



BOARD UPDATE

Feb. 25, 2017

The American Angus Association® received further information this morning regarding the recessive genetic abnormality, Sodium Channel Neuropathy (SCN). Dr. Jonathan Beever of the University of Illinois first reported the condition to the Association this week.

Sodium Channel Neuropathy is inherited as a simple recessive genetic condition. Calves affected are born alive but fail to stand. The majority of calves display significant torticollis, or wry neck, likely related to dystonia (a neurological movement disorder that causes sustained or repetitive muscle contractions). Calves may also have a “short-coupled” appearance, and euthanasia is necessary.

Dr. Beever conducted the research identifying the mutation after a producer submitted pedigree information and blood or tissue samples to the lab in November 2016. While the mutation does appear in the affected calves’ ancestors, none of the AI-permitted sires in their pedigrees have been found to have the causal mutation, based on current testing methods. At this point, Dr. Beever reports that it appears likely that the mutation occurred spontaneously in a recent ancestor of the affected calves.

As part of the genetic condition research, the lab screened more than 800 Angus AI sires for the mutation, and none were found to be carriers of the identified SCN mutation. While testing is ongoing, all indications are that the impact on the Angus population will be very limited.

The Association will continue to work with Dr. Beever to investigate this condition in a timely and transparent manner. Visit www.angus.org for the latest information regarding the condition as it becomes available.

Please contact the American Angus Association at 816-383-5100 if you have questions or become aware of calves that match the condition description. A form to report potentially affected calves is available [here](#).

###