Steer Challenge/Scale & Rail Contest Guidelines

The American Gelbvieh Foundation (AGF) has three primary focal areas of 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 and Heifer Contests launched by the AGF are 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 Kinsley Feeders near Kinsley, Kansas between December 9-13, 2024. Participating members will be responsible for transporting animals to a pickup point coordinated by the AGF or directly to Kinsley Feeders, Kinsley, Kansas, by December 13, 2024.
- 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 feed yard. The feed yard 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

- **Animals must have one registered Gelbvieh or Balancer parent.**
- Ranch may enter three or more steers or heifers from the same weaning contemporary group (same ranch, same arrival date and same harvest date).
- **Steers should weigh a minimum of 750 lbs. with a maximum of 900lbs. by December 9, 2024**.
- **Heifers should weigh 650lbs. to 800 lbs. and deliver the same dates as steers.**
- **Animals should be born in the spring calving season (January – April)**
- The Scale & Rail Contest will accept commercial (sire-identified) and/or registered steers or heifers.
- Animals are required to have a DNA test and must be sire verified. **Tissue samples for DNA testing will be taken at Kinsley Feeders.** Costs of the DNA test will be the responsibility of the AGF.
- All animals will get an EID tag at Kinsley Feeders.
- All animals MUST be weaned at least 30 days prior to arrival at Kinsley Feeders.
- The owners of steers in the Scale & Rail Contest may participate in the Steer Challenge by donating to the AGF. (See Steer Challenge details). Animals entered in each division 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 risks. 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 feed yard. The feed yard 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 ($1,000) 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 Kinsley Feeders, Kinsley, Kansas between December 9-13, 2024.
- 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 costs.
- 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. Kinsley Feeders will withhold donations from cattle proceeds checks and send the donations to the AGF.
- **Steers meeting size recommendation may come from any source. Steers should be born in spring calving season (January – April) and weigh between 750–900 lbs. by December 9, 2024.**
- All steers MUST be weaned at least 30 days prior to arriving at the feed yard.
- Results of the Steer Challenge will be reported, and winners will be announced at the AGA National Convention Awards Banquet.
- Winners will be recognized, and awards presented for the categories of average daily gain and carcass value.
- Individuals who donated the top performing steers will be awarded a cash prize at the conclusion of the project.
- **Cash prizes of at least $2,000 for 2025 Steer Challenge if 3 or more steers are entered/donated.**
- **Cash prizes of at least $500 for 2025 Steer Challenge if less than 3 steers are entered/donated.**

Individuals interested in 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, 2024. Participants with questions regarding either program may contact Tanner Aherin at 785.302.1270 or Tom Strahm at 785.547.7999.