



Ultrasound Guidelines Council

P.O. Box 5097

Bozeman, MT 59717-5097

Ph: 406-581-9071

Fax: 406-585-4685

UGC Continuing Education

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M.W. Tess, Executive Director

Introduction

Meeting via conference call, on April 1 the UGC Board of Directors approved in principle a new continuing education program for UGC Field Technicians. These changes reflect the input of many people within the UGC partnership – maybe most important the field technicians themselves. The program will continue to be refined as time goes on. Following is an outline of the new program.

Quality Data for Genetic Evaluation

Genetic evaluation of hard-to-measure carcass traits, accuracy, and data quality assurance represent the key components of the UGC mission. UGC serves as the guardian of ultrasound data quality for the beef industry. The goals of the continuing education program are to:

- 1. Help all within UGC to be informed on technologies, procedures, research, and industry issues related to the UGC mission.*
- 2. Provide educational content that is appropriately targeted, cost conscientious, and conveniently accessed.*

The program outlined below attempts to recognize and serve the diversity of UGC-Certified Field Technicians while striving to meet the goals listed above.

Field Tech Committee

The Executive Director will appoint a committee of experienced UGC Field Technicians. The committee will work with the Executive Director to develop programs and advise the UGC Board regarding the continuing education program. UGC will count on this committee to help set the agenda for a significant portion of the education program.

Technicians Certifying Via UGC Field Certifications

Technicians that obtain or renew their UGC-Field Certification via on-site proficiency testing are primarily professionals who are either relatively new to the ultrasound business or scan cattle as a part-time enterprise. Starting in 2010, all UGC Field Certifications will include a mandatory educational program. This program will satisfy the continuing education requirements for these technicians during their two-year certification period.

Technicians Certifying In Absentia

Technicians that re-certify in absentia are professionals who have been certified for many years and scan thousands of animals per year. Beef cattle ultrasound is often their primary business. Continuing education requirements for absentia technicians may now be met via choosing from a menu of

opportunities. Evaluation of education completed components will be made by the Executive Director in conjunction with the biannual re-certification process. During every two-year cycle absentia technicians must accumulate at least 4 points from the menu below:

1. UGC sponsored interactive webinars – 1 pt each.
 - i. At least 2 different webinars will be offered per year.
 - ii. Webinars will be announced in advanced via the UGC website.
2. UGC approved professional meetings – 1 pt each with a maximum of 2 per two-year cycle.
 - i. Beef Improvement Federation (BIF).
 - ii. National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) or similar organization.
 - iii. Regional or national American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) or similar organization.
 - iv. Other industry/professional meetings as approved by the Executive Director.
3. UGC sponsored on-site educational event – 4 pt.
4. UGC Field Certification education program – 2 pt with a maximum of 1 per two-year cycle.
5. UGC-approved educational programs offered by other organizations – variable pt.

Approved UGC educational opportunities will be posted on the UGC website.

Descriptions of Educational Components

Field Certification Education Programs. At UGC Field Certifications the education components will be offered in multiple sessions in order to make participation more convenient for technicians attempting certification on different days, and may consist of both hands-on workshops and classroom presentations. Materials and topics will be tailored to new and part-time field techs. Absentia technicians may participate; however, because the material is targeted for a different audience these programs would serve only a portion of their education requirement.

UGC Sponsored Webinars. Webinars are internet based seminars that require both internet and telephone hookups. Speakers and audience participants can be at multiple locations. Web-based companies provide an internet site where participants log-in and view PowerPoint presentations or other demonstrations in real time. Audio is provided via a conference call. People may ask questions over the phone or submit questions via the internet. Attendance will be verified by the host via the internet, as well as live verification over the phone.

UGC Approved Professional Meetings. The more informed and aware technicians are in the beef industry, the more they contribute to the UGC mission. Participation will be verified by faxing or mailing registration receipts to the Executive Director. Meetings not listed on the UGC website may be proposed to the Executive Director for approval in advance of the meeting.

UGC Sponsored On-Site Educational Events. These events will be infrequent, issues-based, and information loaded. UGC may consider offering educational events in conjunction with a BIF or NCBA meeting.

UGC-Approved Educational Programs. A variety of high-quality education events are offered by university extension and various professional and industry organizations. Some of these events may serve the goals of the UGC Continuing Education Program. The Executive Director will evaluate potential programs and post qualifying programs on the UGC website.