

# MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady, director of member services



## Question and answer

*We receive a variety of questions within the American Angus Association member services department every day. Here are a few we hear most often.*

### Question 1

#### **What steps do I need to take in order to sell semen on my bull?**

As stated in Rule 502 in the Breeder's Reference Guide, parentage markers must be on file with the Association for all bulls used for the purpose of artificial insemination (AI). In addition, Rule 504 states the full suite of known commercially available tests for the genetic conditions monitored by the Association will be required for all bulls born on or after Jan. 1, 2018, that are the source of semen for the purpose of AI. With the sensitivity and subsequent impact of AI usage to the breed, it is recommended to submit a second DNA sample on all

AI sires to check parentage markers and genetic condition status with the original sample submitted. This insurance can alleviate issues down the road.

### Question 2

#### **I electronically store my registration certificates. My daughter would like to show one of our heifers. How can I get the printed version of the registration certificate?**

The animal must be first stored electronically to request the printed version of the registration certificate. If the animal already has a printed paper, you may request a duplicate. If stored electronically, go to your AAA Login account. From there, go to the

My Herd tab. Within the My Herd tab, go to Registration Certificates and then to Request Printed Registration

Paper. Enter the search criteria, then once your animal is located, choose Submit Selected. If the paper is not stored electronically and you have already been issued a printed paper on your animal, for a nominal fee you may request a duplicate.

### Question 3

#### **Can I use electronic identification (eID) as my only source of identification?**

Primary identification marks are a requirement for registration, and can include ear tattoo, freeze-brand, hot-brand or 840 eID tags. The 840 series of eID are the electronic tags allowed to meet registration requirements for the American Angus Association. If 840 eID tags are utilized as the primary form of identification, they can only be used in conjunction with a secondary identifier. Acceptable

## *Hair shed scoring tips*

Hair shedding is an indicator trait for heat tolerance and tolerance to fescue toxicosis.

- Score between mid-April to mid-June or when hair shedding is in progress.
- 1-5 visual appraisal scale, where 5 is a full winter coat and 1 is completely slick.
- Cattle tend to shed from front to back and top to bottom.
- Score cattle when there is the most variability in shed-off, which depends partly upon location.
- Aim to score cattle on the same day or within a few days of each other.
- Cattle should be at least yearlings when hair shedding scores are recorded.
- Ideally, record hair shedding scores every year on the whole herd.



secondary forms of identification will include parentage markers, tattoo, freeze brand, hot brand and/or a visual tag.

## Question 4


**I live in southern Missouri and like to see cattle slick off for the summer. When should I collect hair shedding scores for my herd?**

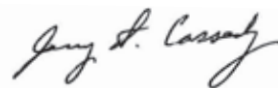
April to June is the ideal time for most of the country to score the herd for hair shedding. The degree that cattle shed their winter hair coats has an effect on how they can handle heat stress.

The primary method that cattle dissipate heat is through evaporative

cooling, and the success an animal may have at cooling itself in hot, humid climates depends on several factors. Environmental factors include heat, humidity and wind speed, while physiological factors include hair coat, respiration rate and activity of sweat glands. Cattle with thick, woolly hair coats are at increased risk of heat stress as temperatures and humidity rise during the summer months.

Producers can observe and assign hair coat scores during the time when temperatures begin to rise and there is variation within a herd for shedding. These assigned scores range from 1 to 5, with a score of 1 being completely slicked off, and a score of 5 retaining

most of the winter coat. These phenotypic scores are utilized in the weekly evaluation to support the Hair Shed expected progeny difference (EPD). 



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*Editor's note: For more information regarding these questions or any other issues, contact the American Angus Association member services department at 816-383-5100 or email me directly at [jcassady@angus.org](mailto:jcassady@angus.org).*



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