

IMPORTANT BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The American Angus Association was recently informed by Dr. Jon Beever, geneticist at the University of Illinois, that the American Simmental Association has observed a genetic condition, Oculocutaneous Hypopigmentation (OH). The condition is inherited as a simple recessive.

Cattle affected by OH have eyes with irises that are pale blue around the pupil with a tan periphery. Their hair coats have a slightly bleached color. While some affected calves have sensitivity to light, they are believed to be otherwise normal functionally and physiologically.

Dr. Beever's research indicates the source of the condition in the Simmental population was likely a commercial Angus cow that was a founder animal to a line of black Simmental cattle.

As part of his research, Dr. Beever's lab recently screened 1311 Angus bulls for the OH mutation. Of those, only one was identified as a carrier of the mutation, Sir Wms Warrant, (AAA 9196894) born in 1978. In 1982, Warrant was identified by the Association as a carrier of Heterochromia Irides (HI), commonly known as "White Eye," based on abnormal calves sired by him.

Although they are two separate genetic conditions, OH and HI exhibit many of the same characteristics. Based on current research and input from Dr. David Steffen, an expert on genetic conditions at the University of Nebraska, the Association now concludes that the condition carried by Warrant is OH, not HI. Other animals previously listed as HI carriers are under review.

The American Angus Association is working with the University of Illinois to screen widely used Angus bulls as well as potential carriers to determine the impact of the genetic condition. For a list of animals tested to date and their test results, [please click here](#).