

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady
director of member services



Paper vs. electronic

In today's world our members have a choice. Instead of receiving registration certificates for their Angus cattle through the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), breeders can elect to have the certificate information stored electronically.

This is an option that has been in place since 2004 and has been widely used by a growing number of members. There are several advantages to electing to have the certificate information stored at the American Angus Association. Let's explore in more detail.

When the certificate is electronically stored, you can ...

- enjoy 24-hour online access for convenience of recordkeeping;
- submit corrections online, including name, permanent identification (ID), birth date, sex, dam or sire;
- transfer ownership online or through a spreadsheet;
- submit DNA corrections by email, fax or through Message Center;
- request printed registration certificates with current expected progeny differences (EPDs); and
- request printed registration certificates for exhibition.

When the certificates are printed, you will need to ...

- mail in the original certificate to make corrections;

- mail in the original certificate to transfer ownership [This will include complete information with seller's authorized signature (please, no farm signatures or signing someone else's name), sale date, buyer's name and full address, and any service information prior to the sale

Nearly half of all registrations received in the last three years have been electronically stored.

date on females over a year of age]; and

- if the certificate is lost, you will need to submit the request for a duplicate (\$5 fee) to the Association in writing. An email, fax, message through Message Center, or a note in the mail will be accepted.

How do I store my certificates electronically?

If you have paper certificates and wish to have them electronically stored, please send in your originals with your request.

You can update your current settings online through your AAA Login account.

Click on *MY HERD* > Scroll over

Registration Certificates > Click on *Registration Certificate Storage Preference*

From here you can check the box to set your default to electronically store your registration certificates on any future registrations and transfers into your account. Or, you may uncheck the box to start receiving printed registration certificates on any future registrations and transfers into your account.

Fig. 1: Updating current setting for storage preference

When submitting new registrations on paper or on an Excel spreadsheet, they will be printed or electronically stored according to your current settings. When submitting registrations online through your

AAA Login account, each registration application will give you the option to *Store Electronically: Yes or No.*

If you select *Yes*, you will not receive a printed registration certificate. This animal's registration

will be available online for corrections and transfers.

If you select *No*, you will receive a printed registration certificate on that animal in the mail.

Fig. 2: Selecting storage preference during registration process

The screenshot shows a web form titled "REGISTRATION ENTRY". At the top right, there are navigation links: HOME, MENU HELP, LOGOUT, SUBMIT DATA, and REGISTRATION. Below the title, it says "Fields indicated with an asterisk(*) are required." and "Set a default to your first entry by checking the box to the right of Sire, Type, First Owner and Store Electronically fields. More information. If you choose Yes to Store Electronically, the animal will be registered but NO paper certificate will be printed." The form contains various input fields: Sex (dropdown), Birth Weight (text), Date Calved (text), Tattoo/Brand (text), Twin Indicator (dropdown), Sire (dropdown and text), Bull Permit (text), Embryo Transplant? (dropdown), Embryo Removal Date (text), Animal Name (text), Calving Ease (dropdown), Artificial Insemination? (checkbox), Type (dropdown), First Owner (text), Dam (dropdown and text), and Permit Type (dropdown). The "Store Electronically" field is highlighted with a red circle, showing a dropdown menu with "No" selected and an unchecked checkbox. At the bottom left, there are three buttons: "Save", "Reset", and "Return to List".

Electronically stored certificates are eligible for online transfer through your AAA Login account or by using the Excel spreadsheet available under the *Submit Data* tab. The same transfer information for the sale date, buyer(s) name and

address, and service information is required as is when transferring using the paper registration certificate, but can be entered online. Once an animal is transferred to another breeder, the certificate is either printed or electronically

stored depending on your buyer's settings they have selected. If a paper certificate is printed, it will be mailed to the seller according to the Association's policy, unless otherwise directed.

AJ



Ultimately, it's up to the individual breeder's preference and what works best for your program. If you need a hard-copy certificate for exhibition, or if you are doing the daily paperwork yourself and have access to your registration papers, then having printed certificates might work for you. If you have a herd or office manager in a different location, or simply want to have 24-hour access to your account through AAA Login, then it may be beneficial to store those certificates electronically for ease of corrections and transfers. The same fees for registrations, corrections and transfers apply to electronically stored certificates and paper registration certificates. However, the turnaround time for processing is more efficient when the certificates are electronically stored.

— Ashley Lyle, customer service representative