

Since
You
Asked...



Heather Lange | director of office operations,
registrations & DNA

New Rule, Explained

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again - or so they say! There has been quite the buzz about the new rule put into motion by the board, regarding bull testing. Hopefully this article will give better insight and put into real terms what we are looking for. To preface, this rule is NOT saying that all bulls born after January 1, 2022 have to be tested. Nor is it saying that all bulls born and registered after January 1, 2022 have to be tested. What it is saying is that any bulls born after January 1, 2022 who will produce offspring, have to be tested before those offspring can be recorded in our registry. These bulls will not be able to have calves hit the ground until 2023, most likely, so this rule will not really take effect until then. Bear with me - this will be a lengthier article than you are probably used to from me, but my hope is that the contents will answer burning questions and ideally spread awareness of why this is going to happen, as well as encourage breeders to welcome the new policy.

One question we have received many times - which bulls are subject to this new rule? The answer is: only Shorthorn and ShorthornPlus bulls born on or after January 1, 2022. If you are registering Shorthorn Plus calves out of foundation, commercial, or bulls from outside breeds, you do not need to test those bulls. Again, only Shorthorn and ShorthornPlus bulls (who will become sires) born after January 1, 2022 need this testing. When you go to register your calves soon after January 1, 2022, this rule should not hold you up. This is because only after January 1, 2022 will the bulls who this rule pertains to, even be registered in the first place. Being redundant, these bulls do not need testing to be registered. They need

testing if, when they are older, you plan to use or sell them for breeding purposes. This rule does not affect Shorthorn or ShorthornPlus bulls that are in your pastures who were born prior to January 1, 2022.

Another question we have gotten - what if I've registered a bull (who was born after January 1, 2022) and I never tested him, but I did sell him for commercial purposes, and now that buyer wants to register calves out of him? This is easy! The buyer can simply test that bull at any time. It just must be done before his calves get recorded. Also, if this decision is made after said bull is gone, the calves he wishes to register will just need the 100K testing done in his place. There are no penalty DNA testing fees at all. Testing costs stay the same, no matter how old your post-Jan. 1, 2022 bull is, or when he is tested (or his offspring in his place, for that matter).

Now for a big question - why? Many have reached out wondering why the board decided on this rule. The answer is essentially 3-part. First, to put bluntly, you can look at most breed registries and assume that around 12-15% (sometimes more) of its records are incorrect. We have found in our own breed, through more and more DNA testing, that animals just get registered incorrectly. It happens, we are not pointing fingers or playing a blame-game whatsoever. We are simply hoping that this new rule can be used to alleviate this problem. The future of our industry is data driven. We can only strive to provide the most accurate data and herd book to represent our breed, and the board agreed that this new ruling will get us one step closer to that goal. Secondly, and tied closely to the first reason, testing these bulls gets parentage markers on file for them.

This was the main reason for the ruling. When we have parentage markers on a bull, we can then compare any offspring that we need or want to, to him, which helps when breeders are unsure of a mating, which happens more often than you would think, because as we all know, "...it" happens! Lastly, the board agreed to the 100K genomic testing because it not only provides the parentage markers that we are seeking, but it also gets your bulls the genomically enhanced EPDs. As your bulls sire calves, all of that performance data goes into the genomic data base, and as the years go by with more and more of this data, our records will be that much more accurate as an entire breed, but also on the individual breeder's level too.

We realize that this is a big change. With change comes resistance, and of course, questions. As a staff, we are here to assist with those questions as best we can. This is a new rule for us too, so bear with us, again. The staff and your board all feel that we as a breed will be bettered by this new rule. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office or your Board of Directors. Many of you have already, which is great! This article exists because of questions, and hopefully, the reach of the magazine will extend to those who might have had the same questions but didn't want to ask. On a lighter note, I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas, New Year, and all-around holiday season! Here's to an outstanding 2022! 📧