

Notice of April 30, 2009

On Wednesday, April 29, 2009, the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association conducted a special meeting by phone. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the ongoing work of a Special Committee appointed by the Board to examine the Association's recently-enacted genetic defect policy and that policy's applicability to Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH).

The Board decided that a specific policy regarding Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH) would not be adopted until after an independent validation of Dr. Beever's research on NH has been completed. That process is underway.

Currently Dr. Beever and the University of Illinois are engaged in efforts to obtain the needed agreements that will permit recognized researchers in the genomics field (specifically, the Meat Animal Research Center and the University of Missouri) to independently review the research on NH. It is anticipated that this review can be conducted on a time table consistent with the scheduled commercialization of the DNA test for NH.

The Board also discussed the actions of previous Boards that made independent assessments of DNA tests that were ultimately approved by the American Angus Association. These included the peer review of the DNA test for dwarfism (D2) as well as the use of blinded samples in the independent validation of the DNA test for Arthrogyrosis Multiplex (AM). In the case of AM, 91 blinded samples containing affected, carrier and free animals were provided to Dr. Beever for testing. These blind samples tested accurate in 100% of the cases.

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