

Interim Update
American Angus Association®
Curly Calf Syndrome (CCS) (10/24/08)

After approximately eight weeks of focused research, we have been informed by Dr. Jon Beever of the University of Illinois that he continues his efforts to determine the exact mode of inheritance that causes this genetic abnormality. He remains unable at this time to conclude that CCS is caused by a simple recessive gene. While Dr. Beever believes that the evidence remains strong that the abnormality is genetic, he informed us that he is also focusing on whether CCS may sometimes be expressed in the heterozygous form where both parents need not be carriers for the abnormality to manifest itself. He informs us that this will require additional time and testing.

Several points flow from this:

- Whatever the mode of inheritance is, Dr. Beever reports that he will continue his efforts to develop an optimal test that can be used on impacted animals.
- Because Dr. Beever remains unable to conclude after two months that we are likely dealing with a simple recessive gene, we have decided to remove the *Question and Answer* summary posted last week that dealt with a hypothetical finding that the abnormality was caused by a simple recessive gene.
- The proposed *Guidelines Relating to the Registration Status of Potential and Known Carriers of Curly Calf Syndrome* will continue to remain posted but could be subject to amendment when Dr. Beever determines the mode of inheritance.

One final observation is in order. The American Angus Association continues to support the tireless efforts of Dr. Beever. The Association recognizes him as one of the preeminent scientists in this area. We are cautiously optimistic given his report to us that he has developed a preliminary test, although one not yet optimal by his standards. While not ready for use, it represents an important, initial step toward validation and commercialization.