Board Update on Oculocutaneous Hypopigmentation

Dec. 8, 2015

Since the original announcement of Oculocutaneous Hypopigmentation (OH) by the American Angus Association (AAA) on Nov. 11, 2015, additional Angus cattle have been tested for the condition at the University of Illinois in an ongoing effort to screen widely used Angus bulls. As those results become available, they are incorporated into the AAA database and added to the list of test results posted on www.angus.org. When potential carriers are tested and found to be free of the condition (OHF), their status and that of their descendants are immediately updated.

Previously, only one Angus bull was identified as a carrier of the mutation, Sir Wms Warrant (AAA 9196894) born in 1978.

In the most recent test results, a second Angus bull was identified as a carrier of OH. He is Ginger Hill Boss 150 (AAA 11395611) born in 1990. Like Sir Wms Warrant, this bull was identified years ago as a carrier of Heterochromia Irides (HI) because he sired calves with the abnormality thought to be HI. As with Sir Wms Warrant, Ginger Hill Boss 150 will now be recognized as OHC rather than HIC. Descendants of Ginger Hill Boss 150 will be identified as potential carriers of the OH condition (OHP) unless an intervening ancestor is tested free of the condition (OHF).

Many descendants of Sir Wms Warrant have been tested for the OH condition, and thus far, all have been found to be OHF. Accordingly, the descendants of those animals, previously labeled OHP, are no longer labeled as such if they have no other ancestors that are potential carriers.

Partnering genomic testing labs will be offering OH testing through Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) in the very near future. Until then, if members have OHP animals that need to be tested immediately for

upcoming sales, they may contact Dan Moser at dmoser@angus.org or (816) 383-5196 for more information.

The American Angus Association will continue its work with the University of Illinois to screen widely used Angus bulls as well as potential carriers.

Click here for more information or to read the Nov. 11 announcement about OH. A complete list of animals tested to date and their test results is also available here.