MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady
director of member services

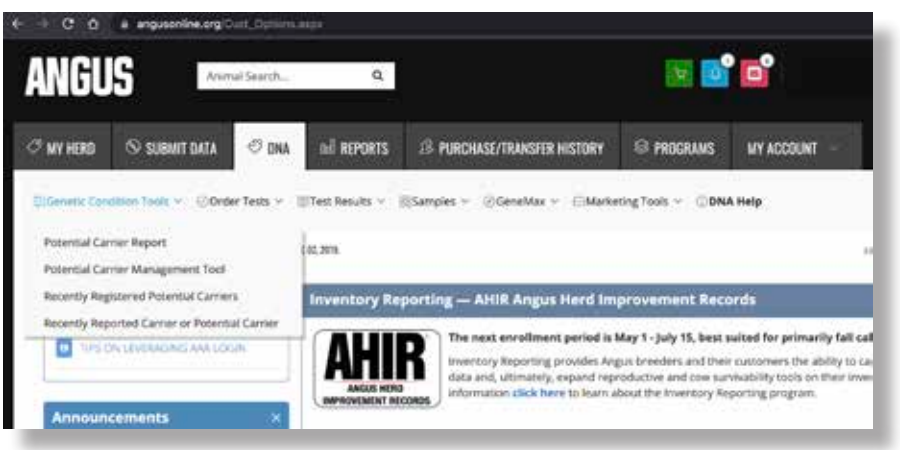
Genetic condition management tools

The American Angus Association offers an array of tools to help producers manage their herds, ranging from data reporting tips to simple gestation calculations.

Specific to genetic abnormalities, there are several tools available to assist producers manage genetic conditions (genetic defects) within the DNA tab in your AAA Login portal. Under the Genetic Condition Tools tab, you will find several useful tools to assist in managing genetic conditions monitored by the Association.

Genetic abnormalities are regrettably a reality for any living organism, and the understanding of these conditions continues to evolve each year with ever-increasing knowledge and scientific advancements. Are some breeds of cattle immune to these unfortunate occurrences? Unfortunately not, as expert geneticists know and have observed all breeds of cattle have hundreds of mutations in their genome. Some of these mutations can be beneficial, and some can cause harm or even death to the individual. Beneficial mutations can lead to genetic progress for a breed, and conversely those causing harm or death are known as genetic conditions. These genetic abnormalities may include an impairment of health or a condition of abnormal function due to an abnormal or mutated gene.

The Association monitors genetic conditions known to exist within the Angus population and has subsequent protocol in place to manage the frequency of these mutations. By relying on sound scientific principles, the Association can continue to determine the most effective policy governing these genetic conditions. Through strategic DNA testing and management, breeders can successfully manage these issues in a way that is beneficial to the Angus breed and commercial customers utilizing Angus genetics.



Potential carrier report

The potential carrier report displays a listing of all potential carriers within your herd inventory for any of the eight identified genetic conditions monitored by the Association. By using this tool, you can identify those animals which need to be tested for each of the listed conditions.

With lethal conditions, all offspring will have to be tested and bull calves will need to test free of the condition for registration, while female offspring can be registered regardless of the test result. For nonlethal conditions, there are no testing requirements for registration.

Potential Carrier Management Tool

This tool is very useful in showing potential carriers for each specific abnormality chosen from the drop-down menu if they have owned registered progeny that are also potential carriers. This tool is to be used to help determine which animals need to be tested for a

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Get cows and replacement heifers bull bred faster

A simple heat synchronization program can open opportunities for profit

No matter the price of cattle, a heavier, more consistent calf crop will be more marketable. But with higher cattle prices, there is an opportunity for even greater margins.

Getting cows and heifers pregnant in a timely manner is critical to reaping economic advantages. There's a lot of profit potential if they can be bred the first 21 days of the breeding season.

On the flip side, for every 21 days cows are open, between 20 and 40 pounds of weaning weight is lost.[1,2] And, with today's high feed prices, there is a considerable cost to maintaining open cows.

