

Lunch will be provided for technicians on the day that they go through the certification process. Snacks and beverages will also be provided at breaks.

Education Program

Recent changes in UGC policy require all technicians going through the certification process to participate in the education program offered in conjunction with field certification. UGC Technicians who have certified via absentia are welcome to participate in the education program and may earn 2 points towards their education requirements. See the UGC website for more details on UGC Continuing Education.

Cost

UGC Field Certification and Education Program = \$525

UGC Education Program alone (applies only to UGC Technicians who are not re-certifying) = \$25

Schedule

In order to save time for technicians, the education program has been integrated with the certification process. Technicians may go through certification on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. The facilities will permit 10 technicians per day – 5 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon.

The education program will include a chute-side workshop and classroom presentations. The workshops are designed to improve scanning techniques and will be conducted in the evening prior to proficiency testing. Classroom presentations will focus on three topics: 1) Ultrasound as a Business, 2) Breed Association Ultrasound Rules, Policies and Contacts, and 3) Helping Breeders Interpret Ultrasound Information. For technicians scanning cattle in the morning, classroom presentations will be in the afternoon. For technicians scanning cattle in the afternoon, classroom presentations will be in the morning.

Technicians should plan to arrive at Designer Gene Technologies Inc. by 6:30 PM the evening prior to their scheduled scanning day. Technicians should be finished and ready to start home by 5:30 PM the next day.

The schedule is summarized below. “Morning techs” = technicians scheduled to scan cattle in the morning, and “Afternoon techs” = technicians scheduled to scan cattle in the afternoon. In the event of extreme heat, the schedule may need to be adjusted to better care for the cattle.

Sunday June 20

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Chute-side workshop for Monday techs

Monday June 21

7:30 AM – Chute-side setup for morning techs

8:00 AM - Scanning begins for morning techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for afternoon techs

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM – Chute side setup for afternoon techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for morning techs

1:30 PM - Scanning begins for afternoon techs

5:30 PM – Monday techs should be finished

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Chute side workshop for Tuesday techs

Tuesday June 22

7:30 AM – Chute-side setup for morning techs

8:00 AM - Scanning begins for morning techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for afternoon techs

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM – Chute-side setup for afternoon techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for morning techs

1:30 PM - Scanning begins for afternoon techs

5:30 PM – Tuesday techs should be finished

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Chute-side workshop for Wednesday techs

Wednesday June 23

7:30 AM – Chute-side setup for morning techs

8:00 AM - Scanning begins for morning techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for afternoon techs

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM – Chute-side setup for afternoon techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for morning techs

1:30 PM - Scanning begins for afternoon techs

5:30 PM – Wednesday techs should be finished

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Chute-side workshop for Thursday techs (if necessary)

Thursday June 24 (if necessary)

7:30 AM – Chute-side setup for morning techs

8:00 AM - Scanning begins for morning techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for afternoon techs

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM – Chute-side setup for afternoon techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for morning techs

1:30 PM - Scanning begins for afternoon techs

5:30 PM – Thursday techs should be finished

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Chute-side workshop for Friday techs (if necessary)

Friday June 25 (if necessary)

7:30 AM – Chute-side setup for morning techs

8:00 AM - Scanning begins for morning techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for afternoon techs

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM – Chute-side setup for afternoon techs

- Classroom education program and written exam for morning techs

1:30 PM - Scanning begins for afternoon techs

5:30 PM – Friday techs should be finished

Registration

Certification times will be filled on a first registration first scheduled basis. Technicians may request the day to certify; however, final scheduling will be decided by UGC. Thursday and Friday will be filled only if needed. To register, technicians must fill out the registration form which may be downloaded from the UGC website. Complete registrations must include payment and be received no later than June 7, 2010. Technicians will be notified of their scheduled certification dates via email. UGC Technicians who wish to participate in the education program but are not attempting re-certification should register using the same form.

Equipment and Supplies

Technicians attempting certification must bring and use their own equipment – i.e., ultrasound machine with transducer, standoff pad, frame grabber, image capturing system, and extension cords. Technicians are not required to own the equipment they use; however, UGC certification is specific to the equipment (brand and model) used during proficiency testing. The host institution will provide oil, paper towels, electrical service, and a work table next to the chute.

The Certification Process (Proficiency Testing)

To become UGC Field Certified, ultrasound technicians must pass proficiency testing (often referred to as UGC Field Certification). Proficiency testing includes a written exam, and the collection of ultrasound images of the rump, rib, and intramuscular fat. Twenty animals, varying in age, gender, and condition are scanned representing breeding cattle as well as harvest cattle. Each technician collects images on every animal twice (i.e., in two sessions). Animals are renumbered between sessions. Technicians should be prepared to spend no more than 3 minutes collecting images from a single animal. All animals will be clipped in advance by the host institution.

UGC Reference Field Technicians collect images on the same animals. The images collected are interpreted by UGC Reference Lab Technicians to yield estimates of ribeye area, rib fat, rump fat, and intramuscular fat. The Reference Lab Technicians also score every image for image quality. Measurements from images collected by the Reference Field Technicians are used as the standards for each trait. Technicians are evaluated based on several statistics including image quality, correlation, absolute bias, standard error of prediction, and standard error of repeatability. The UGC website contains study materials and explanations of the statistics used to evaluate technician proficiency.

Statistics for all technicians are evaluated by members of the UGC Board of Directors which makes all pass/fail decisions. Technicians will be notified of the results within about 6 weeks after the certification program.

Ultrasound Training

UGC Central Ultrasound Processing Labs offer training in beef cattle ultrasound. Training may be obtained prior to the field certification described in this document. For more information contact the labs directly:

International Livestock Image Analysis
4594 Union Road
Harrison, Arkansas 72601
870-743-3440
<http://www.designergenesusa.com/index.htm>

Walter & Associates (CUP)
413 Kellogg
Ames, Iowa 50010
515- 232-9442
<http://www.cuplab.com>

UltraInsights
1767 210th Avenue
Diagonal, Iowa 50845
641- 464-2310
<http://www.uicuplab.com>