

American Angus Association Adopts New Technique for Parent Verification

by **DON PAINTER**

The American Angus Association Board of Directors has approved important changes in its rules that will affect the registration of animals. Those actual rule changes will be published in their entirety in the March issue of the *Angus Journal*. Their effect is summarized here.

Effective Jan. 1, 2001, DNA-marker-typing replaced blood-typing as a means of animal identification. It will be possible to use virtually any cellular material — semen, hair follicles, tissue samples and blood samples — as a source of DNA. All such typing will continue to be performed by Ohio State University (OSU) at its Animal Genetics Laboratory, formerly called the Ohio State Cattle Blood-Typing Laboratory.

It is anticipated that DNA-marker-typing will most commonly be performed on submitted blood samples. For this routine typing, the Association and OSU are currently developing a series of filter-paper cards. These cards will be available from either the Association or the Animal Genetics Laboratory. After collecting a drop of blood on the card and allowing it to dry, the breeder will send the sample by regular mail in a standard envelope.

Semen units also may be used. Only one unit of semen is required, and it does

not need to be frozen. It will be necessary to furnish the laboratory with the necessary information (registration number, sire, dam, etc.) about the animal from which the semen was collected. An information form can be obtained from the Association, the Animal Genetics Laboratory or the lab's Web site at www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~ansci/angenlab.

It will not be necessary to retype animals that are now on record as having been blood-typed, unless a DNA workup is desired. Since Oct. 1, 1995, the laboratory has stored blood samples for all Angus animals it has blood-typed. DNA-marker-typing may be performed using these samples at the breeder's request and at the breeder's cost. For all animals blood-typed prior to Oct. 1, 1995, if breeders desire DNA-marker-typing, they will need to supply the DNA source material to the laboratory and pay the cost of the tests.

The Association procedures for handling parentage problems will remain essentially unchanged.

When animals are DNA-marker-typed after Jan. 1, 2001, the breeder submitting the DNA material will receive a copy of the resulting report, as will the Association. If a parentage problem is encountered, the registration of the animal

will be cancelled immediately.

A follow-up letter identifying the problem will be sent to the breeder submitting the material, the present owners, the breeder and, in some cases, all subsequent owners. This letter will inform each recipient that the animal in question has a parentage problem, that its registration has been cancelled, and that the Association and OSU stand ready to work with the interested parties in resolving the problem.

If the parentage issue is satisfactorily resolved, the original certificates of registration will have to be returned for correction. At that time the Association's animal master record will be corrected, the original certificates will be revoked, and correct certificates will be issued. Correct information then will be reflected in any pedigree on which the animal may appear.

Please remember that Association Rules Part 3, Section 2, Rule 13 provides:

"It is the responsibility of the breeder, first owner, subsequent owners, and current owner(s) of record participating in the sale of any animal, semen, embryos or progeny of any animal to notify any purchaser thereof regarding a change in parentage as represented by the certificate of registration."



Editor's note: Don Painter is the director of member services for the American Angus Association.