

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady
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Whole-herd reporting

What's all the fuss? Why is it important to report data on ALL of your animals?

When I was a more serious runner, I would participate in races that ranged from local 5Ks to full-blown, big-city marathons. This was a great way to stay in shape, and it was really good mental therapy. As I navigated each route, I would occasionally find myself behind a lead pack consisting of mostly high-school cross country runners and former athletes of various ages.

Finishing a race among the top athletes was always a thrill and gave me a sense of accomplishment. But finishing, let's say seventh place, in a small race compared to the same numeric seventh-place finish in a very large field of athletes are two completely different results.

Let me explain. If a runner finishes seventh place in a field of 1,000 runners, they would be in the top 0.7% of all finishers for that race. If a runner finishes seventh in a field of 100 runners, they would still feel really good with their effort, as they have made the top 7% of all finishers. However, let's say there were only 10 runners total that finished the race, and the runner was seventh place again. Now they are well below average, even though they finished the race with the exact same effort, they might not feel as successful with the results. The resulting "percentile rank" is very different in each example due to the field of runners they were compared to.

Now let's apply this to data submission within our Angus herd records. The same calf, with the same weight, and the same performance, could end up with totally different results depending on the group he is compared to. This is all thanks to the contemporary group the calf belonged to when collecting the data.

Whole-herd reporting defined

The objective of whole-herd reporting is to accumulate reproductive and performance data on all eligible animals within a herd. Reporting data from all eligible animals is an important aspect of contemporary grouping and is the focus of this discussion.

Sourcing the 2018 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Guidelines, inventory-based whole-herd reporting requires collection of annual production and performance records on all cattle within a herd. Seedstock producers may be tempted to save money by recording and registering only the better-performing calves within their herd. They might also be concerned recording data on poorer-performing calves will reflect unfavorably on their herd. Both of these conclusions are incorrect.

Unless inventory and performance data are submitted on every calf born within a herd, subsequent genetic evaluations will be based on less information and consequently

will be less accurate than would otherwise have been possible. Even worse, genetic evaluations may be biased. If only the calves with good performance are reported, they may not get the credit they truly deserve.

Here is a frequently used example of a group of 10 bull calves again from the Ninth Edition of Uniform Guidelines for Beef Improvement Programs, 2018 (see Table 1).

The average weaning weight of all ten calves reported is 625 pounds (lb.). The lightest calf (tag 1) is 101 lb. below the group average (ratio of 84), while the heaviest calf (tag 10) is 117 lb. above the group average (ratio of 119).

Now, let's assume the producer had reported only the heaviest five calves for weaning weight. Now the group average is 675 lb. Within this new, highly selected contemporary group, the heaviest calf (tag 10) would have a deviation of only +67 lb. and a ratio of only 110. Calves 6, 7 and 8 are certainly performing better than average for this producer, however, by only reporting the best half of the calves, it now appears they are all below average for this herd, having within-herd ratios of 95, 95 and 97, respectively.

When data is limited to submitting only on selected calves, subsequent selection, culling, and merchandising decisions will be flawed.

This example illustrates the misconception that submitting data

Table 1: Whole-herd reporting compared to partial reporting

ID	WW	Total Reported	Total Reported	Best Half Reported	Best Half
		Deviation	Ratio	Deviation	Reported Ratio
1	524	-101	84		
2	562	-63	90		
3	578	-47	93		
4	605	-20	97		
5	606	-19	97		
6	639	14	102	-36	95
7	643	18	103	-32	95
8	655	30	105	-20	97
9	694	69	111	19	103
10	742	117	119	67	110

Average Weight
ID 1-10=625
ID 6-10=675

Average
Deviation=0

Average
Ratio=100


Average Deviation=0

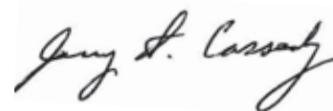
Average Ratio=100

from only the best calves is in some way an advantage. Whole-herd reporting can resolve this common data submission error. Fortunately, the American Angus Association

has a whole-herd reporting program already in place — MaternalPlus®. By submitting the data on all calves in the MaternalPlus program, the data and subsequent EPDs will be less

biased and more accurate. Give all your calves an equal chance to finish strong and provide your customers with the best data and resulting genetic predictions possible.

For more information regarding data submission and the MaternalPlus program, please contact the American Angus Association Member Services Department at (816) 383-5100 or email me directly. 



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If you have any questions regarding the issues discussed, please contact the Member Services Department at (816) 383-5100.

ANGUS BULLS FOR SALE - BY PRIVATE TREATY

MACHOLAN PROGLAMATION K08? MAGHOLAN FINAL DESIGN 140?



2018 Sale Lot 460 • AAA# 18877101



2018 Sale Lot 455 • AAA# 18877132

Both of these bulls sold last year at the Midland Bull Test.

CURRENT AI SIRE

Jindra Acclaim • HA Cowboy Up 5405 • MGR Treasure
EXAR Resistol 3710B • Baldrige Colonel C251
Sitz Upward 307R • Connealy Guinness • MAF Tanker 23
SAV Renown 3439 • Coleman Charlo 0256
PA Full Power 1208 • RB Active Duty 010
Connealy Arsenal 2174 • SAV Resource
KMacholan Perfecto 39B2 • Jindra Double Vision

HERDSIRES

Hoover Bullseye N97 • Macholan Hoover Bullseye
Jindra Stout 356 • D-D Redemption 97 • D-D Meats 2A

JINDRA ACCLAIM



Used as an AI Sire & Herdsire
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