

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady, director of member services



New ET Donor Dam Requirement

The full suite of known commercially available tests for the genetic conditions monitored by the American Angus Association will be required for all donor dams, born on or after Jan. 1, 2023, used for the purpose of embryo transfer (ET) (as amended June 8, 2023).

Most members are familiar with the rules found within the Breeder's Reference Guide associated with artificial insemination (AI) sires, such as having parentage markers on file and having the complete genomic condition bundle for the genetic conditions monitored by the American Angus Association.

The Genetic Condition Bundle includes tests for all monitored genetic conditions including arthrogryposis multiplex (AM), neuropathic hydrocephalus (NH), contractural arachnodactyly (CA), osteopetrosis (OS), developmental duplication (DD), myostatin (M1), PRKG2 gene mutation for dwarfism (D2) and oculocutaneous hypopigmentation (OH).

The test for coat color is also included. With this newly established rule, the same requirements will now

apply to ET donor dams. Registration Rule 104.d.2. was recently updated to include the genetic condition bundle test for all donor dams born on or after Jan. 1, 2023.

Potential ramifications

Imagine the excitement of flushing embryos out of your favorite cow. You let her out of the chute and forget about collecting a DNA sample. Not to worry, we'll get a sample next time we get her up to the corral. Tragedy strikes, and the cow is no more.

No more farm-favorite donor, no more opportunity for other pregnancies and no way to register ET matings you have in the tank or in recipient cows. Unfortunately, this scenario is much too common and can happen to the best of us.

Another issue I foresee involves

sale day preparation. The date is selected, staff committed and meals planned. Advertising has been strategically placed, and the investment has been substantial. Now is not the time for an ET registration to be held up in suspense because the genetic bundle requirement has not been met.

Lastly, a situation I am confident some members will face is a show deadline with a pending ET registration held up in suspense because the donor dam has not had the genomic bundle test completed, and the ET calves cannot be registered until the testing is complete. Testing takes three to four weeks, and this requirement will need to be completed prior to registering the ET offspring.

Summary

I share these potential scenarios to better prepare all members of what is to come in the near future regarding the registration of ET calves from young donor females. Begin the process early by collecting DNA samples from donor females at the time of embryo or oocyte removal, and order the full-suite condition bundle test along with the parentage testing we are already familiar with for all your donor females. [A](#)

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Editor's note: For more information regarding the registration requirements of calves that are the result of ET, contact the Member Services department at 816 383-5100, or email me directly at jcassady@angus.org.

Rule 104: Animals Eligible for Registration

d. Calves produced by embryo transplant. For calves resulting from an embryo transplant:

2. The Embryo Transfer Donor Dam must be DNA-marker-typed or must have been blood-typed before January 1, 2001. The full suite of known commercially available tests for the genetic conditions monitored by the American Angus Association will be required for all donor dams, born on or after January 1, 2023, used for the purpose of Embryo Transfer. (As amended June 8, 2023)