



November 28, 2023

To the Membership of the American Hereford Association:

Last week, the American Hereford Association (AHA) released information concerning a novel defect found in Hereford cattle called Delayed Blindness (DB). The genetic defect is considered autosomal recessive, meaning an affected calf must have two carrier parents. The AHA worked with Dr. David Steffen and Dr. Jessica Peterson at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and Neogen to develop a commercially available test.

After the release of the information, breeders became proactive in requesting tests on high impact animals to help identify breaks in transmission through pedigree. Additionally, with the help of both UNL and Neogen, additional genotypes were tested to aid in breaking chains of key implicated lines. Consequently, results will be made available when they are finished. Breeders can find animals that have been tested for DB at the link below.

<https://www.myherd.org/web/USHF/AnimalSearch/List>

The list of tested animals will be updated as the results are available. With new technology and advancements, breeders can work around this defect to continue to breed carrier animals as opposed to culling affected entire genetic lines.

The link below will take you to a video that will help you navigate the MyHerd Search function to help identify potential carriers in your herd.

<https://vimeo.com/885687224?share=copy>

We appreciate the aggressive approach breeders have taken to get animals tested.

Sincerely,

Jack Ward
Executive Vice President
American Hereford Association

Shane Bedwell
COO and Director of Breed Improvement
American Hereford Association