

# BY THE NUMBERS

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## Herd Data and Its Importance

*Data collection allows members to submit information to help develop and maintain selection tools.*

The Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) program was established in 1958 and was one of the first programs of its kind in the beef industry. Historically, data was reported on an individual calf basis. During the last several years, the AHIR program has expanded to add Inventory Reporting, a whole-herd reporting system.

There are two levels in Inventory Reporting: Cow Inventory and MaternalPlus®. Cow Inventory is the first level. MaternalPlus is a step up from the Cow Inventory level, requiring a few additional records to be reported. Participants can qualify for MaternalPlus after one year of successful enrollment at the Cow Inventory level.

These two options within Inventory Reporting collect annual production records for each female in the herd. Records would include one of three things: calf record, reason code explaining why a female did not have a calf, or disposal code if a female left the herd. Herds earning MaternalPlus report calf weaning records and heifer breeding information in addition to the cow production records.

Inventory Reporting aids members in maintaining accurate, complete records of the females in their inventory and provides valuable data to the Association. The data collected

from Inventory Reporting is essential in characterizing reproductive efficiency, such as heifer pregnancy and functional cow longevity. Without production records provided by Inventory Reporting, developing and maintaining selection tools, such as expected progeny differences (EPDs), would be very difficult. Since the data from Inventory Reporting is directly benefitting the development of the functional cow longevity EPD, participants will be the first to receive the research EPD once it is released.


Complete herd records represent every calf born in the herd, which will give better credit to how calves perform compared to contemporaries. If performance records were only recorded for the best calves, they would not receive proper credit for performing well because they are not being compared to lesser performing calves. This unintentional bias can lead to the EPDs not being the best representation of the genetic potential and inaccurate ratios.

Enrolling in Inventory Reporting does not change how members submit data to the Association. Data can still be submitted using whichever method is preferred [AAA Login, Angus Information Management Software (AIMS), spreadsheets or paper]. Participants can submit data throughout the year

to meet program requirements, but enrolled herds are required to do an annual reenrollment. During this time, participants will complete any missing records and determine their inventory for the upcoming year.

Enrollment is completed on AAA Login. The enrollment fee is \$2 per female, which will waive the \$3 AHIR processing fee for submission of weights for calves born that year to enrolled females. There are two enrollment periods: Nov. 1-Jan. 15 and May 1-July 15. Generally, spring-calving herds enroll in the January period, and fall-calving herds tend to opt for the July enrollment period.

At the end of the January enrollment, there were 103,645 females representing 798 herds in Inventory Reporting. Of those females, 78,317 females represent the 484 members who currently have earned the MaternalPlus designation.

With July enrollment approaching, now is a good time for members to start thinking about completing any missing records. For members enrolled in the January period, now is a great time to start submitting spring-calving records and record females who may not have calved or have been culled. 



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