

# Pinkeye Genetics

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**MT. VERNON, MO.**

**Y**ou've probably seen a widespread news release from earlier this fall about the findings of USDA work in Clay Center, NE regarding a location on bovine chromosome 20 associated with pinkeye, foot rot and bovine respiratory disease.

Researchers allow there's much more work to do but this is a great start because the markers on chromosome 20 are close to other markers related to other diseases.

It shouldn't surprise you as we're learning in

humans of genetic linkage on numerous disease and health issues. Have you ever kept close track in your cattle which ones come shown with pinkeye, footrot or respiratory problems? It may be as important to track that as it is carcass merit, growth, even calving ease. Also, how about fescue toxicity problems. We're pretty certain some lines tolerate it more than others.

Consider keeping track of some of these conditions in the future in your herd record book. It just could help you reduce the incidence of some costly problems in the future as you make culling selections.  $\Delta$

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