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Angus Sire Evaluation Takes New Approach

A major revision in Angus Sire Evaluation testing procedures was adopted by the American Angus Association Board of Directors at the organization's quarterly board meeting in March. The change eliminated the breeder test programs which have been available for the past seven years and passed the responsibility of testing sires completely to the performance department of the American Angus Association.

One important consideration for this change pointed out by Breed Improvement Committee Chairman Dale Davis, Belgrade, Montana, was the fact that many of the top Angus bulls in the nation are now being tested on National Sire Evaluation. The importance of a complete and accurate test of these bulls is extremely important for the future of the breed. With that in mind, the Board felt that progeny test work through Association sponsored herds would add creditability to the testing procedures and would also improve the monitoring procedures for the program.

This means that effective as of April 1, 1979, a breeder will not be able to locate and use his own progeny test herd and breed his bulls on Sire Evaluation, said Dick Spader, director of performance programs. Instead,

Breeders that are interested in testing bulls on Sire Evaluation will need to contact the Association performance department and arrangements will be made for breeding the test sires in commercial herds. Approximately 100 units of semen must be available and breeding plans will be scheduled by the performance department. Each test will include the breeding of a certain percentage of heifers to monitor calving ease of each sire evaluated.

Cattlemen who are interested in sires will be enrolled and future tests will be conducted on a cost basis by the American Angus Association in progeny test herds located and monitored by the Association staff and regional managers.

"Association sponsored test programs have been available for the past few years," Spader said, "and last year over one half of the bulls tested on Sire Evaluation were tested in these Association herds. Therefore the program that is now being offered is not new to Sire Evaluation."

additional information or who wish to enter a bull on Angus Sire Evaluation this spring should contact the performance department for spring breeding plans. ☐