



# **Holstein Canada**

20 Corporate Place  
Brantford, ON, N3T 5R4

## **MediaRelease**

### **Brachyspina: A New Official Genetic Recessive**

Brantford, ON May 2, 2011 — In accordance with the official recognition by the World Holstein Friesian Federation (WHFF) of Brachyspina as a recessive genetic defect in the Holstein breed, Holstein Canada will be publishing testing results on pedigrees and other official documents. Holstein Canada will use the officially recognized WHFF codes to designate Brachyspina tested-free (BYF) and tested-carrier (BYC) animals. Holstein USA plans to use two-letter codes for tested-free (TY) and tested-carrier (BY).

First discovered in 2007 and described by researchers in the Netherlands and Denmark, Brachyspina is a single autosomal defect, therefore the condition is only expressed when an animal is homozygous recessive for the detrimental gene. In other words, the lethal condition only occurs in one-quarter of the matings when both parents are carriers. Animals receiving the undesirable gene from both parents will normally die early during pregnancy (similar to CVM). In rare cases, the calf survives pregnancy and is born dead with a shortened spinal cord, long legs and abnormal organs.

Animals can be tested at \$85 per sample by contacting Holstein Canada's Data Integrity team to order the required testing kit.

Test results are available 3-4 weeks after sample submission.