



January 21, 2014

Dear AGA Members,

Dr. Jon Beever, professor of genetics at the University of Illinois, announced to the American Gelbvieh Association membership on January 10, 2014, that the DNA test for Contractural Arachnodactyly (CA, “fawn calf”) is not completely accurate for Gelbvieh fullblood animals and their descendants. This includes purebred Gelbvieh, Balancer[®], percentage Gelbvieh, and hybrid Gelbvieh. Magnum (AMGV38) is the oldest fullblood Gelbvieh bull that incorrectly tested CAC. The CA test was developed in Dr. Beever’s laboratory. It is believed that CA originated in Angus.

On January 15, the AGA Board of Directors received a letter from Dr. Beever wherein he detailed the situation. The entirety of Dr. Beever’s letter is posted on the AGA website in the Education/Genetic Conditions section.

It is important to note that any animal previously tested as CA free (CAF), is not a CA carrier. However, animals that tested CAC (CA carrier) or CAA (CA affected) are in doubt. We know for certain that fullblood animals cannot carry CA because they have no Angus genetics. While this is an unfortunate situation, it is unprecedented. Dr. Beever has been involved in the development of more than a dozen genetic condition diagnostic tests for beef cattle without a similar occurrence.

The next steps to resolving this situation are as follows:

1. On January 13, the CAC status for the fullblood bull Magnum was removed from the AGA database. It is anticipated that the process of deleting CA potential carrier (CAP) status from his descendants will be completed by January 24.
2. GeneSeek, AgriGenomics, and Zoetis have ceased testing Gelbvieh-influenced animals, including Balancer animals.
3. A letter will be sent to all owners of CAC animals informing them that CAC or CAA will be removed from their animals’ records on January 31, 2014, unless AGA is notified otherwise.
4. Dr. Beever has begun the process of developing a new CA testing solution with a completion target date of mid-February 2014. The AGA membership will be immediately notified upon the availability of the revised CA diagnostic test. AGA will participate in the validation of the revised CA test. We have no information regarding the cost of retesting.
5. Until a new DNA test is available, a CA test will not be required for the issuance of temporary A.I. sire and donor dam permits. Follow-up testing with the new CA test will be required for animals previously tested CAC in order to obtain A.I. sire and donor dam permits. Animals that tested CAF will not require a retest. **As per AGA genetic conditions policy, all other CA testing is optional.**

On behalf of the AGA Board and staff, we appreciate your patience over the next few weeks as we resolve this situation.

Best Regards,

Rob Arnold
President
American Gelbvieh Association