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# Arthrogryposis Multiplex Frequently Asked Questions

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## How much will the Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM) test cost?

For 1–5 samples the cost per test is \$29.00; for 6–50 samples the cost per test is \$25.00; for 51–249 samples the cost per test is \$23.00; for 250+ samples the cost per test is \$22.50.

The new pricing will be applied to all samples submitted to Pfizer Animal Genetics for AM testing, including those previously submitted. In addition, each animal tested for AM will earn a \$10 credit towards future GeneSTAR® testing or a \$5 credit toward future AM or parentage testing. One credit will be issued per animal tested and can be redeemed through September 30, 2009.

## How do you accommodate testing high volumes of samples?

Pfizer Animal Genetics has made new advancements in Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM) diagnostics to improve its testing capacity. Investments in equipment and an improved testing methodology enable Pfizer to run larger numbers of samples more efficiently.

Since Pfizer Animal Genetics is now an American Angus Association (AAA) approved AM testing facility, results will be officially recognized by the Association. Testing procedures have also been validated by Dr. Jon Beever, confirming the results are consistent and accurate in both its U.S. and Australian laboratories.

## Is there an opportunity to expedite the testing process?

Samples are being tested in the order in which they are received at Pfizer laboratories. If there are pending deadlines for testing that must be met, please contact Customer Service and we will do our best to prioritize them for your special requests. Producers wishing to include AM and GeneSTAR test results in a sale catalog or printed advertisement must provide a minimum of two weeks advance notice prior to printing deadlines.

## What is the preferred sampling method?

DNA samples collected as hair follicles, semen, blood FTA® cards or blood tubes are accepted. It is possible that tests run on blood tube samples may take longer to process. When sending hair samples, make sure at least 25 hair follicles are included (with bulb at the end of the hair intact) to ensure a representative sample. Producers should provide samples in a form that best suits their management and animal handling process. If you have the option of collecting samples in any of the above forms, Pfizer Animal Genetics would prefer hair follicles.

## Can blood cards provided by the AAA be used for submitting samples?

Yes. Producers using this sample method should leave the space for the barcode blank, but complete information for tattoo and registration numbers.

## I have ear notch and hole punch samples for some of my animals. Will these work for AM testing?

Yes. However, these types of samples will require extra processing time which may increase turnaround time.

## How do I send in a sample?

Once a sample has been collected, complete an Arthrogryposis Multiplex Prerelease Order Form and an Arthrogryposis Multiplex Sample Information Form. These forms can be found at [www.pfizeranimalgenetics.com](http://www.pfizeranimalgenetics.com) or by calling Pfizer Animal Genetics Customer Service at 1-877-BEEF DNA. Send these forms along with the sample(s) to Pfizer Animal Genetics, 250 Plaque St., Harahan, LA 70123. Or forms can be sent electronically, separate from the sample, to [pahgenetics.us@pfizer.com](mailto:pahgenetics.us@pfizer.com).

## **I have already submitted samples for GeneSTAR testing. Can these be used for AM testing?**

Due to the amount of DNA required to perform the AM test, it may not be possible to use previously sent samples in all cases. To confirm whether a sample can be used, contact Customer Service at 1-877-BEEF DNA or e-mail [pahgenetics.us@pfizer.com](mailto:pahgenetics.us@pfizer.com).

## **Can my samples submitted for AM be run for parentage and GeneSTAR tests?**

If a sufficient supply of DNA is available after AM testing is completed, then samples submitted for AM could also be tested for parentage and GeneSTAR results. If you choose to have samples analyzed for parentage and GeneSTAR, please indicate as such on the order form accompanying the DNA samples.

## **If I run parentage is the test recognized by my breed association?**

The American Angus Association does not currently recognize parentage testing from Pfizer Animal Genetics as described in the AAA by-laws. However, in an effort to encourage AM testing in as many laboratories as possible, AAA has asked that they be allowed access to the DNA sample in instances where AAA wishes to officially verify a pedigree. To accommodate this, we have included a section on our order form where you may request Pfizer to send the sample to AAA as requested by them. Pfizer will not share the sample or the results of the test with anyone, including AAA, unless specifically authorized to do so by the owner of the sample submitted for testing.

## **I have GeneSTAR samples waiting to be sent in for Quality Grade, Tenderness and Feed Efficiency testing. Will there be a package that includes these tests along with AM testing?**

Each animal tested for AM will earn a \$10 credit towards future GeneSTAR testing or a \$5 credit toward future AM or parentage testing to be redeemed through September 30, 2009. One credit will be issued for each animal tested.

## **Who owns the DNA samples and results?**

The person submitting samples pays for the test and owns the results. When samples are sent to Pfizer Animal Genetics, producers can indicate on the order form whether they wish results to be made public. Pfizer Animal Genetics will not release private results to anyone unless authorized to do so by the producer providing the DNA samples.

## **Will Pfizer Animal Genetics release an official listing of AM-tested cattle, or will the official list be made public by the AAA?**

An "official list" of AM-tested animals, as approved by the AAA, will be made public by AAA.

## **Will Pfizer Animal Genetics run an AM test on an animal if no registration number is provided?**

Pfizer Animal Genetics will run a test on any animal submitted. If a customer wishes to submit a sample from a calf prior to it being registered and have that result recognized by the Association, the customer must submit the following at the time of testing:

1. Tattoo number
2. Birth date
3. Sex
4. Sire breed and registration number
5. Dam breed and registration number
6. Breed association member number