



MARCH 2014

NEWS UPDATE

2014 NPLC Annual Meeting

We assume that you are planning to attend this year's meeting and related activities. NPLC will be in Oklahoma City, May 4-7, hosted by the folks at Pinto Horse Association. Our starting point is an evening at the races at Remington Park. For those who think they can play golf, we'll see you Monday morning. The meeting agenda includes topics such as leadership, social media, board self-evaluation, codes of conduct, cloning and crisis management as it relates specifically to livestock events. Don't forget that we'll have a recognition banquet to honor those who have contributed significantly to our industry.

If you haven't sent Zane your registration or, worse yet, if you haven't renewed your membership, DO IT NOW! The meeting program and registration form can be found at www.nplc.net.

Member News Notes

BEEFMASTER

Beefmaster Breeders United (BBU) welcomes Bill Pendergrass to the team as the new Executive Vice President. With an interest and genuine care for cattlemen and the beef industry, Pendergrass expresses that his life's work is advocating for ranchers, helping the purebred sector embrace the future and actively establishing the importance of the Beefmaster breed for the benefit of its breeders and the beef industry in general.

BBU is also proud to announce that the position of Executive Vice President has been restructured to reflect the new objective of teamwork. With Pendergrass taking on the roll of Executive Vice President he will focus on commercial marketing, field services, the Junior Beefmaster Breeders Association and representing the Beefmaster breed at industry events. Collin Osbourn, formerly the Chief Operating Officer, will now serve as the Chief Financial Officer and his responsibilities will include overseeing the financial and office operations that occur within BBU. In simple terms, the Executive Vice President position's responsibilities were spread between Pendergrass and Osbourn to create a more efficient and well oiled Beefmaster machine. Pendergrass and Osbourn, along with the rest of the BBU staff, will work closely as a team to ensure that Beefmasters remain "The Best of Both Worlds".

BBU WEBSITE/MEMBER SERVICES

Editor's note: Just happened to like the terminology – "enhanced user."

The Enhanced user page is designed for those members that wish to enter registrations and data online and contains the link to the Online Registration/ Data entry login page. The enhanced users have the ability to see all the animals in their inventory, download performance reports, use the mating predictor to see what EPD's they can expect from a potential mating and many other features.

AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION GENOMIC ENHANCED EPD'S

Genomic results are a way to enhance predictability of current selection tools, to achieve more accuracy on EPDs for younger animals, and to characterize genetics for traits where it's difficult to measure the animal's own performance for the trait, such as carcass traits in breeding stock or maternal traits in bulls. With the investment in genomic technology, this means that in addition to the pedigree, performance and progeny information that are used in the calculation and reporting of Angus EPDs, genomic test results have also been incorporated into the EPD. Genomic-enhanced EPDs (GE-EPDs) are important because they make use of the results from the genomic, or DNA, test in addition to all other sources of information to provide added accuracy and reliability to the animal's EPD (Figure 1). In fact, depending on the trait, GE-EPDs on unproven animals have the same amount of accuracy as if they had already sired 8-20 calves.

BRANGUS BOARD APPROVED GENETIC DISORDER TESTING POLICY

The discussion of genetic defects has been ongoing in the Angus breed and others for the past five years or more. Most recently, Brangus and other breeds have joined in on this debate with the discovery of the genetic disorder called developmental duplication (DD). It is important to note that DD testing, to date, has rendered a very low occurrence of the condition in our Brangus population. Ultimately, members will be able to manage this condition and others with a sound DNA testing policy and a well thought out breeding program. Therefore, the International Brangus Breeders Association (IBBA) Board of Directors has adopted a new genetic disorder testing policy to aid breeders and members in this process.

UC DAVIS NEWS: NEW PREGNANCY SUPPORTING HORMONE IDENTIFIED

Identification of a new pregnancy-supporting hormone in horses has resolved a reproductive mystery that has puzzled scientists for decades, and it may have important implications for sustaining human pregnancies, reports a team of researchers, led by a UC Davis veterinary scientist.

Characterization of the hormone, dihydroprogesterone, or DHP, may lead the way to better hormone therapies for preventing pre-term labor in pregnant women. The findings are reported online in the February 18 Early Edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at:

<http://bit.ly/1fp35n7>.

"This work ends 50 years of speculation as to how horses sustain the last half of their pregnancies, despite the fact that the hormone progesterone is no longer detectable in blood," said Professor Alan Conley, a reproductive physiologist in the School of Veterinary Medicine and senior author on the study.

"We show for the first time that in horses this 'new' progestin, DHP, is equally effective as progesterone in sustaining pregnancy during the last few months," he said.

Conley and his colleagues are hopeful that further research will lead to naturally occurring therapeutics that are free of some of the potential health risks associated with the synthetic drugs currently available in human medicine.

The role of progesterone is so important for a successful pregnancy that reproductive biologists have widely accepted for more than 80 years that pregnancies in humans and other mammals could not be carried to term without it.

Progesterone works largely by activating nuclear progesterone receptors -- proteins in the tissues of the uterus and cervix -- that induce hormonal responses. Progesterone then is able to stimulate growth and secretion of the uterine lining, which is critical for establishing and sustaining pregnancies in all mammals.

The fact that mares have no detectable levels of progesterone during the last half of their pregnancy has led scientists to suspect that their bodies produce another, yet undefined, steroidal hormone that takes the place of progesterone in supporting the pregnancy.

In this study, the researchers demonstrated in pregnant mares and through laboratory analyses, that the hormone DHP is as potent as progesterone in activating the progesterone receptors of horses, triggering endometrial growth and maintaining pregnancies to term.

FIVE GOLDEN RULES FOR COMMITTEES

By Eileen Morgan Johnson in Jan issue of ASSOCIATIONS NOW

1. Not every committee has a right to exist forever.
2. A committee must have real work and goals.
3. Even standing committees can be changes.
4. Don't create a committee when a task force of study group will do.
5. Rotate chairs.

Also in the same issue:

How Big is Your Board?

Share Everything (Except When You Don't)

Board Primer: legal, finance, strategy, succession planning, insurance, CEO evaluation, conflict;

A Social Media Guide to Board Meetings

THE END