Managing AM in Your Herd

Although AM is a serious defect, it has been present for some years in Angus and Angus-influenced cattle. Now that a DNA test has been identified for the syndrome, animals carrying the recessive defect can be easily identified and managed accordingly. Pfizer Animal Genetics can help you design a strategic testing program specific to your herd and can suggest ways to manage AMC animals and their progeny. This will assist in the reduction and eventual removal of AM genes from your herd. Consider some of the examples below.

- **Cow - AMC**
  A cow carrying a single copy of the AM gene (AMC) does not necessarily need to be culled. A four-year-old cow that has been identified as AMC will on average produce a further four calves. Assuming all things are equal, two will be male and two will be female and if you use only AMF sires only two of those four calves will be AMCs. So on average of the four calves you would expect a heifer and a bull calf to be AMF after testing.

- **Herd with multiple AMC animals**
  In this situation AMC animals can be divided into separate breeding groups. Again, only using AMF sires will mean that on average half of the progeny from the AMC group will be AMF. This will ensure that no AMC x AMC crosses occur. All progeny can then be tested and AMCs managed accordingly.

A Solution Not Just a Test

Pfizer Animal Genetics will work with you to manage AM in your herd. Through the implementation of a strategic testing program, Pfizer Animal Genetics can help you move towards being totally AM free in the future and capable of managing the situation in the present.

For more information please contact Customer Service on 1300 768 400. To download test order forms and a DNA-sample collection guide, visit our Web site, www.pfizeranimalgenetics.com.au.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much will the Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM) test cost?

The AM test price is $36+GST per sample for 1 – 50 samples and $33+GST for 51+ samples. Each animal tested for AM will earn a $10 credit towards future GeneSTAR® testing OR a $5 credit towards a future SireTRACE® test that must be redeemed before June 1, 2009. One $10 credit for one GeneSTAR test OR one $5 credit for one SireTRACE test will be issued for each animal tested.

When will the AM test be ready to run?

Pfizer Animal Genetics is now testing customer samples submitted for AM in both the Brisbane and Kalamazoo laboratories. Our testing procedures have been validated by Dr Jon Beever to confirm they produce identical, accurate results.

I have ear notch samples for some of my animals. Will these work for AM testing?

Yes. However, these types of samples will require extra processing time which may increase turnaround time.

I have already submitted samples for GeneSTAR testing. Can these be used for AM testing?

Due to the amount of DNA required to perform the AM test, it may not be possible to use previously sent samples in all cases. To confirm whether a sample can be used, contact Customer Service on 1300 768 400 or e-mail pahgenetics.au@pfizer.com.

How do I send in a sample?

Once a sample has been collected, for registered Angus animals whose results will be required to be loaded on the Angus Australia database, samples need to be submitted to Angus Australia nominating Pfizer Animal Genetics as the testing laboratory. Pfizer can also accept and test samples direct that do not require results to go onto the Angus Australia database.

Forms can be found at www.pfizeranimalgenetics.com.au or by calling Pfizer Animal Genetics Customer Service on 1300 768 400. Please download a test request form from our Web site or request one from Customer Service, and send these forms along with your sample(s) to:

Pfizer Animal Genetics
Free Post 145
ALBION QLD 4010

Or forms can be sent electronically, separate from the sample, to pahgenetics.au@pfizer.com.

Can my samples submitted for AM be run for parentage and GeneSTAR tests?

If a sufficient supply of DNA is available after AM testing is completed, then samples submitted for AM could also be tested for GeneSTAR or parentage (a sample would need to be submitted through Angus Australia for results to be loaded to the AA database). If you choose to have samples analysed for parentage and GeneSTAR, please indicate as such on the order form accompanying the DNA samples.

Who owns the DNA samples and results?

The person submitting samples pays for the test and owns the results. When samples are sent directly to Pfizer Animal Genetics, producers can indicate on the order form whether they wish results to be made public. Pfizer Animal Genetics will not release private results to anyone unless authorised to do so by the producer providing the DNA samples.

Will Pfizer Animal Genetics release an official listing of AM-tested cattle, or will the official list be made public by Angus Australia?

All animals on the AA database have an AM status, and all animals submitted through AA for AM testing will have their results published by AA. This database will be updated regularly by AA as new results become available. Pfizer Animal Genetics will provide a certified result to each customer on all animals tested in our laboratory. The Pfizer Animal Genetics laboratory in Brisbane operates under an ISO/IEC17025:2005 quality system that is third-party audited by NATA.

Will Pfizer Animal Genetics run an AM test on an animal if no registration number is provided?

Pfizer Animal Genetics will run a test on any animal submitted. If a customer wishes to submit a sample from a calf prior to it being registered and have that result recognised by Angus Australia, the process required by the association for loading the data onto the association database must be followed.

Pfizer Animal Genetics
P: 1300 768 400
P: +61 7 3633 3555
F: +61 7 3633 3500
E: pahgenetics.au@pfizer.com
W: www.pfizeranimalgenetics.com.au

Pfizer Animal Health
Animal Genetics