

by Jerry Cassady director of member services



# Authorized signatures

The American Angus Association is a member-driven organization with thousands of active members across the United States and abroad, each with a voice regarding direction and issues as they affect the Angus business.

This Angus membership is made up of farmers and ranchers who understand the meaning of dedication, hard work and integrity.

However, as grass roots as we like to remain, there are business protocols we need to enforce as much as possible to protect the Association and its members.

One of the many

ways we protect the interest of a member's account is to verify signatures and email addresses when work is submitted. From documents such as original membership applications to submitted transfers and more, your signature is saved for future comparison.

When new work is submitted, the signature is verified with the saved file and then the submitted work can continue to be processed. Although this procedure of verifying signatures requires extra work on our end, it does provide an extra layer of security for your account.

### Authorized agents

An agent is defined as a person who is authorized to act for another by contract or apparent authority. Understanding not all farmers and ranchers have time to submit all the required information to operate a successful seedstock business, we allow work to be submitted from

"This Angus membership is made up of farmers and ranchers who understand the meaning of dedication, hard work and integrity." — Jerry Cassady these providers when authorization is granted. Within your account we also save signatures from all approved listed agents.

Is it OK for me to just sign for someone else? Even my children?

The answer to this common question is — it depends. Are you an approved agent for the account? If so, then you can simply sign your own name to the work submitted, and we can verify your signature, and the file will continue to process.

We do allow parents to sign on behalf of children by signing their own name. However, it is never OK to sign another person's name, even your own children. We realize some children are too young to provide signatures on their own. This is an example of when the agent authorized signature can be especially useful and why we encourage parents to become agents on their children's accounts.

To add an agent(s) to your account, simply fill out the agent information

on the membership application, or request an agent form from the American Angus Association Member Services department.

Remember to have the agent(s) sign their name where applicable for future verification.

#### Agent/owner/partner

Differing from owners and partners, agents are limited to the power and access of the account they represent. An owner and subsequent partners have full access and authority to the membership. They have authority to add or remove names from an account; however, agents do not have this authority. In addition, upon the death of an individual owner account, the agent authorization would become null and void.

### Annual election

The American Angus Association has an election process that has stood the test of time. Results of the process allow for an elected Board of Directors made up of representatives from the membership.

Agents can represent the account with the election process as eligible voting members, thus allowing them to serve as delegates to the Annual Convention and as elected Board members.

#### Summary

As you can see, the extra effort on our end can make a difference in the security and privacy of each member account. It is my hope this doesn't create any inconvenience for you and your family, and you can appreciate the need for this protocol in today's business world.

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Editor's note: For more information regarding agents on accounts, please contact the Member Services department at 816-383-5100, or by emailing me directly at jcassady@angus.org.



# Authorized agents

If membership is granted, the applicant requests the Association recognize the individuals whose signatures appear below as the agents (ranch managers, office assistants, family members who are not part of the corporation or partnership) of the applicant, solely for purposes of making applications for entry and transfer on behalf of the applicant.

This authorization gives permission to sign work or make requests for this membership. An agent cannot add or remove a name from a membership. An agent can nominate and/ or vote for delegates for the annual meeting, as well as be nominated as a delegate, if the member meets the criteria to be considered an "eligible voting member" as defined by Section 3 of American Angus Association Bylaws.

