

Arthrogryposis Multiplex Testing Frequently Asked Questions



Q. What is Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM)?

A. Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM), commonly known as Curly Calf Syndrome, is a genetic defect with a simple recessive pattern of inheritance. This means cattle can be carriers of the defect and appear normal. Two carriers must be mated to get an AM calf, which is born dead with a spine that is bent or twisted.¹

Q. What breeds are affected?

A. Primarily Angus, but any animal or breed that has been influenced by Angus can be affected, such as Limflex, Sim-Angus, Brangus, Balancers or commercial cattle.

Q. Is IGENITY® an American Angus Association® authorized lab for AM testing?

A. Yes, IGENITY has worked with the American Angus Association to meet all of the standards to be an authorized laboratory for AM testing.

Q. How do I prevent AM?

A. Since AM appears to be a simple recessive condition, 25% of calves from matings of two AM carrier parents can be born with the condition. Therefore, AM carriers should not be bred to other carriers. AM carriers are normal in every other respect, and AM calves can be prevented by mating carriers with noncarriers. Half of an AM carrier's offspring also will be carriers, which means this is a genetic disease that may need to be managed over several generations.

Q. Which cattle should I test?

A. Not all Angus-influenced animals will necessarily need to be tested. AM is believed to have originated with Rito 9J9 of B156 7T26, Registration No. 9682589. Therefore, animals descending from this bull should be highest priority for testing.

Q. What if I am unsure of an animal's pedigree or its likelihood of being a carrier?

A. You only need to test animals of unknown pedigree if you would like to mate them to a known AM carrier or an animal of unknown AM status. Using AM-free sires on cows with unknown AM status will prevent AM calves, but not AM carriers.

Q. What sample types do you accept?

A. IGENITY accepts all sample types for AM testing, including blood, tissue, hair and semen.

Q. How do I order sample collection kits?

A. From your IGENITY sales representative, by visiting www.IGENITY.com or by calling 1-877-IGENITY.

Q. Can I get the IGENITY profile with AM?

A. Yes. Simply indicate which samples need both the IGENITY profile and AM test on the order form from IGENITY.

Q. Will IGENITY send AM results to my breed association?

A. Yes, if you complete the Arthrogryposis Multiplex Release Form. This form can be found at www.igenity.com. Incomplete forms will be rejected by breed associations. Otherwise, results are confidential and IGENITY will only return results to you.

Q. How long will AM results take?

A. All IGENITY results are returned in 10 to 14 business days. If you have a deadline — like a bull sale — please submit samples ahead of your deadline and include the date by which you need results. We will do our best to try to meet your deadline.



1-877-IGENITY www.igenity.com

©IGENITY and the IGENITY Logo are registered trademarks of Merial.
©2009 Merial Limited. Duluth, GA. All rights reserved.

¹Arthrogryposis Multiplex questions and answers. American Angus Association 11/25/2008.
Available at: http://www.angus.org/aaa_am_faq1.pdf. Accessed December 3, 2008.