The American Gelbvieh Foundation (AGF) has three primary focal areas, youth development, member education and research for the improvement of Gelbvieh and Balancer* genetics. The AGF has initiated two programs that together will increase the volume of actual carcass data into the database, grow the Foundation for future projects as well as provide each participating member an opportunity to participate in breed improvement.

Scale & Rail Contest
The Scale & Rail Sire-Identified Steer Contest launched by the AGF is aimed at increasing the flow of sire identified carcass data reported to the AGA database. An increase in volume of data will assist in improving carcass traits of Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics. The Scale & Rail initiative will also provide an avenue for members to improve the accuracy of carcass traits of their herd sires. The following guidelines outline the requirements for animals participating in this valuable carcass data collection initiative:

Delivery
- Animals will arrive at the Darr Feedlot near Cozad, Nebraska between December 9-13, 2019. Participating members will be responsible for transporting animals to a pickup point coordinated by the AGF or directly to Darr Feedlot, Cozad, Nebraska, by December 13, 2019.
- Animals will remain the property of the owner until harvest date. Participants will be responsible for the cost of feed, yardage, vaccinations, veterinarian cost associated with morbidity and loss due to mortality. All costs will be billed to participants directly by the feedyard. The feedyard will deduct any unpaid costs from the sale of the animal to the packer at harvest time from the gross revenue of the sale and the owner will be paid the net balance.

Cattle Requirements
- **Steer must have one registered Gelbvieh or Balancer parent.**
- Ranch may contribute three or more steers from the same weaning contemporary group (same ranch, same arrival date and same harvest date).
- Animals should weigh a minimum of 750 lbs. with maximum weight of 900lbs. by December 13, 2019. The Scale & Rail Contest will accept commercial (sire-identified) and/or registered steers.
- Animals are required to have a Genomic Option 3 (GGP-uLD) DNA test and must be sire verified. Tissue samples for DNA testing will be taken at Darr Feedlot. Cost of the DNA test will be the responsibility of the AGF.
- All steers will get an EID tag at Darr Feedlot.
- All steers MUST be weaned at least 30 days prior to arrival at Darr Feedlot.
- The owner of the animals in the Scale & Rail Contest may select any animal(s) from their contemporary group(s) to be entered into the Steer Challenge, after results of test have been collected, in the name of that owner/breeder. (See Steer Challenge details). Animals donated to the Steer Challenge are eligible to win both contests.

Awards
- Contemporary groups (three head) sired by the same bull will be eligible to be recognized as the National Champion Pen of Gelbvieh Steers and National Champion Pen of Balancer* Steers. Steers qualifying for the Gelbvieh division must be 75 percent or more Gelbvieh. Steers qualifying for the Balancer/Gelbvieh influenced division must be 15 to 74 percent Gelbvieh.
- Winners will be recognized and awarded based on the following contest categories in each breed category: average daily gain and carcass value. There will also be a set of pen awards in carcass value.

Feeding cattle has risk. Participating members will be responsible for the cost of feed, yardage, vaccinations, veterinarian cost associated with morbidity and loss due to mortality. All costs will be billed to participants directly by the feedyard. The feedyard will deduct any unpaid costs from the sale of the animal to the packer at harvest time from the gross revenue of the sale and the owner will be paid the net balance.
**Steer Challenge**

The AGF Steer Challenge allows supporters of the Foundation to donate a steer in their name to the AGF and be designated to breed improvement such as research projects, updating DNA markers, and EPD and Index improvements. The following guidelines outline the requirements for donated animals for the AGF Steer Challenge:

- Animals will arrive at Darr Feedlot, Cozad, Nebraska between December 9-13, 2019.
- Owners may transport the animal directly to the feedlot or to one of the common collection points which will be established throughout the country in order to load trailers with multiple animals and reduce shipping cost.
- AGF will accept commercial and/or registered steers of any breed.
- There is not a minimum number of animals that may be donated by any one person(s) or operation.
- Proceeds from the contest will go to the AGF. Participants will need to write a check for donated animals to AGF after results are calculated.
- Steers meeting size recommendation may come from any source. Steers should weigh between 750–900 lbs. by December 13, 2019.
- All steers MUST be weaned at least 30 days prior to arriving at the feedyard.
- Results of the Steer Challenge will be reported and winners announced at the AGA National Convention Awards Banquet.
- Winners will be recognized and awarded based on each of the following contest categories based on breed category: average daily gain and carcass value. There will also be a set of pen awards in carcass value.
- Individuals who donated the top performing steers will be awarded a cash prize at the conclusion of the project.
- **All grid premiums are encouraged to be donated to the AGF, participants will need to write a check after results are calculated.**

Individuals interested participating in one or both programs are encouraged to do so by completing the entry form and returning it to the AGA by December 13, 2019. Participants with questions regarding either program may contact AJ Munger at 605.521.4468 or Tom Strahm at 785.547.7999.