



DATA DIVE

by Esther Tarpoff, director of performance programs

Why do females leave the herd?

There are a variety of reasons females have left herds over the last five years. Do you know why females are leaving your herd?

Those reasons are recorded in the Angus Herd Improvement Record (AHIR®) program through disposal codes. The list of disposal codes to select from is robust, and members have the opportunity to select specific reasons why animals are disposed. A complete list of disposal codes is available on www.angus.org or by scanning the QR code.

Why do females leave the herd?

Through the Association's whole-herd reporting program, Inventory Reporting, there are approximately 900 herds enrolled, representing nearly 1,700 members. Leveraging the disposal codes reported over the

last five years from herds enrolled in Inventory Reporting, the data shows there are a variety of reasons females leave the herd.

In this five-year data set, there are approximately 95,000 disposal codes reported. While reported disposal codes can be very specific, in this example they are grouped together into larger, more general categories.

Figure 1 shows the reasons females left the herd from herds enrolled in Inventory Reporting over the last five years. The most common reason (31%) was because of fertility, which included disposal codes such as being open or falling out of calving season. The second

most common reason females were disposed (28%) was because females were sold as commercial. Females leaving because of age accounted for 9% of reported disposal codes. Females that died from various causes represented 7% of the disposal codes. Structural reasons including feet, structure and teat/udder represented 5% of females leaving the herd. Management decisions to cull females because of performance, expected progeny differences (EPDs), temperament and other reasons represented 5% of females leaving the herd.



Have these reasons changed?

Evaluating the trends over the last five years for these groups of disposal codes, there is no change in the trend of reporting of these disposal codes. In some groups of disposal codes, such as fertility codes, culling for age, and sold as a commercial, there is year-to-year variation but no change in the five-year trend.

Likely, year-to-year fluctuations are reflective of Mother Nature events and cull-cow prices. Areas that have been highly affected by drought and other extreme weather events are likely to see more open cows at pregnancy check, reduce the number of females in the herd, or cull the older females to retain the younger females in herd.

Why do females leave your herd?

When animals leave your herd throughout the year, are you recording the reason they are leaving? If so, are you reporting that information in AHIR?

For herds enrolled in Inventory Reporting earning the MaternalPlus® status, reported disposal codes on enrolled females are summarized each year in a disposal report. Over time, this report continues to build in value for herds as they can evaluate changes over time by comparing reports year to year and why females are leaving the herd at each age.

Keeping records of disposal information through the AHIR program allows you as a member to document why females are leaving

your herd and at what age they are doing so. The opportunity is there to see the trends in your own herd and to learn where potential opportunities are for improvement. **AJ**

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SCAN TO READ

the disposal codes or visit
www.angus.org/Pub/Disposal%20Codes_2022.pdf

FIG. 1: Disposal codes by percentage reported over the last five years by herds enrolled in Inventory Reporting.

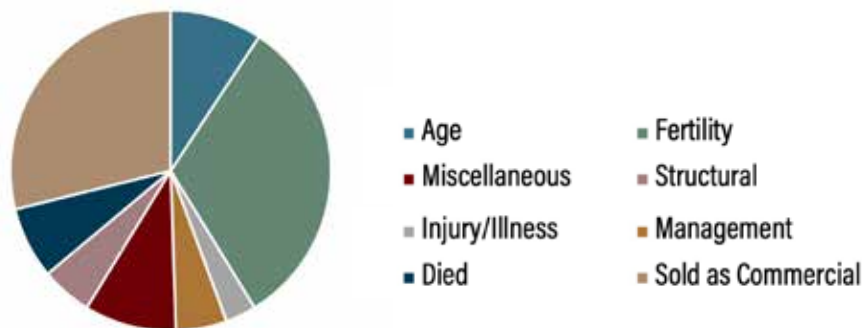


FIG. 2: Example of a cow disposal report available to herds earning MaternalPlus.

Dam Disposal Code	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+	Total
■ Culled - Feet	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	5.97%
■ Culled - Fell out of calving season	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2.99%
■ Culled - Fertility or Open	15	2	0	1	0	2	0	4	1	0	37.31%
■ Culled - Miscellaneous	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.96%
■ Culled - Structure	10	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	19.40%
■ Culled - Teat and Udder	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	7.46%
■ Culled - Temperment	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4.48%
■ Died - Other	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7.46%
■ Sold as a commercial	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5.97%
Totals	35	8	1	4	0	7	1	9	1	1	

