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GARDINER

Angus Ranch

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Dear Customers and Friends:

You may have received information regarding the incidence and research related to Curly Calf Syndrome distributed by the American Angus Association. The genetic defect caused by a simple recessive gene, is tentatively being traced to GAR Precision 1680 or his ancestors. We are collaborating with the American Angus Association and are in total support of the ongoing research to: (1) identify the defective gene, (2) develop a DNA test to identify carriers and (3) devise positive breeding strategies to decrease the frequency of the recessive gene.

Information to date on deformed calves has been based largely on written and verbal reports, without the DNA analysis of the sires and dams. Nonetheless, early research information points to 1680 or his ancestors. The identification of an undesirable, simple recessive gene is serious. However, we believe the statement posted by Dr. Laurence Denholm of, New South Wales, Australia is most accurate:

"The only reason this particular curly calf defect has come to be recognized now is that the identified suspect carrier bull, Precision 1680, had so many powerful positive carcass performance traits which Angus breeders recognized and wanted to maximize in their own cattle. Breeders all over the world used his semen very heavily indeed, in order to capture those carcass performance benefits, and thereby increased the prevalence of his particular defective gene/s in the population. With this increased semen use, the probability of the bull showing up on both sides of many Angus pedigrees increased to a point where the occurrence, recognition and reporting of the heritable disorder/s that he carries became inevitable.

If this bull had not been recognized as a very good carcass "performance" bull he would not have been used so heavily and we might never have known about curly calf syndrome. But we would have known about syndrome "X" or syndrome "Y" in some other equally desirable bull that rose to similar prominence in the breed in his place.

Syndromes like curly calf syndrome are not a sign of breeding failure, they are the unavoidable by-products of breeding success!

To capture the full measure of that success however, these recessive disorders must be properly managed—as an integral component of the breed performance recording scheme."

The genetic progress made at Gardiner Angus Ranch for the last half-century has been dependent upon sound science and disciplined management. We will continue to rely on sound science to conclusively define the problem and provide a reliable DNA test enabling progressive beef producers to make sound breeding decisions without compromising genetic progress.

We want to thank our long time customers, our close friends and the many people who have called to offer their support. We value your business and your friendship.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

Regards,

Mark R. Gardiner
Gardiner Angus Ranch
Ashland, Kan.