

2020 Angus Pathfinder Report

A search for superior cows.

The Angus Pathfinder® program was started in 1978 in an effort to identify superior cows in the breed based on Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®). Emphasis was placed on early puberty, breeding and early calving, followed by regularity of calving and above-average performance of offspring.

The Pathfinder program requires a minimum of three calves from a cow to determine her regularity of calving and ability to produce superior calves for weaning weight year after year. In addition, an important part of the report is the list of bulls that sired five or more qualifying females.

The *2020 Angus Pathfinder Report*, available online at www.angus.org, identifies 8,386 cows that have excelled in production based on AHIR records of performance. To qualify for the 2020 report, a cow must have produced a calf measured through AHIR in the past 18 months. Examined were 2,596,912 different eligible dams with 8,706,373 weaning weights in order to determine Pathfinder status. There are 1,877 members recognized in this report as owning a Pathfinder Cow.

In addition, 268 bulls that have sired a minimum of five or more Pathfinder Cows in the current listing are known as Pathfinder Sires.

Focus on breed advantages

The program identifies Pathfinder Cows in herds actively involved in AHIR. First, the female must produce her first calf near the herd's average age for first calving. The maximum age accepted for first calving of a

Pathfinder Cow is the within-herd average for first calving plus 30 days. The within-herd average is determined for each herd on AHIR.

As a second criteria, the Pathfinder Cow must maintain a regular calving interval. The maximum calving interval is: $365 \text{ days} + \left[\frac{30}{\text{Number of calving intervals}} \right]$

Next, to qualify initially, her first three calves must post a minimum average progeny weaning weight ratio of 105. Should she fail to do this on her first three calves, she can qualify later by achieving an average progeny weaning weight ratio of 105, provided she meets the other requirements. A minimum of five herdmates or contemporaries of the same sex must be evaluated together each year to determine the weight ratio.

Additionally, her calves must be sired by registered Angus bulls. To continue qualifying each consecutive year, the cow must produce regularly and wean a calf that helps maintain the average weaning ratio of 105 or above. Once a cow is designated a Pathfinder, she always retains this title, regardless of qualifications.

Annual report

The *Pathfinder Report* is issued each spring. Outstanding females and bulls are listed in the report, and the breeders who are keeping AHIR records of performance are identified.

Studying the *Pathfinder Report* is fairly simple. Listed is important information about the Pathfinder Cow, her owner and the performance information. To review a Pathfinder's extended pedigree or current expected progeny differences (EPDs)

and \$Values, use the EPD/Pedigree Lookup on the Association website.


Angus breeders with qualifying cows in the 2020 report are listed in alphabetical order. All cows in a herd that qualify are reported following their owner's name.

The qualifying Pathfinder Cow is listed along with her registration number, the number of calves she has produced and the average weaning weight ratio of her calves.

In some situations, AHIR information from two or more herds is used in determining Pathfinder status. This situation occurs when cows are transferred from one AHIR performance herd to another.

Pathfinder Sires

Pathfinder Sires have sired five or more Pathfinder Cows in the current listing. These bulls excel in producing daughters with early puberty and the genetic potential for milk production and growth. Some bulls in the breed have been used more extensively through use of artificial insemination (AI). The probability of a bull's siring Pathfinder daughters increases as his use in the breed increases.

Pathfinder Sires are listed in order of the number of their qualifying Pathfinder daughters. Listed are the present owner(s) of the bull, the bull's registration number, the number of his daughters eligible for consideration of Pathfinder status, and the number of his daughters qualifying as Pathfinders. 

For more information about the Pathfinder Report or AHIR, contact the Performance Programs Department at 816-383-5100.