

Interim Update
American Angus Association®
Curly Calf Syndrome (11/3/08)

Five A.I. organizations requested that the American Angus Association provide to the membership the identity of and preliminary test results for Angus bulls tested by Dr. Jon Beever of the University of Illinois to determine whether they were carriers of the Curly Calf Syndrome (CCS) mutation or were free of it. In doing so we provide the following overview of our understanding of how these results came into existence and the Association's view of their current significance.

Throughout September and October, it is our understanding that Dr. Beever contacted a number of A.I. organizations to request that they voluntarily provide him with semen samples from bulls in their inventory for use in his research into CCS. His requests included samples from animals both with and without the genetics now in issue. The Association did not participate in or provide any input into the selection of those samples that were submitted.

As the Association reported to the membership on October 24, Dr. Beever informed us that he had developed a preliminary test, although it was not yet what he considered optimal. We understood that it was an important, initial step toward validation and ultimate commercialization.

On October 27, we learned that Dr. Beever began to transmit results of those tests he had conducted on the samples provided to him to each of the submitting A.I. organizations. These results indicated for each animal that underwent this preliminary test whether the animal in question was a carrier of the CCS mutation or was free of it.

We understand that on October 29 the National Association of Animal Breeders Beef Committee had a teleconference with Dr. Beever. We also understand that Dr. Beever requested, and the group agreed, to wait for Dr. Beever's final results and explanation of the test before jointly releasing the information the next Monday (today).

This morning Dr. Beever provided us the registration numbers of and test results for the animals that he tested. The A.I. organizations that provided Dr. Beever the semen samples for those animals have asked the Association to provide that information to the membership. The Board has carefully considered this request and it has factored into its deliberations its understanding that the A.I. organizations have begun to inform their customers of how specific animals have tested. The Board's decision to provide that information to the membership is subject to the following important qualifications:

1. We understand the test used here was run on a set of animals requested by Dr. Beever from the A.I. companies for research purposes and therefore remains preliminary in nature. The preliminary test has not been validated. Accordingly, until the Association can establish a protocol for the direct receipt of results of a fully validated, commercialized test from a lab approved by the Association, it will not alter or amend any animal's Registration or Performance Pedigree Certificates.

2. THE AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION MAKES NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR RELIABILITY OF EITHER THE ANIMALS IDENTIFIED OR THE TEST RESULTS SHOWN FOR EACH AND HEREBY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, BOTH EXPRESS AND IMPLIED, OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

One final observation is in order. Dr. David Steffen originally introduced the phrase “Curly Calf Syndrome” in a notice he provided to us that we posted on September 5, 2008. We have now been asked by both Dr. Beever and Dr. Steffen to refer in the future to this abnormality by its scientific name, Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM).

We will continue to keep the membership posted, including when a validated test becomes commercially available at laboratories approved by the Association.

For an update on the research by Dr. Beever, the list of the animals and their preliminary test results, please [click here](#).