

ANGUS

THE BUSINESS BREED

American Angus Association Update on UNL Research

Recently, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln published a news release calling for collection of genetic samples to identify the cause of abnormal traits in calves. The article, titled: “Assistance Sought in Identifying Novel, Abnormal Traits in Calves,” outlines UNL’s current research initiatives in this area.

The American Angus Association® routinely receives reports of abnormal calves, actively investigates reports with research partners and is aware of the form of dwarfism mentioned.

Regarding the dwarfism example used in the article, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI), President Dan Moser said, “Currently, we have no reason to believe this is anything other than an isolated issue. The Member Services and AGI teams remain committed to providing the industry with the most current information on genetic conditions.”

UNL works with many breed associations, including the American Angus Association, to proactively identify and reduce cases of genetic abnormalities in beef cattle. Additionally, the researchers note that cases of genetically abnormal calves are rare and occur across breeds; further, in many instances the cause of abnormalities is not attributed to genetics.

“While it is important to understand the cause of this defect, the dwarfism disorder currently being investigated is not thought to be common nor pose a concern to the industry,” said UNL researcher Jessica Petersen. “Historically, we lacked the tools to fully investigate the cause of these events. Now, with new tools and technologies, we are fortunate that American Angus breeders and their leadership are proactive in supporting investigations of emerging issues to prevent problems from disrupting breeding programs.”

Members are encouraged to report any Angus-influenced abnormal calves to the Association. For more information, contact the Association at 816-383-5100.

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