Policy Announcement related to the Myostatin nt821 Gene Deletion

Today (July 29, 2011), we are posting a policy relating to the Myostatin nt821 gene deletion. That deletion was recognized by us as a strain of the double muscling genetic defect on June 20, 2011.

This policy derives from the discretion given to the Board in Rule 307 to develop, establish and implement specific policies tailored to address a particular set of circumstances the Board may have before it. Since the rule's initial adoption in November 2008, we have had the occasion to issue three policies to address three separate defects. Today marks the fourth policy issued by the Board in this era of DNA testing.

In fashioning this policy the Board was again guided by two core beliefs:

1) That if a test for the defect was available, that test should be made available to our membership, and

2) Pedigrees should be marked to reflect the results of those tests.

We also considered the three policies we have adopted since November 2008. We concluded that the presence of the Myostatin nt821 deletion in the breed presented a markedly different set of circumstances than those associated with the defects for which we set policy in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Finally, we believe that our membership is well informed on the nature of recessive traits and much more adept – and comfortable – at effectively using the science and technology now available to us to manage breeding and selection decisions.

Dr. Beever has nearly completed testing of sires submitted to him by the AI organizations for the Myostatin nt821 deletion. As of this posting, the rate of incidence for this deletion will be low – in the rate of one-half of one percent. This compared to incidence rates on the same population of 8.5 percent, 10.5 percent and 3.1 percent for AM, NH and CA, respectively.

Click here to view the M1 policy.

We will continue to keep you posted on any additional developments.

The Board of Directors