



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agriculture Research Service

July 30, 2007

Randy Goode
Goode Cattle Company
803 CR 772
Damon, Texas 77430

Dear Randy:

I would like to thank you for your outstanding assistance and expertise in helping us identify and collect tissue samples from diverse lines of U.S. cattle breeds.

These samples will help ensure that when any particular DNA test is developed for cattle, it will work well in ALL cattle and not just the most popular breeds. This is critically important because we are finding that U.S. cattle herds are rich with genetic diversity. Diversity is great for healthy cattle but poses special technical problems for DNA testing. By having a diverse collection of sires and dams from many breeds, we can readily account for the natural diversity and develop accurate DNA tests for everyone.

I have spent nearly 10 years trying to collect smaller sample sets of fewer breeds. In just a couple months you have surpassed my accomplishment and have done it with hard-to-find breeds. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your efforts and how much this moves the science of bovine DNA marker development forward. I know it often seems like science crawls at a snail's pace, but in time I hope you and others will be able to see the fruits of this labor.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael P. Heaton". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael P. Heaton, Project Leader
Animal Health Research Unit

