



HAZELDEAN
LITCHFIELD

Curly Calf Syndrome or Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM)

There has been quite some concern recently about the appearance of a previously undiagnosed recessive gene disorder known as Curly Calf Syndrome or Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM). This is different to Fawn Calf syndrome but similarly is the result of a recessive gene.

Angus Australia has published information on AM and recessive genes in general and readers may wish to log onto the Angus Australia website to read more. www.angusaustralia.com.au

Hazeldean's view is that because deleterious recessive genes exist in any population it is highly likely that AM is not the last of them to appear in the Angus breed. We therefore believe the correct course of action in any breeding program is to avoid concentrating individual animals in your breeding program and select a diversity of sire lines when choosing bulls. Recessive disorders will only appear when you get two copies of the defective gene in the one animal which then gives expression to the flaw.

The AM genetic defect comes from the bull Precision 1680 whose most notable son, CA Future Direction, is a carrier. CA Future Directions sons include Hazeldean Futura W133, also a carrier, and as we have sons and grandsons of him in this catalogue there is a chance that they are carriers too.

Despite the widespread use of Future Direction and Futura in the Hazeldean herd we have not seen one case of curly calf in our herd. In fact there has been very little incidence of the problem in the breed as a whole. We nonetheless recommend that breeders who have used a number of descendants of Precision 1680 in their herd in recent years now avoid these bulls and move to other sire lines.

If you have bulls in your herd already that are descendants of Precision 1680 it would be prudent to mate these to females that do not contain Precision 1680 blood.

Despite the current level of concern AM is not a reason to panic, rather a timely reminder that maintaining genetic variation in your herd is important for a number of reasons.

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