

Companies Team Up To Provide Centralized DNA Services

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LAFAYETTE, Colo. — Two leading livestock genetics companies have signed an agreement to provide some of the most updated, affordable genetic services to the North American beef industry.

Frontier Beef Systems, LLC (FBS; Lafayette, Colo.), in a nonexclusive alliance with GeneSeek, Inc. (Lincoln, Neb.), will offer tissue sample storage and DNA-based testing services to seedstock and cow-calf producers, branded beef companies, packers, cooperatives, and alliances.

Cooperating to fill a major void in the beef cattle and meat industries, the FBS-GeneSeek strategic partnership will enable FBS to provide a range of DNA-based products.

The initial product list includes:

- SireTRACE™ — high through-put and low cost DNA-based parentage identification.
- DoubleBLACK™ — a homozygous black test.
- GeneSTAR™ Marbling diagnostic test for favorable marbling gene.
- SureTRAK™ — DNA traceability and source verification for the meat production chain.
- SireTRACE, SureTRAK, and GeneSTAR Marbling are available through an arrangement with Genetic Solutions of Brisbane, Australia.

According to Jim Gibb, FBS general manager and co-owner, "What makes our product offering so exciting is the conven-

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ience for our seedstock customers of obtaining several DNA and other genetic services from one source. Our system also offers integration of parentage results with multibreed genetic evaluation to enable calculation of EPDs on commercial animals.

"Without low-cost parentage identification, it has been impossible to calculate useful EPDs on bulls produced in multisire pastures and then later used in multisire pastures. This truly provides new opportunities for

enhanced genetic selection. "This agreement will provide companies in the beef industry a simple, one-stop mechanism to obtain an assortment of valuable products," said Abraham Oommen, co-founder and CEO of GeneSeek. "GeneSeek is pleased to provide our leading DNA testing technology platforms and experience in high quality control and dedicated customer service to enable the provision of these products through this agreement with Frontier Beef Systems."

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