



Select Sires always has had a deep-seated commitment to your future. This philosophy has spread to and through the 4,000 PGA cooperators who have made Select's Program for Genetic Advancement the "heart and soul" of our sire-development program and the model for young-sire sampling worldwide.

Producing Consistent Results...

Not every bull sampled through Select's Program for Genetic Advancement™ (PGA™) graduate into our proven lineup. Only the most elite are offered as proven sires. Across all dairy breeds, producers trust that using PGA semen today will result in daughters they'll be happy milking in the future, regardless of their lineup status. All four daughters pictured above, including the show-winning Holstein, are PGA results whose sires never made Select's active lineup!

To continue supplying elite genetics for your herd, Select Sires wishes to grow the PGA program by progeny testing more bulls. If you're not participating in PGA, now is an excellent time to join. If you're already a member, consider increasing the level of young-sire usage in your herd. By participating in a program with national scope, you'll have the opportunity to use a variety of outstanding pedigreed young sires and get paid benefits for the results.

Ensure your genetic future and see Consistent Results™ in your herd—make PGA a part of your management system. Contact your representative today!

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PGA™ Procedures and Benefits

It Pays Off

The availability of great, accurately proven sires takes active participation and commitment at all levels—from Select Sires to you, the dairy producer. Everyone benefits from the variety of young sires selected and the controlled random sampling of each sire.

The first step in sampling is to identify the best prospective bull mothers through intensive pedigree selection and screening of the U.S. Department of Agriculture cow indexes. Using Select's balanced genetic approach to sire development, cows selected then are mated to the best sires to achieve the highest parent averages for type and production performance. The resulting bull calves then enter the PGA system.

"The objective of any successful young-sire program is to identify the true genetic value of the bulls being sampled," says Chuck Sattler, vice president, dairy progeny testing and genetics research. To accomplish this, Select Sires stresses random distribution and random usage of PGA semen.

"Qualified PGA herds are divided by region of the country and level of production with semen from each PGA sire being distributed nationally to all regions and all herd levels. The system also is designed so young sires are used randomly within assigned herds. This results in an unbiased early evaluation."

PGA Herd Qualifications

The PGA is designed to efficiently test and evaluate a large number of sires each year. Accurately evaluating the early daughters of a sire is critical for future satisfaction of the many dairy producers who will use semen from program graduates. Thus, herds enrolling in the PGA are expected to meet and maintain minimum guidelines to achieve program goals, as follows:

- Maintain herd size of 40 or more identified cows of the breed enrolled to assure an adequate number of herd mates.
- Have average or higher production for the breed in the area in which the herd is located.
- Use semen from PGA sires in a manner that maximizes the number of PGA-sired calves.
- Maintain a good identification program.
- Be enrolled in a milk-recording program from which records are used in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) genetic evaluations.

PGA Sampling Procedures

The key to accurate, early evaluation is to randomly sample each sire throughout the population. Therefore, semen from each PGA sire is distributed to 175 herds across the nation to enable approximately equal usage in all regions and at various production levels. In addition, random usage within a herd is a key to accurate genetic evaluation. PGA herds typically adopt one of three common management approaches to ensure random usage, including using semen to breed:

- The next cows in heat after semen is received,
- All first-repeat services or
- All first-calf heifers (those that have calved once).

Milk Recording Requirements

Currently there is an endless combination of testing plans that qualify to be used in USDA genetic evaluations. The requirement for participation in PGA is for herds to maintain a Data Collection Rating (DCR) of at least 70% as calculated by USDA. Typically this means that supervised herds need to test about every other month. For herds using on-farm milk meters and uploading weekly average milk weights to DHI, then quarterly supervised testing with component sampling is acceptable. Owner-sampler herds are required to have monthly recording of milk weights and component testing. In addition, Owner-Sampler herds need:

- To maintain at least 40% of the herd with usable ID.
- Record bulk tank weights on test day.
- Use QCS approved meters.

The following tables provide estimated DCR values based on different combinations of testing frequency and supervision. If the frequency of recording milk weights differs from the frequency of component testing, lookup the DCR for the milk weights and the component tests separately and then compute the average. In these cases, the average DCR value is used to determine the level of PGA benefits.

Supervised (Test Code < 40)			
Times Milked Per Day	Times Tested per Day	No. of Tests per Year	DCR
2	2	12	100
2	2	11	99
2	2	10	99
2	2	9	98
2	2	8	98
2	2	7	97
2	2	6	97
2	2	5	95
2	2	4	92
2	1	12	95
2	1	11	94
2	1	10	93
2	1	9	92
2	1	8	90
2	1	7	89
2	1	6	88
2	1	5	85
2	1	4	79

Owner-Sampler (Test Code > 40)			
Times Milked Per Day	Times Tested per Day	No. of Tests per Year	DCR
2	2	12	75
2	2	11	75
2	2	10	74
2	2	9	74
2	2	8	73
2	2	7	73
2	2	6	73
2	1	12	72
2	1	11	71
2	1	10	70
2	1	9	69
2	1	8	69
2	1	7	69
2	1	6	69

Supervised (Test Code < 40)			
Times Milked Per Day	Times Tested per Day	No. of Tests per Year	DCR
3	3	12	100
3	3	11	99
3	3	10	99
3	3	9	98
3	3	8	98
3	3	7	97
3	3	6	97
3	3	5	95
3	3	4	92
3	2	12	97
3	2	11	96
3	2	10	96
3	2	9	95
3	2	8	94
3	2	7	93
3	2	6	92
3	2	5	90
3	2	4	85
3	1	12	90
3	1	11	89
3	1	10	88
3	1	9	87
3	1	8	85
3	1	7	81
3	1	6	77
3	1	5	73
3	1	4	70

Owner-Sampler (Test Code > 40)			
Times Milked Per Day	Times Tested per Day	No. of Tests per Year	DCR
3	3	12	75
3	3	11	75
3	3	10	74
3	3	9	74
3	3	8	73
3	3	7	73
3	3	6	73
3	2	12	73
3	2	11	72
3	2	10	72
3	2	9	71
3	2	8	71
3	2	7	70
3	2	6	70
3	1	12	69
3	1	11	68
3	1	10	66
3	1	9	65
3	1	8	64
3	1	7	64
3	1	6	63

Milk Weights Recorded By On-Farm Meters	
	DCR
Daily	103
Monthly reporting of 7-Day Average	102
Monthly reporting of 5-Day Average	102

PGA Benefits

In recognition of the contribution PGA herds make to the industry, Select Sires provides the following benefits to active PGA herds:

- PGA semen at a nominal charge.
- \$10 semen certificate for each identified PGA heifer calf that is born within 18 months of her sire's initial semen release. A maximum of five daughters of an individual sire per herd can qualify for this benefit.
- Up to \$50 in semen certificates for each PGA daughter the first time a usable record appears in her sire's USDA Sire Summary through the third summary. The actual value of the certificate will depend on the value of the herd average DCR for milk weights and component testing.

- \$50 for herd DCR of 90 or higher
- \$40 for herd DCR of 80 to 89
- \$30 for herd DCR less than 80
- Periodic visits by Select Sires or member staff personnel.
- Some Select Sires' member cooperatives may provide additional benefits in their respective service areas.

COBA PGA Benefits

- In addition to the programs offered by Select Sires, COBA will pay 80% of the Certificate price offered above the Select Sires price to the COBA member-owner-customers!

If you would like more information on becoming a PGA cooperator, please fill out the [program request form](#).

