



Cattle Microsatellite Testing to End 31 December 2020

In order to bring you and your members the best possible genomic testing services, Neogen is constantly upgrading our technologies.

Over time, this means that some of our foundational technologies are superseded with new and improved systems. For example, in the 1990s the industry moved away from blood sampling and into microsatellite (MiP) testing.

And now MiP testing has been overtaken by single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) testing as the most effective and efficient method of identifying genetic traits.

The move away from MiP is being seen at the leading laboratories all around the world and from 31 December 2020, Neogen will also no longer be offering MiP testing services.

While you may find this news disappointing, we are writing to you now so that you have ample time to consider what action you may need to take to realign your operations with current international standards in genomic evaluation.

Unfortunately, SNP and MiP profiles are not compatible for parentage, and we are not able to perform parentage verifications on SNP calves with MiP parents, or vice versa.

Consequently, you may need to re-genotype some of your current parent animals. In some cases, this may be possible using the samples already held at Neogen, but we cannot guarantee that there will be adequate hair left for every animal.

The advantage of moving to SNP tests, which we already offer through our GGP series, is that they provide a platform for examining a range of issues from a single platform, and not just parentage. For example, our GGP tests can examine both parentage and recessive markers in a single test and deliver genomically enhanced breeding values both now and in the future. In short, they are more effective and provide greater return on your investment.

If this change affects you, please don't hesitate to get in contact with Neogen or your breed society to discuss options for keeping your breeding program aligned to the best available technologies so that you can meet your production goals sooner.