

## Angus Productions Inc.'s coverage of the



## Merial Reveals Multiple-Marker DNA Profile Technology

*News release provided by Merial.*

DULUTH, GA (Feb. 1, 2006) — Merial announces an important step forward in genomic testing with the introduction of what it calls the beef industry's most comprehensive DNA testing profile — Igenity MultiMark™.

The MultiMark test includes the Igenity TenerGene™ test, ParentMatch™ test, and DoubleBlack™ test into one package.

“By identifying multiple genetic markers, then integrating them into a single profile, Igenity MultiMark increases the confidence of selection and management decisions within an operation,” says Jim Tate, global beef strategy manager for Merial Igenity™. “This new approach to DNA testing — unique to Igenity — helps create greater efficiencies in testing for producers and the industry.”

The comprehensive multiple-marker profile approach of Igenity MultiMark makes it a user-friendly and cost-effective method for producers to learn more about an animal's genetic potential.

“Our goal is to give producers the tools to improve the efficiency and profitability of their operations,” Tate says. “By providing a broad range of analyses

— and integrating them into profiles that are simple to use and understand — Igenity MultiMark allows producers to profile animals for traits that matter most, and to more rapidly improve the genetics of a herd.”

Panel testing uses the latest DNA technology and is a next step toward producing more consistent products that are heavily demanded by consumers.

“Marker-assisted selection (MAS) is the next level of predictability for producers and may actually eliminate some of the guesswork at times,” Tate notes. “Progressive producers will see these additional options as a means to enhance the tools they already utilize to make breeding, purchasing and other management decisions.”

Used as a complementary tool, marker-assisted selection — with Igenity MultiMark — allows producers to combine DNA genetic information with the other options they already have available for predicting cattle performance.

### **The components**

The MultiMark package includes the following tests:

**Igenity TenderGene** is a multi-

marker test that identifies an animal's genetic potential for producing tender beef.

**Igenity ParentMatch** is a tool for commercial and seedstock producers using multiple-sire breeding pastures. ParentMatch MultiSire utilizes DNA to identify the most likely sire of each calf in a multi-sire environment.

Equally important is the service aspect of this test. The sophisticated, state-of-the-art sire matching information is combined with genetic evaluation software to produce within-herd EPDs.

**DoubleBlack** is a DNA coat color test that confirms homozygous black or red carrier genotypes.

#### **Open-ended future**

"DNA testing is an exciting, rapidly changing science," Tate says. "Igenity MultiMark helps producers make selection and management decisions with greater

confidence. However, the even more exciting part is the potential Igenity MultiMark has to help producers prepare for value-based alliances and other opportunities that continue to gain momentum."

The MultiMark platform will allow for additional tests and services of economic importance to be added as rapidly as scientific discovery and validation allows. Merial is continuing to do validation research on other DNA tests that will help producers realize and understand more about the value of their cattle.

For the convenience of the producer, all analyses are conducted from a single DNA tissue sample. Results are then provided via the Web, fax, e-mail or hard copy in an integrated, easy-to-understand report that helps producers make more confident selection and management decisions throughout an animal's life.



**Editor's Note:** This article is adapted from a release provided by Merial, an animal health company providing a comprehensive range of products to enhance the health, well-being and performance of a wide range of animals. To learn more about Igenity MultiMark, contact a Merial representative, visit [www.igenity.com](http://www.igenity.com) or call 1-877-433-6489.