



WHY AND HOW IS DNA
IMPORTANT TO THE
BRAUNVIEH ASSOCIATION?



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Why and How is DNA Important to the Braunvieh Association?

DNA has been referred to “the building blocks of life”. Our DNA refers to the building blocks we each received when God created us, some are more colorful than others. The same applies to our cattle, they each have a different set of blocks assigned to them. Some have great fertility blocks and others don’t, some have great feed efficiency blocks and others don’t. Even how crazy or nice an animal is can usually be linked back to their building blocks.

As a breeder and an Association, we want to find animals that have blocks that make us more profitable. However, we cannot see the blocks unless we send off tissue or hair samples on that animal to a lab that tells us what blocks an animal has.

One important reason that DNA is important to the Association is to make sure a breeder has the correct parents listed on the calf’s registration papers. This keeps our breed information accurate and honest. No one wants to go buy a low birth weight bull to only find out that a producer had lied on their numbers and has birthing problems, or find out a different bull went visiting some girlfriends and the breeder didn’t know about it.

Some of us don’t like some of the blocks we were given at birth and would like to change them. This can also be a problem in the cattle industry, and a breeder tries to change information to make the animal or their operation look better. With DNA it keeps a breeder honest and does not allow them to change an undesired block that an animal might have. A breeder could make an animal no longer have horns, but the DNA would always say that the animal had horns or was a carrier. Though sometimes a calf is born polled but still carries a horn trait, and therefore their calves could have horns.

As breeders find out the important information about the building blocks each animal has it makes the Braunvieh Association herdbook that much stronger and more accurate. This information will help the producer and the Association know how to take the breed into a more competitive state in the future.