

ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

Compiled by Julie Mais, editor

Angus \$Value website

The American Angus Association Board of Directors approved changes to the dollar value indexes (\$Value) during the February 2019 Board meeting.

Updated \$Values will be available June 2019, and changes include revisions to beef value (\$B), adding maternal weaned calf value (\$M) and rounding all \$Values to whole dollars to eliminate decimals. Quality grade (\$QG) and yield grade (\$YG) will be removed because \$QG is redundant to the marbling expected progeny difference (EPD), and \$YG is redundant to fat and ribeye area EPDs.

“Our current \$Value index models have served us well since 2004,” says Dan Moser, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) president. “But since 2004, technology has improved, and new EPDs have been created. So, an extensive research project was initiated in February of 2018, which included an industry survey of all sectors that allowed staff to gain insight into how Angus breeders utilize genetic tools. These results complemented the core research analysis that ultimately led to the updated \$Value models.”

AGI staff worked alongside AbacusBio, a renowned animal breeding technology consulting company, to develop and conduct the survey, analyze the results and update economic models.

The AGI team reviewed the findings and put together recommendations to best serve the goals of the membership and the breed. The recommendations were

reviewed by the Board, and several were approved.

\$B will be updated to better reflect current end points when finishing cattle. Traits in the \$M value will include calving ease direct and maternal, weaning weight, milk, mature weight, heifer pregnancy, docility and foot score — both claw set and foot angle EPDs. The \$M has a greater emphasis on maternal traits than any of the tools currently available and will help producers to better define efficiency in a commercial cow-calf environment.

A balanced index also was approved to roll out June 2020. A comprehensive education initiative will be conducted over the next 15 months to ensure that membership can see exactly how the balanced index will work, what EPDs are included and how it can be considered when making breeding decisions.

Visit www.angus.org/index for more information on the \$Value updates.

BIF registration Open

Registration is now open for the 2019 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Meeting and Research Symposium, June 18-21 at the University Comfort Suites and Convention Center in Brookings, S.D.

Early registration deadline is May 15. Attendees can save \$100 by preregistering. Online registration is available at www.beefimprovement.org.

This year’s BIF symposium features two and a half days of educational programming and a full day of tours. The first morning’s general session will cover “Applications of Technology,” and the second

day’s general session will discuss “Utilization of Big Data.”

The afternoon breakout sessions both days will focus on a range of beef-production and genetic-improvement topics. The conference also features a Young Producer Symposium on Tuesday afternoon. Tuesday evening attendees will also enjoy an opening reception followed by the National Association of Annual Breeders Symposium at 7 p.m.

Angus Media will provide online coverage of the event at www.bifconference.com. Visit the site now for more details on the event.

AngusSource adds Angus-sired PVP

Producers can once again verify the Angus-sired genetic component in AngusSource®. The Angus-Sired Genetics (AS-ASG) AngusSource USDA Process Verified Program (PVP) was added on March 15, 2019.

This program documents and verifies at minimum the enrolled calves are 50% Angus. Enrolled calves must have been sired by registered and properly transferred Angus sires, used naturally or by artificial insemination (AI). This PVP point is reminiscent of the original AngusSource program.

The AngusSource verification certificate will indicate what programs the calf crop is enrolled. Producers who choose to enroll in AS-ASG will see the registered Angus sire’s name and registration number on their AngusSource verification certificate.

Packers and feedyards were the driving force to add AS-ASG back into

At a glance

MAY 2019

- 15 Ownership and early entry deadline for National Junior Angus Show
- 15 Entry deadline for NJAA photography, graphic design and Cook-Off contests
- 25 Entry deadline for NJAA writing, public speaking and career development contests
- 25 Late entry deadline for National Junior Angus Show (online only)
- 27 *Losing Ground* premieres at 7 p.m. on RFD-TV and the Angus TV YouTube channel
- 24-26 Atlantic National Angus Show

June 2019

- 7 Delegate nomination period ends
- 13-16 All American Angus Breeders' Futurity
- 15 LEAD early registration deadline

the line-up since many packers use AngusSource in their Schedule GLA.

Calves that are not black-hided but are enrolled in AS-ASG can qualify for black-hided packer premiums if it is written into the packer's GLA.

For more information, contact the Commercial Programs department at 816-383-5100 or visit www.anguslink.com or www.angussource.com.

Losing Ground airs May 27

Losing Ground, an I Am Angus film, is the first and only film to explore the effect of urbanization on rural America.

The one-hour film will feature research from the American Farmland Trust and the stories of five diverse Angus operations. These operations, from four different areas of the country, face the struggle of a growing urban center every day.

The film premieres at 7 p.m. on May 27, 2019, on RFD-TV and the Angus TV YouTube channel. The official *Losing Ground* trailer can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=suAlYGyzfNs. Subscribe to the YouTube channel for updates.

Nominate delegates

Preparations are being made for the American Angus Association's 2019 Annual Convention of Delegates this November in Reno, Nev. Forms to nominate delegates to the annual meeting will be mailed to every active life and regular member of the Association who qualifies as an eligible voting member prior to April 5, according to the Bylaws (see eligibility requirements on page 136 of the April 2019 *Angus Journal*).

The nomination period is April 8-June 7. Each eligible voting member is allowed to nominate one eligible voting member who resides in the same state or district, including himself or herself. The

candidate should be highly involved in the Angus business, willing to attend the meeting and able to represent Angus breeders.

Signed nomination forms must be received in the Association office by mail or online submission no later than 4:30 p.m. CDT on June 7, at which time every qualified nominee will be included on a state ballot. State ballots will be mailed to all eligible voting members in July to vote for the final slate of state delegates. When you receive the form, please return it promptly.

