



EXHIBIT A

PIEDMONTESE BULL TEST PROTOCOL

Requirements and necessary documentation for the Piedmontese Bull Test Program (“Program”) conducted and managed by Lone Creek Cattle Company (“LCCC”).

- 1) The primary purpose is to standardize environmental and nutritional conditions to provide an impartial post-weaning performance evaluation and to offer a source of and market for performance-tested bulls. The goal is to support the genetic advancement of Piedmontese cattle by providing useful information for producers to make sound breeding decisions.
- 2) The Program is open to all Producers of Piedmontese bulls that possess 2 copies of the Piedmontese-specific inactive myostatin allele mutation. Producer is responsible for coordinating all bull deliveries with LCCC. Please contact LCCC as soon as possible to see if we can help arrange transportation.
- 3) LCCC will provide a 10-day delivery window prior to the start of each test. Bulls may come earlier but Producer must contact LCCC a minimum of 14 days prior to delivery date to verify availability of space. Upon delivery, all documentation (see below) must be provided and LCCC shall inspect all bulls.
- 4) LCCC will be responsible for providing bulls with professional care at all times including fresh feed mixed daily, large pens with room for exercise, fresh water, daily health evaluations, fresh bedding (as necessary dependent on weather), and veterinarian care if necessary.
- 5) Producer agrees to collect and provide to LCCC, a minimum of 30 days prior to delivery, all production information, per BIF Guidelines. The purpose for collection of this data is to facilitate reports that will support the genetic advancement of the breed and the generation of EPDs. This production data shall include but not be limited to the following individual animal data;
 - a) Ranch ID
 - b) Tattoo
 - c) Birth Date
 - d) Birth Weight
 - e) Calving Ease
 - f) Muscle Score at Birth
 - g) Weaning Date
 - h) Weaning Weight
 - i) Coat Color
 - j) Sire and Dam
 - k) DNA verification of sire required for all bulls
 - l) DNA verification of dam required for all bulls to be registered as full blood
 - m) DNA verification of Piedmontese-specific inactive myostatin allele mutation
 - n) DNA case number
 - o) Horned/Scurred/Polled Status
 - i) DNA verification required for polled animals
 - p) Testing Lab
 - i) Geneseek/Igenity
 - ii) Pfizer
 - iii) Scidera
 - q) Registry Classification
 - i) Full Blood
 - ii) Purebred
 - iii) Naturalean
 - iv) Tenderlean
 - r) Breeding Method



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- i)** Natural Service
- ii)** Artificial Insemination
- iii)** Embryo Transfer
- s)** Vaccination and Treatment History
 - i)** Date of vaccination/treatment
 - ii)** Reason for treatment
 - iii)** Name of product used

6) Requirements For Entry

a) Producer may enter as many bulls into the Program as they like, so long as facility space is available and all bulls meet the following requirements, in addition to the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement;

- i)** Must be virgin and less than 14 months of age at date of delivery
- ii)** Must possess 2 copies of the Piedmontese-specific inactive myostatin allele mutation
- iii)** Must be eligible for registration in one of the Piedmontese associations (NAPA or PAUS)

b) Health Certificate

- i)** All bulls are required to have a valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) upon delivery.
- ii)** Under no circumstances may animals from an area or herd under quarantine be delivered.
- iii)** Any bull not from Nebraska must meet all Nebraska import requirements.
- iv)** Please have your veterinarian contact the Nebraska State Vet at 1-402-471-2351 with any questions.

c) BVD PI

- i)** All bulls must be tested negative for BVD persistently infected (PI) status prior to delivery.
- ii)** A veterinarian must verify the test.

d) Tuberculosis (TB)

- i)** There are no tests required for bulls either from Nebraska or from an accredited free state or zone.
- ii)** All bulls that originate from a state or zone that is not accredited-free may be delivered, according to the Nebraska Animal Importation Regulations, under the following conditions:
 - (1) Originate from an accredited herd, with the accredited herd number listed on the CVI; or
 - (2) Have obtained a permit for entry; and
 - (3) Be individually identified with the identification listed on the CVI; and
 - (4) Have been tested negative to an official tuberculin test within 60 days prior to delivery.
- iii)** Please have your veterinarian contact the Nebraska State Vet at 1-402-471-2351 with any questions.