Heat synchronization isn't just for AI

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln study evaluated how heat synchronization affects calving distribution – and how time of calving affects carcass characteristics.[2]

Heat was synchronized with a single injection of prostaglandin 4.5 days (108 hours) after turning mixed-age bulls in with the cow herd. Study results show these benefits of synchronization:

- More cows calved during the first 21 days
- Calves were 20 pounds heavier at weaning
- Calves born in the first 21 days had greater carcass weights, marbling scores and better yield grades
- Shortened breeding season from 60 to 45 days
- Heavier, more valuable carcasses, which were worth an additional $77 per carcass at the feedlot

A simple solution: heat synchronization

Heat synchronization can help manage the timing of your breeding and calving seasons, whether you bull breed or use artificial insemination (AI). Getting more cows pregnant in the first 21 days delivers these benefits:

- Shorter calving interval
- Increased profit potential
- Earlier conception
- More uniform calf crop
- Increased weaning weights

Simple, one-dose synchronization

ESTRUMATE® (cloprostenol injection) is a leading prostaglandin that allows producers to manage heat detection, breeding and calving intervals, whether using bull breeding or AI. It offers a long half-life of three hours.[3]

One shot of ESTRUMATE 4 to 5 days after turning out the bulls is the optimal protocol. However, if that protocol won't fit your management system, one shot at turnout will still induce more cows to show heat sooner and get more cows calving during the first 21 days.

A lot of factors go into reproductive success. It's important to work with your veterinarian on vaccinations to optimize conception and to prevent reproductive loss through breeding and gestation. Your veterinarian can also assist with parasite management programs, bull management, bull stocking rate and breeding soundness exams.

By Jacques Fuselier, DVM, DACT, DABVP

Cattle Technical Services

For more information, visit Estrumate.com or scan the QR code using the camera on your phone.

[1] Cushman RA, Kill LK, Funston RN, Mousel EM, Perry GA. Heifer calving date positively influences calf weaning weights through six parturitions. *J Anim Sci.* 2013;91:4486-4491.

[2] Larson DM, Musgrave JA, Funston RN. Estrous synchronization increases early calving frequency, which enhances steer progeny value. *Nebraska Beef Cattle Reports.* 2010;14-16.

[3] European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products, Cloprostenol and R-Cloprostenol Summary Report, 1997.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Women of childbearing age, asthmatics, and persons with respiratory problems should exercise extreme caution when handling ESTRUMATE. ESTRUMATE is readily absorbed through the skin and may cause abortion and/or bronchospasms; direct contact with the skin should be avoided and accidental spillage on the skin should be washed off immediately with soap and water. Do not administer ESTRUMATE to a pregnant cow if abortion is not desired. Severe localized post-injection clostridial infections have been reported; in rare instances infection has led to death. At 50 and 100 times the recommended dose, mild side effects may be detected. For complete information on ESTRUMATE, see package insert.

MERCK Animal Health

New Members *continued from page 84*

specific condition that could affect multiple generations of animals. Animals with only unregistered or inactive/canceled progeny or animals in the criteria that have been already tested or have no carrier ancestors for the chosen genetic condition will not be displayed in the results.

Recently registered potential carrier report

The recently registered potential carrier report allows you to view all potential carrier animals that have been recently registered with the Association from your account. If an animal is noted as a potential carrier of a known genetic condition, the potential carrier code will appear after the animal's name. For example, M1P would be a potential carrier of the M1 defect.

Recently reported carrier or potential carrier report

This report illustrates your inventory of identified carrier or potential carrier animals of any of the known genetic conditions. This listing is especially helpful as it includes all animals reported to the Association, registered or unregistered. AJ

jcassady@angus.org

Editor's notes: The information in the status columns of these reports is based on test results received to date. Status could change as additional test results are received by the Association.

Additional information and the complete Association Genetic Condition Policy is presented in Part 3 within the Breeder's Reference Guide. *Breeders may also contact the Member Services department with questions at (816) 383-5100 or email me directly at jcassady@angus.org.*