Candidate résumés

Association members seeking election to the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association may send a short biography, along with a photo, to Editor Julie Mais by Aug. 1. Biographies and photos submitted by the deadline will be published in the October *Angus Journal*, prior to the election at the Annual Meeting in November.

Biographies should be approximately 500-700 words and will be shortened if necessary.

Show for the Purple

The 2019 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) will take place July 14-20 in Louisville, Ky.

More than 1,200 head of cattle are expected to compete in the show ring at this year's NJAS themed "Win, Place, Show for the Purple." The NJAS is the world's largest single-breed beef show and an annual highlight for hundreds of Angus youth and their families.

May 15 is the early-entry and ownership deadline for the cattle show, as well as the deadline for several of the contests connected to the show. See page 92 in this issue for more details.

Foundation golf tournament

The 19th Annual Angus Foundation Golf Tournament will be hosted Tuesday, July 16, at the Quail Chase Golf Club in Louisville, Ky., in conjunction with the 2019 NJAS.

The 18-hole tournament begins at 6:45 a.m. with a continental breakfast, followed by a shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. After the tournament, a *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) steak lunch will be provided, awards will be presented to teams and players, and sponsors will be recognized.

Several sponsorship opportunities are available. The sponsorship deadline is June 10.

Player registration is \$100, or NJAA members may register for \$75. Register by July 1 to avoid a \$10 late

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CURRENT ASSOCIATION FEES

Following are the correct fees for various American Angus Association services. Be sure to send the correct amount of money with the work being requested, as incorrect payments are the main cause of delays.

REGISTRATIONS

- Applications for animals less than 4 months of age\$7
- Applications for animals 4-10 months of age \$9
- Applications for animals 10-12 months of age\$14
- Applications for animals more than 12 months of age \$27

TRANSFERS

- Applications received less than 30 days from sale date \$5
- Applications received 30-60 days from sale date.....\$7
- Applications received more than 60 days from sale date\$12

MISCELLANEOUS

- Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) fee (per first weight submitted) \$3
- Artificial insemination (AI) service certificate.....\$10
- Regular annual membership\$80
- Regular annual membership with Angus Journal subscription..... \$130
- Lifetime membership (optional to pay in three \$500/year installments).....\$1,500
- Junior annual membership (less than 21 years of age)..... \$20
- Embryo-transfer (ET) calf..... regular registration fee plus \$10
- Cell-clone transplant calf..... regular registration fee plus \$50

Rules of the American Angus Association are included in the Breeder's Reference Guide. Free copies are available from the Association. An online version is available through the "Rules and Forms" link at www.angus.org.

BREEDER'S REFERENCE

Symbols are used with a registration number to denote important information about an animal.

SYMBOL MEANING

- # Pathfinder cow or Pathfinder sire
- + Embryo transfer calf
- ^ Cell clone
- % Split-ET
- @ Clone-ET
- * Parentage qualified to both parents and the mating

The American Angus Association currently recognizes the following genetic conditions:

CODE MEANING

- AM Arthrogryposis multiplex
- CA Contractural arachnodactyly
- D2 PRKG2 gene mutation for dwarfism
- DD Developmental duplication
- DM Double muscling
- DW Dwarfism
- HG Horn gene
- HI Heterochromia irides
- M1 nt821 mutation for double muscling
- NH Neuropathic hydrocephalus
- OH Oculocutaneous hypopigmentation
- OS Osteopetrosis
- RD Red gene
- SN Syndactyly
- WT Wild type color gene

The following single-letter descriptors appearing after a genetic condition code shall have the following meaning:

- P - refers to a "potential" carrier based on an ancestor known to carry that specific mutation.
- F - refers to an animal tested for one or more genetic conditions and determined to be "free" of that specific mutation.
- C - refers to an animal tested for one or more genetic conditions and determined to be a "carrier" of that specific mutation.
- A - refers to an animal tested for one or more genetic conditions and determined to be a carrier of two copies of that specific mutation. It may or may not exhibit the phenotype associated with that genetic condition.

The following letter designations describe cases in which there is more than one genetic condition present:

- XF - Free of more than one genetic condition.
- XC - Carrier of more than one genetic condition.
- XA - Affected of more than one genetic condition.
- RTF - Recessive trait free (produced 35 or more calves from daughters without a genetic defect).

registration fee.

Sponsorship and registration forms can be found at www.angus.org/Foundation/GetInvolved/Events/GolfTourney.aspx or by contacting Rod Schoenbine, Angus Foundation director of development, at 330-464-9793.

Submit entries online

Junior members can save time by submitting entries for shows online. Log on to www.angus.org/njaa and provide the necessary information. Online entries are subject to the same entry deadlines as those submitted via mail. No late entries are accepted for any reason.

Feeding Quality Forum

The *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Feeding Quality Forum is set for Aug. 27-28 in Amarillo, Texas.

The two-day event boasts educational opportunities and the schedule allows for networking time, including the evening banquet to celebrate the 2019 FQF Industry Achievement Award honoree. An optional packing plant tour is planned, with limited space reserved for early registrants.

Visit CABcattle.com for registration.

2019 Angus Convention

Mark your calendars to attend the 2019 Angus Convention at the Reno Sparks Convention Center in Reno, Nev., Nov. 2-4. Booth information is available at www.angusconvention.com. Registration and hotel blocks will open July 1.

The convention offers producers and industry leaders opportunities for networking, education and breed improvement in addition to conducting the business of the American Angus Association. **AJ**