e) Brucellosis

- i)** There are no tests required for bulls from Nebraska or for bulls less than test-eligible age according to the Nebraska Animal Importation Regulations.
- ii)** All bulls of test-eligible age that originate from a Class Free state or certified brucellosis free herd may be delivered under the following conditions:
 - (1) Be individually identified with the identification listed on the CVI; or
 - (2) The brand inspection certificate number is recorded on the CVI.
- iii)** All bulls of test-eligible age that originate from a Class A state may be delivered under the following conditions:
 - (1) Be individually identified with the identification listed on the CVI; and



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(2) Have been tested negative to an official brucellosis test within 30 days prior to delivery.

iv) Please have your veterinarian contact the Nebraska State Vet at 1-402-471-2351 with any questions.

f) Brand Inspection

i) All bulls are required to have a valid brand inspection certificate upon delivery unless they originate from a non-brand area or state.

g) Vaccination Requirements

i) At Branding or Turnout (30-75 days of age)

(1) 5-way Viral (IBR, BVD (Type 1 & 2), PI₃, and BRSV)

(2) 7-way Clostridium

ii) Preconditioning (14-28 days prior to weaning)

(1) 5-way Viral (IBR, BVD (Type 1 & 2), PI₃, and BRSV)

(2) 7-way Clostridium

(3) Pasteurella Haemolytica

(4) Topical parasiticide (for fly and lice control; dependent on season)

iii) Weaning time (minimum 21 days prior to shipment)

(1) 5-way Viral (IBR, BVD (Type 1 & 2), PI₃, and BRSV)

(2) Injectable broad-spectrum parasiticide

h) Producer's Care of Bulls

i) Cattle should always be handled in accordance with generally recognized good husbandry practices and Beef Quality Assurance guidelines

ii) All vaccines are to be injected via the calf's neck only

iii) Calves must be weaned for a minimum of 30 days and bunk broke prior to delivery

iv) Calves must be dehorned and healed prior to delivery

v) Bulls must be free of active ringworms, lesions, warts, or abscesses at time of arrival

7) Performance Test

a) The performance test will consist of 3 primary phases:

i) Acclimation Phase (32 days)

ii) Performance Phase (119 days)

(1) Initial Phase (42 days)

(2) GrowSafe Phase (77 days)

iii) Evaluation Phase (21 days)

b) Upon arrival, bulls will be processed according to, but not be limited to, the following;

i) Individually weighed

ii) Retagged with a unique Bull Test Program ID (Ranch tags will be recorded and removed)

iii) Tagged with a unique RFID (unless bull already has acceptable RFID)

iv) Fed a receiving ration

c) During the acclimation phase, bulls will be managed in arrival groups and fed a warm-up ration (42-48 Mcal NE_g).



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- d)** At the beginning of the performance phase, bulls will be processed according to, but not be limited to, the following;
- i)** Vaccination
 - (1) Intranasal 3-way Viral (IBR, PI₃, and BRSV; Inforce3)
 - (2) Foot Rot (Fusogard)
 - (3) White Dewormer (Safeguard)
 - (4) Wart Vaccine
 - (5) Topical parasiticide (for fly and lice control; dependent on season)
 - ii)** Sorted by weight within age groups, depending on number of entries to fill pens
- e)** During the performance phase, bulls will be managed in groups up to 32 head per pen, within a test series and fed a moderate-energy ration (48-54 Mcal NE_g).
- f)** LCCC agrees that the performance phase shall include, but not be limited to, the following individual animal based growth criteria;
- i)** Individual weights taken at:
 - (1) Arrival at testing facility
 - (2) Start of performance phase (Average of weights collected over 2 consecutive days)
 - (3) Start of GrowSafe phase (Average of weights collected over 2 consecutive days)
 - (4) Conclusion of performance test phase (Average of weights collected over 2 consecutive days)
 - ii)** Average Daily Gain (ADG)
 - iii)** Weight per Day of Age (WDA)
 - iv)** Dry Matter Intake (DMI)
 - v)** Residual Feed Intake (RFI)
- g)** LCCC agrees that the evaluation phase shall include, but not be limited to, the following individual animal based physical criteria;
- i)** Disposition
 - ii)** Feet Structural Quality
 - iii)** Leg Structural Quality
 - iv)** Overall Mobility Quality
 - v)** Overall Phenotype
 - vi)** Ultrasound measurements
 - vii)** Hip Height
 - viii)** Frame Score
 - ix)** Scrotal Circumference
 - x)** Semen Quality

