

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady
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Serving our members

Our members work hard. That's why it's our job at the American Angus Association to keep them current with the latest updates, programs and services available. To provide education to everyone in our Association and to give you the greatest bang for your membership buck, this column will provide tips and information on our membership services programs each month and help you get familiar with your customer service representatives.

Parent-qualified indicator

A new indicator has been added to the expected progeny differences (EPD)/Pedigree Lookup on the AAA website. If the individual animal is qualified to both parents through DNA testing, the words "Parents Qualified" are displayed just above the Breeder/Owner sections. A * symbol will appear before the registration number where applicable, as well as throughout the pedigree where an animal in the pedigree is qualified. A footnote has been added to the pedigree section to indicate this notation.

Pathfinder contemporary grouping

Due to the changes of

The screenshot shows a pedigree for a bull named 'Deer Valley AR In Reg: A A *178876x Bull'. The pedigree includes several animals with their registration numbers and names. Some registration numbers are circled in red, and the text 'Parents Qualified' is written above them. A footnote at the bottom of the pedigree reads: 'Parents Qualified - Deer Valley Farms, Fayetteville TN'. The pedigree also includes information about the dam and sire, and their respective registration numbers and names.

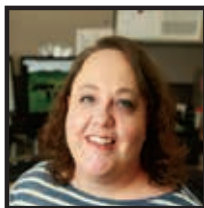
incorporating birth weights earlier into the genetic evaluation, we no longer allow heifers to be adjusted to a bull basis for contemporary group purposes. This has created some changes to the Pathfinder® Program. Previously, the program had a minimum weaning contemporary-group size requirement of 10 head of mixed sex. Because we no longer allow mixed-sex contemporary groups for Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) purposes, we have

adjusted this threshold to a minimum of five animals of the same sex. This change has been reflected on the website at www.angus.org/performance/PathfinderInfo.aspx and will be utilized in February to distinguish

2018 Pathfinder dams.

The following guidelines are now in place for the Pathfinder program:

1. First calf produced within herd average of first calving (+30 days).
2. Maintain a regular calving interval.
3. Produce at least three calves with a weaning weight ratio of 105 in a minimum contemporary group size of five of the same sex.



"Submitting birth records once your calving season is complete will make future submissions for registrations, weaning data or DNA testing an easier process. Calves are given a BIR (Beef Improvement Records) number with a birth record submission. That BIR record will populate in the areas for registration or other performance data, making it a faster process and ensuring less chance of a typing error."

— Kristin Toll, customer service representative