8) Data Collection & Management

- i)** LCCC will compile all production, performance, and evaluation data.
- ii)** LCCC will send a progress report, by email to Producers following the start of the GrowSafe phase, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following individual animal information;
 - (1) Bull Program ID
 - (2) Initial performance weight



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- (3) Initial GrowSafe weight
- (4) ADG
- (5) WDA

iii) LCCC will analyze all production, performance, and evaluation data upon completion of test and distribute a comprehensive summary report to Producers within 30 days.

iv) LCCC will provide all data to the Piedmontese associations to support the genetic advancement of the breed and for the express purpose of generating industry-recognized EPDs.

v) LCCC reserves the right to retest any bull for DNA verification of parentage or myostatin status, at LCCC's sole cost and expense.

9) Fees, Costs, and Billing

a) Producer will be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred for all bulls entered into the Program according to, but not be limited to, the following:

i) Entry Fee

- (1) \$175 per bull payable at time of delivery unless other such arrangement has been approved by LCCC prior to delivery. The purpose of this fee is to cover LCCC's costs related to equipment, facilities, labor, and other expenses necessary to collect, compile, and disseminate test data.

ii) Feed Costs

- (1) Feed price will be at cost to LCCC
- (2) All feed costs, except during the GrowSafe phase, will be calculated based on feed consumed per pen and prorated for each bull in the pen
- (3) Feed costs during the GrowSafe phase will be based on the individual intake of each bull

iii) Yardage

- (1) A fee of 40 cents per day will be charged per bull for the care and management of all bulls entered into the Program while they are at the LCCC facility

iv) Medical Expenses

- (1) Costs associated with vaccination, individual treatment, or veterinary services will be charged on an individual basis

v) Other Expenses

- (1) Program ID tags, RFIDs, and any health or brand certificates will be charged on an individual basis
- (2) Bedding costs will be prorated per bull
- (3) Costs incurred during the evaluation phase (ultrasound measurements, semen quality, etc.) will be prorated per bull

b) LCCC will provide Producer a detailed invoice on a monthly basis. Invoices are due within 30 days from date issues and unpaid balances subject to finance charges at the rate specified on the invoice.

c) LCCC may in its sole discretion provide financing to Producer for all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the Bull Test, including the entry fee, feed costs, yardage, insurance, and any other health or test related expense. Such financing may be provided only upon receipt of a signed Financing Request Form as attached to this Protocol, together with all supporting documentation as set forth therein. In the event such financing is provided, Producer shall and hereby grants to LCCC a first priority lien on all Bulls



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FINANCING REQUEST FORM

Lone Creek Cattle Company will provide financing to Producer, upon approval prior to delivery, for all costs associated with the Program at an annual rate of 6%. Producer must submit a complete and signed copy of this form a minimum of 30 days prior to delivery for review.

Producers agrees to the following;

- Producer has good and merchantable title for the Bulls to be entered into the Program and the exclusive right and authority to sell the same.
- Producer warrants that each such bulls to be entered into the program are sound, healthy, and in merchantable condition.
- Attached are true and correct copies of all financing statements and other liens against the Bulls, and an agreement in writing from each such security interest or lien holder consenting to this Agreement and to the grant to LCCC of a prior and paramount lien.

Producer: _____

Number of bulls to be entered into the Program: _____

Which test series will these bulls be entered into: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Estimated delivery date for these bulls: _____

Email: _____

X _____

By: _____

Its: _____

Approved By:

Lone Creek Cattle Co. Representative

Date